

ATAR 2020

Preliminary report on the Scaling of the 2020 NSW Higher School Certificate



This preliminary report has been prepared to provide some information on the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) in 2020 – a more detailed report will be released in 2021. Please see the booklet *All About Your ATAR* (available on the UAC website) for more background on the ATAR.

There were no changes to the scaling procedures in 2020 for the various NSW HSC courses. The aggregate was calculated over the best 10 eligible units, in the same way as in recent years.

1. Overview

In 2020 a total of 54,894 students received an ATAR, 137 fewer than in 2019. The gender balance was similar to 2019, with 46% of the ATAR-eligible students being males and 54% being females.

17.0% of the students received an ATAR of 90.00 or above, 33.9% received an ATAR of at least 80.00, 50.3% at least 70.00, and 65.6% at least 60.00. The median ATAR was 70.15, slightly higher than in 2019. The median ATAR for females was 71.30 whereas the median ATAR for males was 68.70.

Of the 48 students who received the top ATAR of 99.95, there were 15 females and 33 males coming from a mix of government and non-government schools and studying a wide range of courses. The list of courses studied by candidates awarded an ATAR of 99.95 contained 43 different courses out of the 118 courses offered.

When reading the tables attached it must be remembered that the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) HSC mark in a course indicates a standard reached in that course whereas a scaled mark indicates a student's position in the course if all 70,466 HSC students had completed that course. This means that students with the same scaled mark in two courses would have been placed at the same position in those courses if all 70,466 students had taken both courses. Because HSC marks and scaled marks serve these two different purposes, comparing HSC and scaled marks can lead to misinterpretations that may affect student choices of courses to study.

Because of the different procedures used to calculate NESA HSC marks and the scaled marks, scaled marks are generally lower than NESA HSC marks, except near the top. Few students receive HSC marks less than 25 (on a one-unit basis) and the average HSC mark lies between 35 and 40 for most courses. In contrast, the average scaled mark for the total HSC candidature is close to 25, and relatively few courses have scaled means greater than 35.

2. Course candidatures – Table A1

Table A1 provides, for each course, the size of the candidature, the number of candidates who were awarded an HSC in 2020, the number of candidates who were awarded an ATAR in 2020, the percentage of female candidates and the maximum ATAR gained by a student enrolled in that course. In the majority of courses some students gained an ATAR in excess of 95.00.

3. Distributions of 2020 HSC marks by course – Table A2

Table A2 provides information on the distributions of NESA HSC marks in 2020. Three VET Framework courses – Automotive Exam, Information and Digital Technology Exam, and Hospitality Exam – have examination arrangements in which each course is separated into two or more streams. While the streams have different course numbers, in each case the raw marks for the

various streams in the framework are on a common scale, and so each framework is treated as a single course for scaling purposes, and they are reported on a consolidated basis in these tables.

4. Distributions of scaled marks – Table A3

In general, for the larger courses, the patterns of scaled marks from the HSC 2020 were similar to those from the HSC 2019. Table A3 contains a summary of the distributions of scaled marks in each course, providing information on the number of students; the mean, standard deviation and maximum mark; and the 99th, 90th, 75th, 50th and 25th percentiles of both NESA HSC marks and the scaled marks. Percentiles are not provided for courses with candidatures less than 40.

Marks are shown on a one-unit basis, so the range is 0 to 50. The percentiles in a course are based on all students completing that course irrespective of whether they were eligible for an ATAR or not.

Table A3 should not be used as a simple HSC to scaled mark conversion table.

NESA reports HSC marks rounded to the nearest integer whereas the scaled marks are calculated using the raw HSC marks based on the HSC examinations and moderated school assessments. The raw HSC marks are calculated to one decimal place. NESA aligns the raw marks to bands that best describe the standards that the students achieve. This can compress a range of raw marks to a smaller number of HSC marks. For example, all Band E4 performances in English Extension 1 are allocated one of the six integer grades 45.0 to 50.0. Thus, after aligning and rounding, for each HSC mark there can be a range of corresponding raw marks and hence a range of scaled marks. In general, there is no unique scaled mark for an HSC mark.

Table A3 gives the HSC mark at the specified percentile. Not all students with that HSC mark will be at that percentile when the raw marks are considered. For example, in Japanese Extension the maximum HSC mark and the 99th percentile of the HSC distribution are both 49, whereas the maximum scaled mark is 50 and the scaled mark at the 99th percentile is 49.5.

This issue has been discussed in full on pages 15–16 of the *Report on the Scaling of the 2019 NSW HSC*.

5. Variation in patterns of HSC and scaled marks – Tables A4, A5

A concern that is frequently raised is that the observed variation in the patterns of HSC marks across different courses (Table A2) affects scaling and the ranking calculation. Since it is the raw HSC marks that are scaled, not the HSC marks by which NESA reports student achievement, this observed variation does not affect the ranking calculation. A full discussion of this can be found in Section 3 of the *Report on Scaling of the 2019 NSW HSC*.

It is to be expected that the patterns of HSC marks will change from year to year, reflecting differences in student achievement against the published standards in individual courses. In contrast, one would expect to see differences in the patterns of scaled marks of large candidature courses only if the overall academic quality of a course candidature changed, usually as a result of a substantial change in the size of the candidature. Table A4 shows the variation in the distributions of HSC marks from 2019 to 2020, for each course, while Table A5 provides the same information for scaled marks. The data show that while some distributions of HSC marks change from 2019 to 2020 the distributions of scaled marks are generally stable. Most exceptions are small courses where the candidature can change noticeably from year to year.

6. Courses that contribute to the ATAR – Table A6

The ATAR information provided to students shows which units contributed to their ATAR. Some students are puzzled as to why one course is included and not another. The scaled mark a student receives for a course depends both on the scaled mean of the course and the student's position.

A frequently asked question is whether there are systematic differences between groups of courses. The concern is that some courses contribute towards the ATAR less than other courses. For each course, Table A6 provides information on the percentage of students who counted all units of that course towards their ATAR. The data indicate that while there is some variability in the percentage of students who count the course towards their ATARs, there appears to be no evidence of systematic differences between different groups of courses. Table A6 also includes, for each course, the maximum ATAR for a candidate including all units of that course in their aggregate.

