



# Summary report of the 2023 ATAR course examination report: Animal Production Systems

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2023	30	0
2022	31	2
2021	52	2
2020	44	1

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



# Summary

Attempted by 30 candidates

Mean 63.98%

Max 94.68% Min 21.49%

Section means were: Section One: Multiple-choice Attempted by 30 candidates Section Two: Short answer Attempted by 30 candidates Section Three: Extended answer Attempted by 29 candidates

Mean 71.50%		
Mean 14.30(/20)	Max 18.00	Min 10.00
Mean 68.79%		
Mean 34.39(/50)	Max 49.06	Min 8.49
Mean 50.96%		
Mean 15.29(/30)	Max 29.62	Min 0.00

# General comments

The examination mean score was 63.98%, slightly higher than that in 2022 (61.05%). However, the spread was greater than the previous year, with a maximum mark of 94.68% (compared to 82.88%) and a minimum of 21.49% (compared to 32.50%). Overall, candidates performed best in Section One and were least successful in Section Three.

#### Advice for candidates

- Spend time learning how to deconstruct the question verbs and identifying links to the syllabus, in order to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding in extended answer questions.
- For each syllabus point, ensure that you can define the key words and provide a real-world example demonstrating the concept. This will assist you to build your answers to maximise potential marks.
- Spend time planning your answers, particularly in the Extended answer optional questions. Ensure that you read the question thoroughly and, where requested, provide relevant responses related to your selected Animal Production System.
- Read each Short answer question in whole before starting, and consider making notes with information you would like to include before attempting the question.

#### Advice for teachers

- Ensure students understand how examinations are assessed, e.g. how the content required to answer the question links to the syllabus, and how verbs (e.g. explain, describe) inform the depth in which they need to answer.
- Ensure students can make the links between theory and on-farm practices. Quality
  assurance and risk management are two topics in which students struggle to make this
  connection. Ensure students are practised in calculating least-cost rations and
  understand why they would need to do so.

## Comments on specific sections and questions

### Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)

Candidates performed relatively well in this section. The mean score of 71.5% was the highest of the three sections of the examination. Some areas which appeared to require attention were candidates' understanding of the hormones that stimulate testosterone production (Question 10) and of common artificial breeding techniques (Question 12). Question 16 on estimated breeding values, where a number of candidates selected the distractor (d), was poorly answered.

## Section Two: Short answer (106 Marks)

Candidates performed reasonably well in this section, with a mean score of 68.79%. The highest mean scores were seen in Questions 22 and 26, which examined investigating animal production skills in different contexts – pedigrees and feed additives.

### Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Candidates were required to complete the compulsory question (Question 28), and then choose to answer one of the other two questions (Question 29 or Question 30). Most candidates answered Question 29, addressing producing for purpose, rather than choosing Question 30, which covered sustainability and risk management. Overall, candidate responses to the Extended answer questions were generally simplistic and lacked depth in demonstrating their understanding of the topics. Assessment and management of risk, including probabilities, consequences, avoidance and mitigation, was demonstrated particularly poorly. The questions pertaining to investigating animal production, such as presenting data appropriately, developing a hypothesis and drawing conclusions, were generally answered well.