

THE HSC

Understanding the HSC

Requirements for the HSC

□ Preliminary Course

- minimum of 12 units
- students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary course before commencing the corresponding HSC course

□ HSC Course

- minimum of 10 units

Requirements for the HSC

Both the Preliminary and HSC Courses must include:

- ❑ At least 6 units of Board Developed Courses, including at least 2 units of English
- ❑ At least 3 courses of 2 units value or greater
- ❑ At least 4 subjects (including English)
- ❑ At most, 6 units of courses in Science can count towards HSC eligibility

HSC: All My Own Work

- is a program designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship
- includes understanding and valuing of ethical practices when locating and using information as part of HSC studies

Students must complete *HSC: All My Own Work* or its equivalent before they can be entered for any Preliminary or HSC course.

Assessment Policy

- Assessment Policy – Handbook for Preliminary and HSC students
- Lateness of tasks
- Request for Extension/Substitute tasks for illness/misadventure
- Technology

Credentials

- **RoSA** – Record of School Achievement
- **HSC** – Higher School Certificate
- **ATAR** – Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

RoSA (Record of School Achievement)

- ❑ A cumulative credential replacing the School Certificate
- ❑ Awarded to students who leave school after completing Stage 5 but before completing the HSC
- ❑ Shows a student's achievements up until they leave school
- ❑ Based on moderated, school-based assessments
- ❑ Offers voluntary literacy and numeracy tests for students leaving school
- ❑ Offers optional reporting of extracurricular achievements

RoSA – Reporting Measures

- The Record of School Achievement will show a grade of A to E for all courses a student has satisfactorily completed in Stage 5 and Preliminary
- these grades will be:
 - based on how a student has performed in assessment tasks
 - monitored by the Board of Studies
 - submitted by the school to the Board of Studies at the end of Preliminary

Satisfactory Completion of a Course

□ Students must:

- follow the course developed or endorsed by the Board
- apply themselves with diligence and sustained effort
- achieve some or all of the course outcomes
- complete work placement for VET Board Developed Courses
- make a genuine attempt at assessment tasks that total more than 50% of the available school assessment marks for HSC courses only.

How is the HSC Mark Determined?

School-Based assessment 50%

External HSC exam 50%

HSC mark 100%

School-Based Assessment

□ Why is it important?

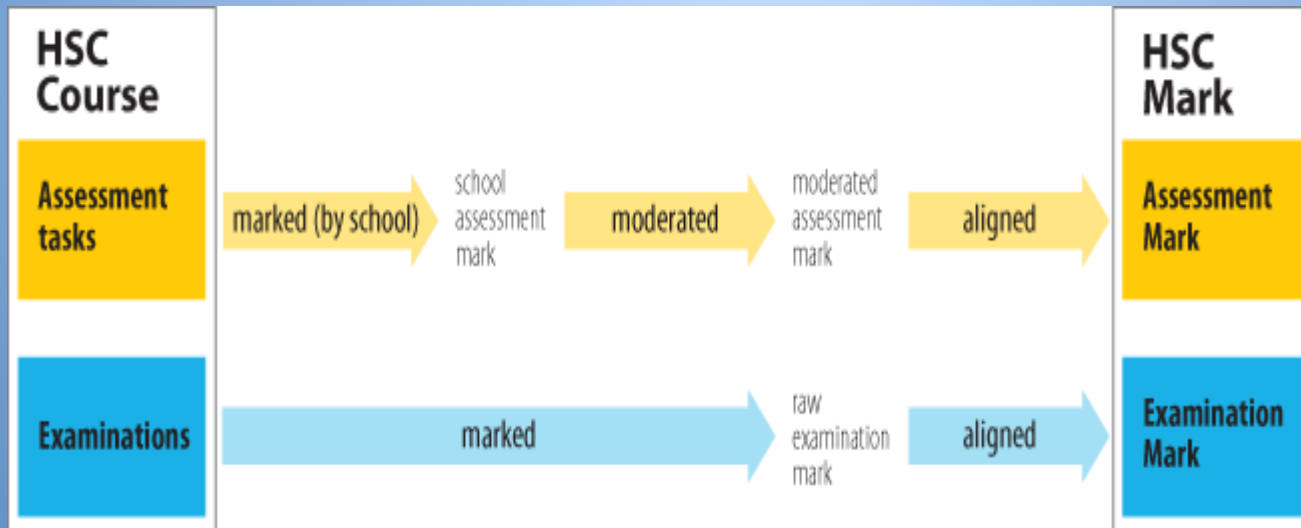
- Contributes 50% of HSC mark (and ATAR if student is eligible)
- Is a course completion requirement
- Is used to calculate a HSC mark in the case of a successful Illness/Misadventure appeal
- The Board puts the marks through a process of moderation to allow a fair comparison of marks in each course across different schools.

HSC Examinations

- ❑ Contribute 50% of HSC mark
- ❑ VET exams are optional
- ❑ Some courses have practical examinations and/or submitted works or projects in addition to the written HSC examination
- ❑ Written examinations are held in October and November each year

HSC Mark

- Is simply the average of the examination mark and the assessment mark
- The HSC mark determines the performance band that a student is awarded for each course.