7. ATAR distribution – Tables A7 and A8

The data given in Table A7 show the number of students awarded a particular ATAR in 2020 for ATARs of 99.00 or more, and the frequencies associated with different ATAR ranges from 99.00 to 30.00.

Table A8 gives the ATAR corresponding to selected percentiles of the ATAR cohort for 2016 to 2020.

8. The ATAR and the aggregate – Table A9

Table A9 shows the lowest aggregate of scaled marks out of 500 corresponding to each of the selected ATARs for 2016 to 2020.

9. General comparisons

Note that ATARs are, in general, lower than the average of the HSC marks reported to students. This is a consequence of the different ways student achievement is reported.

NESA reports against standards, with students being placed in bands that indicate the standards they have reached in their individual courses. An HSC mark indicates where a student is situated in a performance band and, as there are few students in Performance Band 1, most HSC marks lie between 50 and 100. In contrast, a student's ATAR indicates their overall position in relation to the entire NSW Year 12-aged population.

As mentioned earlier, the median ATAR in 2020 was 70.15. A middle student will generally have HSC marks that lie between 70 and 80. Because of the large percentage of students placed in Performance Band 4, the ATARs of students with HSC marks around 80 will often be very different from the ATARs of students with HSC marks around 70. This is discussed in the *All About Your ATAR* booklet.

10. Impact of COVID-19

The extraordinary events of this year have undoubtedly impacted the preparation of every HSC student. Some students will have achieved more relative to their peers than they would have in a more usual year as a result of these events, while the achievement of a similar number of students will have declined relative to their peers. While it is not possible to quantify the impact of these events on an individual student, the Technical Committee on Scaling has examined the distribution of results grouped by geographical region, school type and gender in order to ascertain whether

there were any systematic departures from the usual distribution for the same groups in the period from 2016 to 2019.

Our methodology was to determine where students at the 99th, 90th, 75th, 50th and 25th percentile of each geographical region/ school type/ gender were placed within the ATAR-eligible cohort for each of the years 2016 to 2020. The placement of a particular percentile from a particular group within the approximately 55,000-strong ATAR-eligible cohort varies from year to year, but only within a fairly small range. While the last four years of data is unlikely to cover the full range of natural variability, we regarded the placement of students at these percentiles as being normal only if their relative placement in the entire ATAR-eligible cohort was within that range.

Almost all the data for 2020 met these criteria, indicating that, by and large, the disruption associated with COVID-19 did not differentially affect the 12 regions into which the state was divided for our analysis or the five school systems into which schools were classified for this purpose. Nor did its impact differentiate on the basis of gender.

The very few groups where the placement was outside the 2016 to 2019 range, and the magnitude of this difference, are detailed below.

Students from the state's Western region¹ with ATAR between 80.00 and 90.00 may have had their ATAR depressed by at most 0.60, while students from the North Coast region with ATAR above 92.50 may have had their ATAR depressed by at most 0.50. Students from the Hunter region with ATAR above 95.00 may have had their ATAR depressed by at most 0.15 and students from the Metro South West region with ATAR above 85.00 may have had their ATAR depressed by at most 0.10. Students from government selective schools with ATAR below 90.00 may have had their ATAR depressed by at most 0.15.

It should be emphasised that a small number of shifts of these magnitudes are not unusual, and that, in any other year, these would not have warranted any comment.

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¹ Our region groups are based on Statistical Area 4 (SA4) classifications from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Western region includes SA4 areas New England and North West, Central West, and Far West and Orana. North Coast region includes Coffs Harbour-Grafton, Mid North Coast and Richmond-Tweed. Hunter region includes Central Coast, Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle, and Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. Metro South West includes Sydney South West and Sydney Sutherland areas.

Appendix

Comment

The following courses are not included in the tables as they have less than 10 students:

- Croatian Continuers
- Dutch Continuers
- Filipino Continuers
- Hungarian Continuers
- Indonesian & Literature
- Maltese Continuers

Some other courses do not appear in all tables if they have less than the minimum number of candidates required for a particular table.

Table descriptions

Table A1	Course enrolments, gender, ATAR eligibility and maximum ATAR by course Excludes courses with less than 10 students
Table A2	Distributions of 2020 HSC marks by course Excludes courses with less than 10 students
Table A3	Descriptive statistics and selected percentiles for HSC marks and scaled marks by course Excludes courses with less than 10 students completing the course in the current year, or if the students completing the course in the current year are undertaking less than 25 other ATAR courses in the same year. No percentile data are given for courses with less than 40 students.
Table A4	Distributions of HSC marks by course: 2019 and 2020 Excludes courses with less than 40 students in either year
Table A5	Distributions of scaled marks by course: 2019 and 2020 Excludes courses with less than 40 students in either year
Table A6	Courses that contribute to the ATAR (more than 10 units) Excludes courses with less than 10 students
Table A7	ATAR distribution
Table A8	ATAR percentiles: 2016–2020
Table A9	Relationship between the ATAR and aggregates: 2016–2020

Table A1 Course enrolments, gender, ATAR eligibility and maximum ATAR by course

- Notes: (i) The **Number all** column includes students who have completed the course in 2020 or in a previous year (and who have done at least one ATAR course in 2020).
- (ii) The **Number HSC** column shows the number of students who completed the course in 2020 or in a previous year and received an HSC award in 2020.
- (iii) The **Number ATAR** column shows the number of students who completed the course in 2020 or in a previous year and who were eligible for an ATAR in 2020.
- (iv) The **% Female** column shows the percentage of students in the course who were female.
- (v) The **% HSC** column shows the percentage of students in the course who received an HSC award in 2020.
- (vi) The **% ATAR eligible** column shows the percentage of students in the course who were eligible for an ATAR in 2020.
- (vii) The **Maximum ATAR** column shows the maximum ATAR achieved by a student doing the course.
- (viii) The table excludes courses with less than 10 students.

