Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Summary report of the 2020 ATAR course examination:
Animal Production Systems

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2020	44	1
2019	45	0
2018	60	0
2017	49	2

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution–Written
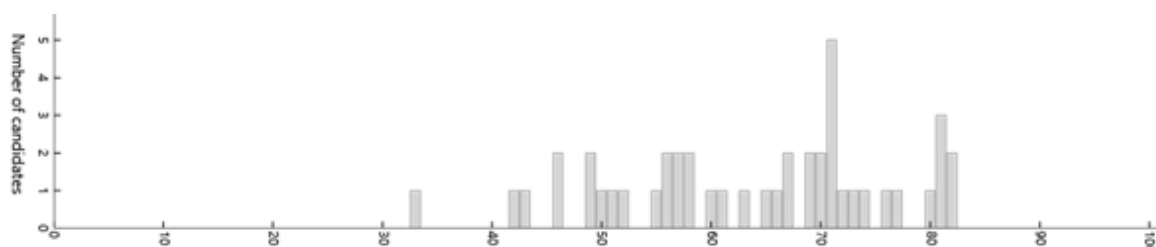
Summary

Attempted by 44 candidates   Mean 63.52%   Max 82.00%   Min 32.63%

Section means were:
Section One: Multiple-choice   Mean 71.59%
Attempted by 44 candidates   Mean 14.32(/20)   Max 19.00   Min 10.00
Section Two: Short answer   Mean 66.52%
Attempted by 44 candidates   Mean 33.26(/50)   Max 46.00   Min 15.25
Section Three: Extended answer   Mean 53.12%
Attempted by 44 candidates   Mean 15.94(/30)   Max 24.38   Min 3.38

General comments

With a mean of 63.52%, the examination functioned well to discriminate among candidates. Scores ranged from 32.63% to the highest score of 82%. Section One achieved the highest mean and Section Three, the lowest.

Advice for candidates
- It is imperative that you use the technical terminology of the syllabus to support your understanding of the course. You will not be able answer questions with sufficient accuracy to achieve top marks without using the appropriate terminology.
- Planning an extended answer prior to writing is the key to a coherent and well-structured answer. There is ample room in the question/answer booklet to plan an answer.
- Take the opportunity to learn about one livestock enterprise in depth. This knowledge is invaluable when you are given the opportunity to use a practical example.

Advice for teachers
- Extended answer planning needs to be taught explicitly if your students are going to improve their answers.

- Course delivery planning should include a livestock enterprise that is a common thread throughout the course. This enables your students to have a more extensive appreciation of the complexities of operating a livestock enterprise.
- Ensure your students can respond appropriately to imperatives, that is, the instructional words given to answer questions. Words such as *clarify, compare, propose, comment*, and *consider* must be followed.

Comments on specific sections and questions
Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)
All 44 candidates attempted all 20 questions and scored at least 10 marks. The lowest mean was Question 20 at 30% with the focus of economic principles of pest and disease control, followed by Questions 7 (understanding of the ruminant digestive system) and 13 (formulation of feed rations) at 39%.

Section Two: Short answer (100 Marks)
The mean of this section was above the overall paper mean. All 44 candidates attempted all seven questions available. One candidate scored 46% out of a possible 50%. Graphs were generally completed well with most candidates able to correctly label parts on the graph. Generally candidates understanding of the estimated breeding value (EBI) was limited and lacked explanation in responses regarding budget decision.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)
This section produced the weakest performance. Answers suffered from a lack of planning with many candidates rambling and repeating themselves. There was also a lack of practical examples that could have been used to expand answers convincingly. The strongest response was Question 30 (61.3%) but was the least popular question. Those that responded with the focus on dairy as the product chosen achieved stronger results.