![Government of Western Australia — School Curriculum and Standards Authority logo]

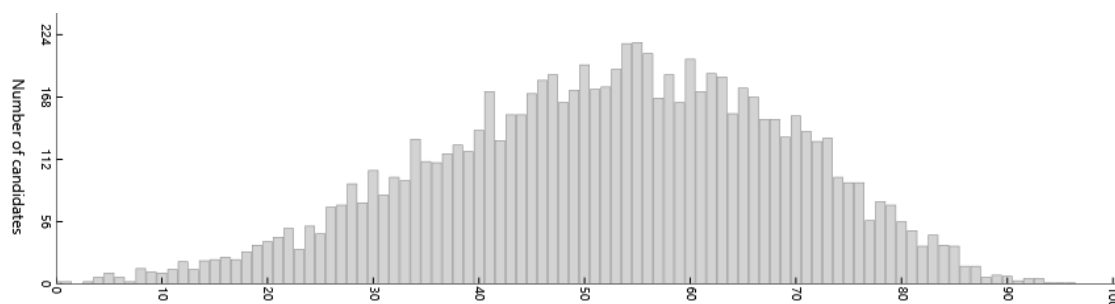# Summary report of the 2018 ATAR course examination:
Mathematics Applications

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2018	8451	178
2017	8992	174
2016	8867	199

Examination score distribution–Written

Summary
The examination consisted of two sections, Section One: Calculator-free and Section Two: Calculator-assumed.

Attempted by 8451 candidates   Mean 52.22%   Max 95.74%   Min 0.00%

Section means were:
Section One: Calculator-free   Mean 55.37%
Attempted by 8448 candidates   Mean 19.38(/35)   Max 33.73   Min 0.00
Section Two: Calculator-assumed   Mean 50.60%
Attempted by 8439 candidates   Mean 32.89(/65)   Max 63.65   Min 0.00

General comments
The examination, although a little more challenging than last year, seemed to be well received by most candidates. It provided enough questions or part-questions for candidates to score well. Some feedback suggested that insufficient time was an issue with Section one, despite the mean being higher than that for Section two. This course requires candidates to process questions and identify key information needed to analyse and solve problems in an applied context. Therefore, the examination reflected the rationale of the course by requiring candidates to have good comprehension skills, not just good arithmetic skills.

Advice for candidates
- Pay attention to the context of the question.
- In finance questions, give answers to the nearest cent.
- Highlight your answer, so that it stands out when you have written all over the space that has been allocated for the answer.
- Use a ruler for the drawing of any lines.
- Provide working for all questions worth two or more marks.

Advice for teachers
- Emphasise the importance of correct terminology in mathematics, not only with respect to the syllabus.
- Emphasise the sum in a cut for flow diagrams is dependent on the direction of flow for each edge.
- Ensure that students check their arithmetic.

Comments on specific sections and questions
Section One: Calculator-free (55 Marks)
Candidates attempted most questions in this section, with best performances being in Questions 1 and 2. Parts of Question 6 and most of Question 7 proved to be the most discriminating questions, with many candidates performing poorly.

Section Two: Calculator-assumed (96 Marks)
Most candidates attempted all questions in this section. Question 14, a finance question, and Question 17, a maximum flow network question, proved to be the most difficult. Many candidates did not showing adequate working for questions worth more than two marks.