Course	Number all	Number HSC	Number ATAR	% Female	% HSC	% ATAR eligible	Maximum ATAR
Aboriginal Studies	749	625	389	74.0	83.4	51.9	99.35
Agriculture	1,520	1,424	1,073	52.4	93.7	70.6	99.95
Ancient History	7,276	6,989	6,437	57.2	96.1	88.5	99.95
Biology	18,995	18,389	17,856	63.6	96.8	94.0	99.95
Business Studies	18,251	17,588	16,512	46.1	96.4	90.5	99.95
Chemistry	10,322	10,040	10,029	46.7	97.3	97.2	99.95
Community & Family Studies	8,884	8,575	7,140	91.2	96.5	80.4	99.85
Dance	959	901	795	96.0	94.0	82.9	99.05
Design & Technology	3,575	3,388	3,021	44.3	94.8	84.5	99.65
Drama	3,994	3,846	3,440	65.9	96.3	86.1	99.80
Earth & Environmental Science	2,166	2,105	1,903	49.0	97.2	87.9	99.55
Economics	5,040	4,981	4,965	35.0	98.8	98.5	99.95
Engineering Studies	2,357	2,291	2,225	9.2	97.2	94.4	99.95
English Studies Exam	1,320	1,112	516	41.8	84.2	39.1	80.30
English Standard	31,270	30,366	28,008	50.7	97.1	89.6	99.35
English Advanced	24,914	24,639	24,547	59.2	98.9	98.5	99.95
English EAL/D	2,045	1,807	1,823	53.8	88.4	89.1	99.95
English Extension 1	3,558	3,540	3,543	69.3	99.5	99.6	99.95
English Extension 2	1,383	1,369	1,372	70.6	99.0	99.2	99.95
Food Technology	3,426	3,252	2,654	71.6	94.9	77.5	99.50
Geography	4,454	4,332	4,043	47.7	97.3	90.8	99.90
Industrial Technology	5,949	5,649	4,074	16.5	95.0	68.5	99.25
Information Processes & Technology	2,238	1,998	1,858	17.6	89.3	83.0	99.95
Investigating Science	2,658	2,442	2,100	42.9	91.9	79.0	99.85
Legal Studies	10,834	10,512	10,065	64.2	97.0	92.9	99.95
Mathematics Standard 1 Exam	1,372	1,259	838	54.1	91.8	61.1	88.25
Mathematics Standard 2	30,494	29,666	27,399	52.4	97.3	89.9	99.85
Mathematics Advanced	17,503	15,901	15,897	47.8	90.8	90.8	99.95
Mathematics Extension 1	9,218	8,750	8,769	41.1	94.9	95.1	99.95
Mathematics Extension 2	3,433	3,353	3,363	34.2	97.7	98.0	99.95
Modern History	11,028	10,775	10,161	51.0	97.7	92.1	99.95
History Extension	1,755	1,747	1,747	61.5	99.5	99.5	99.95
Music 1	4,565	4,321	3,691	51.9	94.7	80.9	99.75
Music 2	735	678	676	49.4	92.2	92.0	99.95
Music Extension	405	402	402	49.9	99.3	99.3	99.95

Table A1 Course enrolments, gender, ATAR eligibility and maximum ATAR by course

Course	Number all	Number HSC	Number ATAR	% Female	% HSC	% ATAR eligible	Maximum ATAR
PDH&PE	16,377	15,936	14,628	56.3	97.3	89.3	99.95
Physics	8,110	7,988	7,964	23.2	98.5	98.2	99.95
Science Extension	608	606	606	54.9	99.7	99.7	99.95
Society & Culture	4,667	4,491	4,256	81.0	96.2	91.2	99.90
Software Design & Development	1,826	1,733	1,654	13.6	94.9	90.6	99.95
Studies of Religion I	8,676	8,097	7,927	54.0	93.3	91.4	99.95
Studies of Religion II	6,296	6,059	5,987	64.3	96.2	95.1	99.95
Textiles & Design	1,346	1,305	1,125	96.9	97.0	83.6	99.15
Visual Arts	8,721	8,278	7,176	73.7	94.9	82.3	99.95
Arabic Continuers	323	294	247	64.4	91.0	76.5	97.85
Arabic Extension	106	102	82	69.8	96.2	77.4	95.60
Armenian Continuers	40	27	26	52.5	67.5	65.0	93.05
Chinese Beginners	80	58	56	62.5	72.5	70.0	99.75
Chinese Continuers	192	187	187	53.6	97.4	97.4	99.95
Chinese Extension	40	40	40	55.0	100.0	100.0	99.95
Chinese & Literature	462	421	443	52.2	91.1	95.9	99.95
Chinese in Context	138	133	136	55.8	96.4	98.6	99.95
Classical Greek Continuers	15	14	14	53.3	93.3	93.3	99.95
Classical Greek Extension	11	10	10	54.5	90.9	90.9	99.95
Classical Hebrew Continuers	25	24	24	44.0	96.0	96.0	98.15
Classical Hebrew Extension	15	15	15	46.7	100.0	100.0	98.15
French Beginners	513	495	463	76.0	96.5	90.3	97.55
French Continuers	637	603	602	69.1	94.7	94.5	99.95
French Extension	135	130	130	71.9	96.3	96.3	99.95
German Beginners	92	88	81	59.8	95.7	88.0	99.80
German Continuers	231	203	202	52.8	87.9	87.4	99.95
German Extension	57	56	56	45.6	98.2	98.2	99.95
Hindi Continuers	14	12	12	42.9	85.7	85.7	98.90
Indonesian Beginners	44	44	41	61.4	100.0	93.2	89.70
Indonesian Continuers	78	78	76	55.1	100.0	97.4	98.75
Indonesian Extension	16	16	16	50.0	100.0	100.0	98.70
Italian Beginners	307	301	277	75.9	98.0	90.2	99.90
Italian Continuers	235	206	200	70.6	87.7	85.1	99.75
Italian Extension	45	44	44	62.2	97.8	97.8	99.70
Japanese Beginners	644	601	582	54.0	93.3	90.4	99.55
Japanese Continuers	701	645	632	65.8	92.0	90.2	99.95
Japanese Extension	166	162	162	73.5	97.6	97.6	99.85
Japanese & Literature	11	11	11	63.6	100.0	100.0	98.55
Japanese in Context	31	31	31	51.6	100.0	100.0	98.70
Khmer Continuers	21	17	20	57.1	81.0	95.2	87.25
Korean Beginners	128	127	124	85.2	99.2	96.9	99.75
Korean Continuers	16	16	16	93.8	100.0	100.0	97.10
Korean & Literature	43	40	42	48.8	93.0	97.7	98.05
Korean in Context	40	40	40	77.5	100.0	100.0	99.75
Latin Continuers	145	143	143	53.8	98.6	98.6	99.95
Latin Extension	105	104	104	51.4	99.0	99.0	99.95

