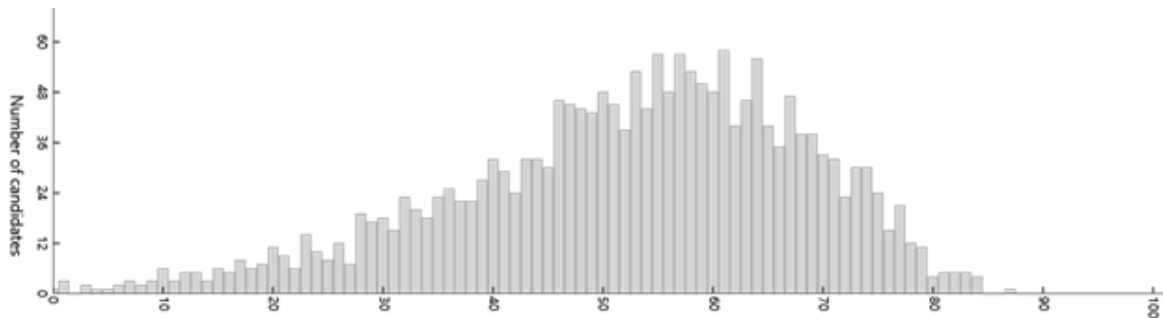




## Summary report of the 2019 ATAR course examination: Psychology

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2019	1950	22
2018	2108	30
2017	1916	29
2016	1721	50

### Examination score distribution–Written



### Summary

The mean and minimum and maximum marks all increased marginally compared to the 2018 examination results. Compared to last year, the mean of Section Two decreased slightly, while the mean of Section Three increased.

The examination focussed on areas of the syllabus that were either not covered in recent examinations or done poorly on previous examinations. The number of marks per section closely reflected the weighting for each section.

Attempted by 1949 candidates                      Mean 52.24%    Max 86.92%    Min 0.53%

Section means were:

Section One: Research methods Attempted by 1949 candidates	Mean 49.88% Mean 9.98(/20)    Max 17.37    Min 0.53
Section Two: Short answer Attempted by 1945 candidates	Mean 53.10% Mean 29.20(/55)    Max 50.05    Min 0.55
Section Three: Extended answer Attempted by 1921 candidates	Mean 53.24 Mean 13.31(/25)    Max 23.66    Min 0.00

### General comments

There were no changes in the types or format of questions compared to previous years. The maximum possible mark was achieved for every question of the examination. Questions ranged from recall/definitions through to application, however, candidates seemed to find many of the 'easier' questions difficult.

### *Advice for candidates*

- Candidates are reminded that the examinable content of the syllabus is the basis of examination.
- The syllabus is not aligned with one textbook. You will need to explore a number of resources to cover the theorists listed in the syllabus.
- You need to understand, explain and apply your learning.
- Answer the question being asked.
- Attempt all questions.

### *Advice for teachers*

- Use the most up-to-date syllabus.
- Don't rely on one text, using a range of resources when teaching concepts and theories to help student understanding.
- An examination does not cover all the syllabus.

### **Comments on specific sections and questions**

#### **Section One: Research methods (38 Marks)**

Section One consisted of three questions that covered planning, conducting, processing, and evaluating psychological research. The mean of 49.88% was marginally higher compared to 2018. Many candidates seemed to lack knowledge around sources of error, conclusions and data collection methods.

#### **Section Two: Short answer (100 Marks)**

Strong candidates did well across the section and seemed to understand most concepts. Weaker candidates exhibited a lack of depth, demonstrating a lack of understanding. A number of low-level questions were answered poorly. More demanding questions, however, discriminated between candidates very well.

The Mischel and social-cognitive theory was done very poorly, suggesting a lack of understanding.

#### **Section Three: Extended answer (56 Marks)**

Overall, candidates completed this section well, with the highest section mean of the examination. There were less non-attempts compared to 2018.