Moderation

The assessment marks for each school/course group are moderated according to the same group's examination performance. This process maintains both the rank order of students within the school group and the relative gaps between them.

Student	School Assessment Mark	Rank		Examination Mark	Rank		Moderated Assessment Mark	Rank
A	90	1		92	1		92	1
B	78	2		72	3		77	2
C	75	3		80	2		74	3
D	58	4		60	4		59	4
E	55	5		50	6		57	5
F	50	6		55	5		50	6
Total:	396			409			409	
Mean:	66			68			68	

HSC Credentials

- **Higher School Certificate testamur**
- **Higher School Certificate Record of Achievement**
 - **Assessment mark** – Moderated to allow a fair comparison of marks in each course across different schools.
 - **Examination mark** – Each student's achievement is assessed and reported against set Standards of Performance
 - **HSC mark** – the HSC mark is a 50:50 combination of a student's external examination mark and school-based assessment mark for each course.
 - **Performance band** – Each performance band is aligned to what a student at that level of performance typically knows, understands and can do.
- **Course reports**
- **Higher School Certificate Result Summary**
- **AQF VET Certificate**

In Summary – The HSC

- is for all students
- reports student achievement in terms of a standard achieved in individual courses
- presents a profile of student achievement across a broad range of subjects

The ATAR

- is for students wishing to gain a place at a university
- is a rank NOT a mark
- provides information about how students perform overall in relation to other students
- provides the discrimination required by universities for the selection process
- Ann's overall academic performance was good enough to place her in the top 15% of her age group

ATAR = 85.00

- The ATAR is a number between 0.00 and 99.95.
- ATARs above 30 are reported in increments of 0.05.

Calculating the ATAR

- Once marks are scaled, an aggregate mark is calculated using the best two units of English and the best eight remaining units.
- Aggregate marks lie between 0 and 500.
- A student's position is then determined and the ATAR is calculated.

□

□ [All About Your ATAR](#)

□

In Summary – The ATAR

- It's all about **POSITION** – it's a **NUMBER** that shows your position relative to other students
- For example, if Ann's overall academic performance was good enough to place her in the top 15% in her age group → her ATAR = 85

Fred and Laura

Course	HSC mark	Percentile	HSC mark	Percentile
Biology	70	41	80	75
Business Studies	70	35	80	66
English Advanced	70	10	80	45
Mathematics	70	20	80	49
Modern History	70	27	80	62
Visual Arts	70	17	80	56
ATAR	55.95		79.45	

Maximising your ATAR...

- ☐ The only way you can maximise your ATAR is by working to your potential.
- ☐ It is NOT TRUE that your ATAR is influenced by:
 - the subjects you choose
 - the school you attend

**THESE ARE
MYTHS!**

In summary

How do I get a good ATAR?

- Choose courses that
 - you are interested in
 - you are good at
 - are relevant to what you want to do.
- Work hard.
- Have a balance.
- Ignore the ATAR and rumours about it.

Support

- Mrs Kathy Warby – Leader of Curriculum
 - Mrs Louise Maybury– Leader of Pedagogy
 - Mr Rod Paton– Careers Advisor
 - Miss Jasmine Organ– VET Co-ordinator
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- Mr Matt Lobsey – Yr 12 Co-ordinator
 - Mr Adam Bancroft – Yr 11 Co-ordinator

Resources

- www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au
 - How your HSC works
 - HSC syllabuses
 - Students Online
 - ARC (Assessment Resource Centre)
 - HSC test yourself

- www.uac.edu.au/schoolink/
 - All about your ATAR (video)
 - ATAR facts and myths (PowerPoint presentation)
 - Applying to uni: it's really easy if you know what to do (PowerPoint presentation)

MCC Support for Students

- ❑ **Learning Intervention**: Students can self- nominate or be directed to L4 at lunch time
- ❑ **Personalised Learning Goals** set in Home Group
- ❑ **Teachers** supervising study can be a resource.
- ❑ **Class teachers** are available to students through email- be proactive.
- ❑ **Homework support**- available via Moodle
- ❑ **Yourtutor**-

Common Challenges in the Senior School



Homework Hints

- ❑ Develop a **timetable**
- ❑ Adhere to **time limits** for this timetable
- ❑ **Balance** the subjects worked on
- ❑ Use the school **planner/diary**
- ❑ Set up a monthly **calendar**
- ❑ State a clear learning **SMART** goal each week
- ❑ After a homework block , write a **summary** of what you covered in the Homework of study time

Develop the Right Mindset

A GROWTH
MINDSET

Means that you believe
INTELLIGENCE
can be
DEVELOPED

And you have a
PASSION
to
LEARN
which means you

Embrace
challenge

LEARN
from criticism

KEEP GOING
WHEN THINGS GET
TOUGH

Are
INSPIRED
by the
GREATNESS
in others

AND

SEE
effort
AS THE PATH TO
mastery

Remember



**KEEP
CALM
AND
STUDY
HARD**

WORRYING
does not take
away tomorrow's
TROUBLES,
it takes away
today's
PEACE.