Table A1 Course enrolments, gender, ATAR eligibility and maximum ATAR by course

Course	Number all	Number HSC	Number ATAR	% Female	% HSC	% ATAR eligible	Maximum ATAR
Macedonian Continuers	21	21	20	47.6	100.0	95.2	89.95
Modern Greek Beginners	70	69	65	57.1	98.6	92.9	99.00
Modern Greek Continuers	89	76	75	68.5	85.4	84.3	99.70
Modern Greek Extension	32	27	27	65.6	84.4	84.4	99.70
Modern Hebrew Continuers	41	30	30	51.2	73.2	73.2	98.50
Persian Continuers	21	19	18	71.4	90.5	85.7	96.85
Polish Continuers	18	17	16	55.6	94.4	88.9	95.60
Portuguese Continuers	31	29	26	74.2	93.5	83.9	93.35
Punjabi Continuers	15	15	15	53.3	100.0	100.0	92.85
Russian Continuers	27	25	25	59.3	92.6	92.6	97.90
Serbian Continuers	30	29	29	60.0	96.7	96.7	94.95
Spanish Beginners	330	324	301	73.9	98.2	91.2	99.90
Spanish Continuers	169	160	156	70.4	94.7	92.3	99.85
Spanish Extension	55	52	51	74.5	94.5	92.7	99.85
Swedish Continuers	18	9	9	50.0	50.0	50.0	98.30
Tamil Continuers	57	20	21	68.4	35.1	36.8	98.40
Turkish Continuers	37	26	26	59.5	70.3	70.3	91.25
Vietnamese Continuers	191	151	171	64.9	79.1	89.5	99.95
Automotive Exam	265	198	127	8.7	74.7	47.9	96.30
Business Services Exam	1,232	1,086	926	71.8	88.1	75.2	99.30
Construction Exam	1,778	1,646	1,226	5.5	92.6	69.0	93.30
Electrotechnology Exam	231	215	153	3.9	93.1	66.2	89.90
Entertainment Industry Exam	733	703	606	55.1	95.9	82.7	97.25
Financial Services Exam	87	64	63	28.7	73.6	72.4	99.65
Hospitality Exam	4,616	4,253	3,861	72.5	92.1	83.6	98.55
Human Services Exam	711	700	637	91.8	98.5	89.6	97.60
Information & Digital Technology Exam	497	423	384	14.3	85.1	77.3	96.30
Metal & Engineering Exam	286	255	165	7.0	89.2	57.7	91.65
Primary Industries Exam	567	500	366	53.3	88.2	64.6	98.10
Retail Services Exam	906	756	660	67.8	83.4	72.8	98.50
Tourism, Travel & Events Exam	168	158	145	90.5	94.0	86.3	96.70
Total	70,466	63,154	54,894	52.8	89.6	77.9	99.95

Table A2 Distributions of 2020 HSC marks by course

- Notes: (i) The Number column shows the number of students who completed the course in 2020.
(ii) The Median HSC mark column shows the median HSC mark per course.
(iii) The Median Band column indicates the Performance Band in which the median HSC mark lies.
(iv) The Percentage of Students in Performance Band columns show the percentage of a course candidature in each of the Performance Bands 6 to 2. Extension courses show only Bands 4 to 2 as they have four Bands only: E1 to E4.
(v) This table excludes courses with less than 10 students.

Course	Number	Median HSC mark	Median Band	Percentage students in Performance Band				
				6	5	4	3	2
Aboriginal Studies	653	72	4	13	16	28	21	13
Agriculture	1,470	74	4	10	28	23	22	12
Ancient History	7,164	74	4	9	25	30	22	10
Biology	18,633	74	4	7	24	32	24	11
Business Studies	17,877	74	4	9	26	27	21	11
Chemistry	10,137	77	4	13	30	26	21	8
Community & Family Studies	8,774	75	4	5	29	36	21	8
Dance	914	81	5	9	48	30	11	1
Design & Technology	3,484	79	4	16	32	36	15	2
Drama	3,902	79	4	19	28	43	8	1
Earth & Environmental Science	2,117	73	4	6	23	32	24	10
Economics	5,010	80	5	13	38	26	14	6
Engineering Studies	2,313	75	4	12	22	35	23	6
English Studies Exam	1,274	55	2	0	0	2	29	46
English Standard	30,914	71	4	1	11	46	32	10
English Advanced	24,773	82	5	14	49	31	5	1
English EAL/D	2,022	72	4	3	23	31	27	11
English Extension 1	3,551	43	E3			39	54	7
English Extension 2	1,380	41	E3			26	57	17
Food Technology	3,376	73	4	9	21	30	24	13
Geography	4,396	77	4	13	29	29	16	8
Industrial Technology	5,856	70	4	8	16	29	28	13
Information Processes & Technology	2,024	73	4	8	25	26	23	12
Investigating Science	2,589	73	4	5	24	30	26	11
Legal Studies	10,651	76	4	15	25	28	21	8
Mathematics Standard 1 Exam	1,340	71	4	3	14	39	27	13
Mathematics Standard 2	30,026	70	4	5	19	26	25	17
Mathematics Advanced	16,771	80	5	23	29	28	15	3
Mathematics Extension 1	8,804	84	E3			38	37	20
Mathematics Extension 2	3,372	86	E3			36	48	13
Modern History	10,860	76	4	10	27	29	18	9
History Extension	1,746	39	E3			21	56	22
Music 1	4,500	83	5	22	43	26	7	1
Music 2	688	88	5	38	49	12	<1	
Music Extension	400	47	E4			69	29	2
PDH&PE	16,183	74	4	9	25	27	24	10

Table A2 Distributions of 2020 HSC marks by course

Course	Number	Median HSC mark	Median Band	Percentage students in Performance Band				
				6	5	4	3	2
Physics	7,991	76	4	13	28	27	19	10
Science Extension	608	37	E3			7	67	25
Society & Culture	4,566	78	4	11	33	36	14	5
Software Design & Development	1,737	75	4	13	25	28	23	8
Studies of Religion I	8,129	39	4	8	36	33	17	5
Studies of Religion II	6,133	78	4	7	37	30	18	6
Textiles & Design	1,323	82	5	17	39	28	11	3
Visual Arts	8,580	83	5	17	48	25	8	2
Arabic Continuers	299	79	4	9	41	31	15	3
Arabic Extension	101	40	E3			32	45	24
Armenian Continuers	26	87	5	38	46	15		
Chinese Beginners	80	77	4	24	24	13	15	10
Chinese Continuers	187	88	5	43	33	13	7	2
Chinese Extension	40	46	E4			70	28	3
Chinese & Literature	461	84	5	17	52	24	4	2
Chinese in Context	137	90	6	55	34	10	1	
Classical Greek Continuers	10	90	6	50	20	20	10	
Classical Hebrew Continuers	25	90	6	52	32	16		
Classical Hebrew Extension	15	48	E4			80	20	
French Beginners	507	80	5	25	27	19	15	9
French Continuers	593	84	5	31	33	22	11	3
French Extension	133	41	E3			27	54	19
German Beginners	89	80	5	30	21	20	21	4
German Continuers	212	83	5	25	40	22	8	5
German Extension	55	45	E4			53	47	
Hindi Continuers	12	87	5	42	17	42		
Indonesian Beginners	44	82	5	27	30	25	11	7
Indonesian Continuers	78	83	5	26	37	19	15	3
Indonesian Extension	16	41	E3			25	69	6
Italian Beginners	306	78	4	16	30	28	16	7
Italian Continuers	210	82	5	27	31	29	10	2
Italian Extension	42	45	E4			57	36	7
Japanese Beginners	635	73	4	17	18	24	21	13
Japanese Continuers	671	82	5	29	27	23	16	4
Japanese Extension	163	44	E3			44	45	10
Japanese & Literature	11	83	5	18	45	18	18	
Japanese in Context	30	85	5	10	63	20	7	
Khmer Continuers	21	85	5	19	67	10	5	
Korean Beginners	127	81	5	18	35	35	6	4
Korean Continuers	16	92	6	56	38	6		
Korean & Literature	43	86	5	33	51	14	2	
Korean in Context	39	93	6	69	26	5		

Table A2 Distributions of 2020 HSC marks by course

Course	Number	Median HSC mark	Median Band	Percentage students in Performance Band				
				6	5	4	3	2
Latin Continuers	142	90	6	50	39	7	4	
Latin Extension	104	48	E4			87	13	
Macedonian Continuers	21	82	5	5	62	19	5	10
Modern Greek Beginners	70	88	5	40	40	10	9	1
Modern Greek Continuers	72	88	5	44	36	15	4	
Modern Greek Extension	25	44	E3			48	48	4
Modern Hebrew Continuers	31	93	6	81	13	6		
Persian Continuers	21	91	6	52	29	19		
Polish Continuers	16	93	6	75	19	6		
Portuguese Continuers	29	86	5	28	59	10	3	
Punjabi Continuers	15	84	5	27	47	20	7	
Russian Continuers	20	92	6	60	30	10		
Serbian Continuers	30	87	5	37	50	10	3	
Spanish Beginners	328	77	4	14	27	27	19	10
Spanish Continuers	164	80	5	10	41	29	18	1
Spanish Extension	53	43	E3			28	70	
Tamil Continuers	37	91	6	70	27	3		
Turkish Continuers	26	86	5	15	62	19	4	
Vietnamese Continuers	190	82	5	11	53	31	5	1
Automotive Exam	237	68	3	3	11	31	34	16
Business Services Exam	1,155	73	4	4	26	32	25	10
Construction Exam	1,741	77	4	5	37	36	15	6
Electrotechnology Exam	223	72	4	3	16	40	37	4
Entertainment Industry Exam	713	79	4	13	36	36	12	3
Financial Services Exam	80	74	4	4	25	39	31	1
Hospitality Exam	4,337	74	4	4	27	37	26	6
Human Services Exam	705	69	3	1	12	33	45	8
Information & Digital Technology Exam	466	76	4	4	26	50	16	3
Metal & Engineering Exam	255	67	3	1	12	29	32	21
Primary Industries Exam	520	74	4	3	19	50	24	4
Retail Services Exam	825	71	4	<1	8	44	31	15
Tourism, Travel & Events Exam	161	74	4	2	17	57	23	1

Table A3 Descriptive statistics and selected percentiles for HSC marks and scaled marks by course

- Notes: (i) The Number column shows the number of students who completed the course in 2020.
(ii) The P₉₉, P₉₀, P₇₅, P₅₀, P₂₅ columns refer to the 99th, 90th, 75th, 50th and 25th percentiles respectively.
(iii) The table excludes courses with less than 10 students completing the course in the current year, or if the students completing the course in the current year are undertaking less than 25 other ATAR courses in the same year. No percentile data are given for courses with less than 40 students.
(iv) This table should not be used as a simple HSC to scaled mark conversion table. For each HSC mark there can be a range of raw marks and therefore a range of scaled marks.

Course	Number	Type of mark	Mean	SD	Max. mark	P ₉₉	P ₉₀	P ₇₅	P ₅₀	P ₂₅
Aboriginal Studies	653	HSC	35.2	7.9	49.0	48.0	45.5	40.5	36.0	30.5
		scaled	14.5	12.1	43.7	42.1	35.4	21.7	11.1	4.3
Agriculture	1,470	HSC	36.6	6.9	49.0	48.0	45.0	42.0	37.0	32.0
		scaled	18.9	11.3	45.5	43.6	35.0	27.4	17.5	9.2
Ancient History	7,164	HSC	36.3	6.9	49.5	47.5	44.5	41.5	37.0	32.5
		scaled	23.2	11.0	49.5	45.5	38.2	31.6	23.2	14.6
Biology	18,633	HSC	36.4	5.8	48.5	46.5	44.0	41.0	37.0	32.5
		scaled	26.0	9.9	50.0	45.5	39.1	33.5	26.3	18.7
Business Studies	17,877	HSC	36.2	7.1	49.5	47.5	44.5	41.5	37.0	32.0
		scaled	23.9	10.9	49.5	44.7	38.6	32.8	24.0	15.1
Chemistry	10,137	HSC	38.0	6.0	50.0	48.0	45.5	43.0	38.5	33.5
		scaled	31.6	9.5	50.0	47.6	43.3	39.2	32.8	24.8
Community & Family Studies	8,774	HSC	37.2	5.0	49.0	46.5	43.5	41.0	37.5	34.0
		scaled	18.9	10.5	44.6	40.7	33.7	27.1	18.3	10.1
Dance	914	HSC	40.0	4.4	50.0	49.0	44.5	43.5	40.5	37.5
		scaled	22.8	11.1	47.2	45.7	37.9	31.8	22.7	14.0
Design & Technology	3,484	HSC	39.5	4.7	49.5	48.5	46.0	43.0	39.5	36.0
		scaled	22.2	10.8	47.9	45.3	37.2	30.3	21.7	13.4
Drama	3,902	HSC	40.0	4.8	50.0	49.0	46.5	43.5	39.5	37.5
		scaled	23.7	11.2	50.0	46.9	39.8	32.0	23.1	15.2
Earth & Environmental Science	2,117	HSC	36.1	6.2	48.0	46.5	44.0	40.5	36.5	32.0
		scaled	22.9	10.7	48.0	44.2	37.5	31.1	23.2	14.4
Economics	5,010	HSC	38.7	6.1	49.5	47.5	45.5	43.0	40.0	35.5
		scaled	32.0	9.6	50.0	47.1	43.0	39.4	33.9	26.3
Engineering Studies	2,313	HSC	37.3	5.8	49.5	47.5	45.0	41.5	37.5	34.0
		scaled	25.8	9.6	48.6	44.1	38.4	32.9	25.9	18.9
English Studies Exam	1,274	HSC	25.1	8.5	39.0	36.0	33.0	30.5	27.5	25.0
		scaled	6.8	5.8	28.8	20.8	15.2	11.5	5.7	1.7
English Standard	30,914	HSC	35.1	4.1	49.0	44.0	40.0	38.0	35.5	32.5
		scaled	20.1	8.2	48.6	39.1	31.1	25.9	20.0	14.0
English Advanced	24,773	HSC	40.8	3.6	49.5	47.5	45.5	43.5	41.0	38.5
		scaled	32.4	7.8	50.0	46.3	42.0	38.3	33.2	27.5
English EAL/D	2,022	HSC	35.4	6.5	49.5	47.0	42.5	40.0	36.0	32.0
		scaled	21.0	11.3	48.5	45.7	36.6	30.0	20.0	12.3
English Extension 1	3,551	HSC	42.1	4.9	50.0	49.0	47.0	46.0	43.0	40.0
		scaled	36.4	6.5	50.0	47.2	43.8	41.0	37.4	32.9
English Extension 2	1,380	HSC	40.1	5.8	50.0	49.0	47.0	45.0	41.0	36.0
		scaled	36.5	6.6	50.0	48.5	44.6	41.4	37.2	32.2
Food Technology	3,376	HSC	36.3	6.2	50.0	48.0	44.5	41.0	36.5	32.0
		scaled	19.0	11.2	45.7	42.0	35.5	27.6	18.0	9.4

Table A3 Descriptive statistics and selected percentiles for HSC marks and scaled marks by course

Course	Number	Type of mark	Mean	SD	Max. mark	P ₉₉	P ₉₀	P ₇₅	P ₅₀	P ₂₅
Geography	4,396	HSC	37.5	6.8	49.0	47.5	45.0	42.5	38.5	33.5
		scaled	25.4	11.3	50.0	46.0	40.0	34.3	26.1	16.6
Industrial Technology	5,856	HSC	35.0	6.8	50.0	48.0	44.0	39.5	35.0	31.0
		scaled	17.2	10.1	41.7	39.1	32.0	25.0	16.1	8.9
Information Processes & Technology	2,024	HSC	35.8	6.9	49.0	47.5	44.0	41.0	36.5	31.5
		scaled	22.6	11.0	49.0	44.9	37.4	30.8	22.4	14.0
Investigating Science	2,589	HSC	35.6	6.3	48.5	47.0	43.0	40.5	36.5	31.5
		scaled	18.7	10.2	43.5	40.8	32.7	26.8	18.6	10.1
Legal Studies	10,651	HSC	37.7	6.3	49.5	48.0	45.5	43.0	38.0	33.5
		scaled	24.9	10.9	50.0	45.8	39.6	33.6	25.0	16.2
Mathematics Standard 1 Exam	1,340	HSC	34.5	6.5	48.5	46.5	41.5	38.5	35.5	31.0
		scaled	12.6	9.0	34.7	33.5	26.0	19.3	11.4	4.7
Mathematics Standard 2	30,026	HSC	34.4	7.1	49.5	47.0	43.0	39.5	35.0	30.0
		scaled	22.2	10.0	46.1	41.6	35.6	30.1	22.4	14.2
Mathematics Advanced	16,771	HSC	39.8	5.9	50.0	49.0	47.0	44.5	40.0	36.0
		scaled	31.3	9.7	50.0	47.6	43.4	39.1	32.3	24.5
Mathematics Extension 1	8,804	HSC	39.6	8.3	50.0	49.5	48.0	46.0	42.0	34.0
		scaled	39.5	7.4	50.0	49.3	47.5	45.0	41.1	35.9
Mathematics Extension 2	3,372	HSC	40.9	6.9	50.0	49.5	47.5	46.0	43.0	37.5
		scaled	43.8	5.1	50.0	49.5	48.3	47.1	45.1	42.0
Modern History	10,860	HSC	36.5	7.4	49.5	47.5	45.0	41.5	38.0	32.5
		scaled	25.5	11.0	50.0	45.8	39.5	33.9	26.5	17.4
History Extension	1,746	HSC	38.8	6.1	50.0	49.0	46.0	44.0	39.0	35.0
		scaled	33.7	7.1	50.0	46.8	42.2	38.9	34.3	29.1
Music 1	4,500	HSC	41.0	4.6	50.0	49.0	46.5	44.5	41.5	38.5
		scaled	21.3	10.9	47.3	44.6	36.5	29.6	20.6	12.7
Music 2	688	HSC	43.7	3.0	49.5	49.0	47.5	46.0	44.0	42.0
		scaled	33.9	8.4	50.0	49.5	45.0	40.0	34.4	28.3
Music Extension	400	HSC	45.5	5.1	50.0	50.0	50.0	49.0	47.0	43.0
		scaled	36.0	10.5	50.0	50.0	49.5	45.2	37.4	28.7
PDH&PE	16,183	HSC	36.4	6.5	48.5	47.0	44.5	41.5	37.0	32.0
		scaled	23.0	10.6	48.4	44.3	37.7	31.4	22.7	14.6
Physics	7,991	HSC	37.2	6.8	49.5	47.5	45.0	42.5	38.0	33.0
		scaled	30.9	9.8	50.0	46.5	42.5	38.8	32.6	24.3
Science Extension	608	HSC	37.5	4.7	49.0	47.0	44.0	41.0	37.0	34.0
		scaled	33.4	7.1	50.0	47.7	42.3	38.2	33.3	29.2
Society & Culture	4,566	HSC	38.6	5.2	49.5	48.0	45.0	42.5	39.0	35.5
		scaled	23.0	10.6	48.3	44.7	37.8	31.2	22.7	14.9
Software Design & Development	1,737	HSC	37.1	6.6	49.0	48.0	45.5	42.5	37.5	33.0
		scaled	25.6	11.1	50.0	46.5	40.8	34.5	25.8	16.7
Studies of Religion I	8,129	HSC	38.0	5.1	50.0	47.0	44.0	42.0	39.0	35.0
		scaled	28.0	8.9	49.0	44.3	39.3	34.9	28.6	21.8
Studies of Religion II	6,133	HSC	38.0	5.6	48.5	46.5	44.0	42.0	39.0	34.5
		scaled	27.4	10.2	50.0	46.0	40.0	35.3	28.5	20.2

Table A3 Descriptive statistics and selected percentiles for HSC marks and scaled marks by course

Course	Number	Type of mark	Mean	SD	Max. mark	P ₉₉	P ₉₀	P ₇₅	P ₅₀	P ₂₅
Textiles & Design	1,323	HSC	40.1	5.0	49.5	48.5	46.0	44.0	41.0	37.0
		scaled	23.0	11.3	49.0	45.9	38.6	31.8	22.8	13.9
Visual Arts	8,580	HSC	40.7	4.4	50.0	48.5	46.0	44.0	41.5	38.5
		scaled	21.9	11.2	48.9	45.4	37.8	30.6	21.2	13.0
Arabic Continuers	299	HSC	38.9	5.5	47.5	47.0	44.5	43.0	39.5	36.0
		scaled	15.6	11.1	42.5	41.2	32.2	24.2	13.3	6.0
Arabic Extension	101	HSC	39.8	5.7	49.0	49.0	48.0	45.0	40.0	35.0
		scaled	22.5	7.4	39.3	39.1	33.4	27.4	22.4	17.1
Armenian Continuers	26	HSC	43.3	3.0	48.0					
		scaled	32.5	8.4	50.0					
Chinese Beginners	80	HSC	35.6	10.5	50.0	50.0	46.5	44.5	38.0	27.0
		scaled	20.6	12.9	47.3	47.3	36.0	31.9	22.0	7.4
Chinese Continuers	187	HSC	42.4	6.2	50.0	50.0	48.0	47.0	44.0	40.0
		scaled	32.7	9.5	50.0	49.9	42.9	40.7	34.1	26.5
Chinese Extension	40	HSC	44.8	3.9	48.0	48.0	48.0	47.0	46.0	43.0
		scaled	37.8	7.3	50.0	50.0	45.9	43.5	39.3	32.2
Chinese & Literature	461	HSC	41.1	4.5	47.5	47.0	45.5	44.0	42.0	39.5
		scaled	24.2	11.1	50.0	48.2	38.6	32.6	24.3	15.8
Chinese in Context	137	HSC	44.4	3.3	49.0	48.5	48.0	47.0	45.0	42.5
		scaled	30.6	10.7	50.0	49.0	44.6	39.7	30.6	22.6
Classical Greek Continuers	10	HSC	43.5	4.7	49.0					
		scaled	37.8	9.0	50.0					
Classical Hebrew Continuers	25	HSC	43.9	3.2	48.0					
		scaled	34.0	8.2	49.0					
Classical Hebrew Extension	15	HSC	46.4	3.3	49.0					
		scaled	36.1	8.9	50.0					
French Beginners	507	HSC	38.4	8.4	50.0	49.0	47.5	45.0	40.0	33.5
		scaled	24.4	11.5	49.9	46.4	39.6	32.8	25.3	15.7
French Continuers	593	HSC	41.1	5.4	49.5	49.0	47.5	45.5	42.0	38.0
		scaled	34.1	9.0	50.0	48.8	45.2	41.1	35.6	28.4
French Extension	133	HSC	40.0	5.2	48.0	47.0	46.0	45.0	41.0	35.0
		scaled	39.6	6.1	50.0	49.1	46.7	44.3	41.1	34.7
German Beginners	89	HSC	39.5	6.7	50.0	50.0	47.5	45.5	40.0	33.5
		scaled	27.0	10.8	50.0	50.0	42.5	36.0	26.3	17.1
German Continuers	212	HSC	40.8	5.3	49.0	48.5	47.0	44.5	41.5	38.5
		scaled	34.4	9.0	50.0	48.8	44.4	40.1	35.9	31.0
German Extension	55	HSC	44.0	3.5	49.0	49.0	48.0	47.0	45.0	42.0
		scaled	40.0	4.5	50.0	50.0	45.7	43.5	40.6	37.3
Hindi Continuers	12	HSC	41.2	4.6	46.5					
		scaled	31.0	9.4	47.1					
Indonesian Beginners	44	HSC	40.3	5.3	48.5	48.5	46.0	45.0	41.0	36.5
		scaled	23.3	9.5	44.3	44.3	34.5	31.7	22.9	15.6
Indonesian Continuers	78	HSC	40.9	5.3	49.0	49.0	47.5	45.0	41.5	37.5
		scaled	29.6	10.2	50.0	50.0	44.0	36.0	29.9	22.1
Indonesian Extension	16	HSC	41.1	4.3	48.0					
		scaled	36.1	8.1	50.0					

Table A3 Descriptive statistics and selected percentiles for HSC marks and scaled marks by course

Course	Number	Type of mark	Mean	SD	Max. mark	P ₉₉	P ₉₀	P ₇₅	P ₅₀	P ₂₅
Italian Beginners	306	HSC	38.3	6.8	50.0	49.0	46.5	43.5	39.0	34.5
		scaled	26.2	11.3	50.0	47.2	41.5	34.9	26.1	17.8
Italian Continuers	210	HSC	40.4	5.8	49.0	48.5	46.5	45.0	41.0	37.0
		scaled	31.7	10.1	50.0	48.7	44.2	40.2	32.1	24.4
Italian Extension	42	HSC	43.6	4.5	49.0	49.0	48.0	47.0	45.0	43.0
		scaled	38.3	6.7	50.0	50.0	46.3	43.3	38.9	36.0
Japanese Beginners	635	HSC	36.1	8.2	49.5	48.5	46.0	42.5	36.5	31.0
		scaled	23.8	11.4	48.5	45.5	39.2	33.3	23.8	14.8
Japanese Continuers	671	HSC	40.2	6.3	50.0	49.5	48.0	45.0	41.0	36.0
		scaled	30.6	10.1	50.0	48.2	43.9	38.3	31.1	23.4
Japanese Extension	163	HSC	42.1	5.3	49.0	49.0	48.0	46.0	44.0	38.0
		scaled	37.7	6.2	50.0	49.5	45.8	42.8	37.6	33.2
Japanese & Literature	11	HSC	40.4	4.7	46.5					
		scaled	28.5	11.3	47.4					
Japanese in Context	30	HSC	41.7	3.6	49.0					
		scaled	30.2	7.7	48.1					
Khmer Continuers	21	HSC	42.7	2.9	47.5					
		scaled	17.6	9.7	38.5					
Korean Beginners	127	HSC	40.0	5.3	49.0	48.5	46.5	44.0	40.5	37.0
		scaled	25.2	11.3	50.0	48.0	40.5	33.5	25.2	16.7
Korean Continuers	16	HSC	44.8	2.6	48.0					
		scaled	32.8	9.0	47.2					
Korean & Literature	43	HSC	42.9	3.6	48.5	48.5	47.5	46.0	43.0	41.0
		scaled	25.0	10.5	47.6	47.6	40.0	33.8	23.6	17.9
Korean in Context	39	HSC	45.7	2.5	49.5					
		scaled	26.6	9.6	48.7					
Latin Continuers	142	HSC	43.9	3.7	48.5	48.5	47.5	46.5	44.5	42.5
		scaled	41.1	7.1	50.0	50.0	48.4	45.9	42.9	38.1
Latin Extension	104	HSC	47.0	2.6	50.0	50.0	49.0	49.0	48.0	46.0
		scaled	42.1	6.3	50.0	50.0	48.5	46.2	43.9	39.2
Macedonian Continuers	21	HSC	39.8	5.0	48.5					
		scaled	25.2	8.9	45.5					
Modern Greek Beginners	70	HSC	42.8	5.0	50.0	50.0	48.0	46.5	43.5	41.0
		scaled	28.2	11.5	50.0	50.0	42.6	37.7	28.7	21.0
Modern Greek Continuers	72	HSC	43.2	4.2	49.5	49.5	48.0	46.5	43.5	40.5
		scaled	27.5	10.2	48.5	48.5	39.7	35.4	27.3	18.8
Modern Greek Extension	25	HSC	43.0	5.1	49.0					
		scaled	32.7	8.4	47.5					
Modern Hebrew Continuers	31	HSC	45.9	2.8	49.0					
		scaled	35.6	7.6	50.0					
Persian Continuers	21	HSC	44.3	3.8	49.0					
		scaled	20.4	12.5	45.7					
Polish Continuers	16	HSC	45.9	2.9	49.5					
		scaled	32.2	9.1	50.0					
Portuguese Continuers	29	HSC	42.6	3.2	48.5					
		scaled	25.0	8.2	45.6					

Table A3 Descriptive statistics and selected percentiles for HSC marks and scaled marks by course

Course	Number	Type of mark	Mean	SD	Max. mark	P ₉₉	P ₉₀	P ₇₅	P ₅₀	P ₂₅
Punjabi Continuers	15	HSC	41.8	3.6	47.0					
		scaled	27.0	9.5	45.8					
Russian Continuers	20	HSC	45.0	2.8	48.5					
		scaled	26.1	8.8	42.6					
Serbian Continuers	30	HSC	43.4	3.2	49.0					
		scaled	21.8	9.0	42.8					
Spanish Beginners	328	HSC	37.5	6.6	49.5	49.0	45.5	42.5	38.5	33.0
		scaled	24.3	11.4	50.0	47.9	40.5	32.9	23.7	15.3
Spanish Continuers	164	HSC	39.1	4.6	49.5	47.5	44.5	42.5	40.0	35.5
		scaled	26.2	10.0	49.6	45.7	38.5	33.2	27.1	19.4
Spanish Extension	53	HSC	41.3	6.9	49.0	49.0	46.0	45.0	43.0	40.0
		scaled	31.0	7.8	48.6	48.6	38.9	36.0	31.6	27.3
Turkish Continuers	26	HSC	42.1	3.0	48.5					
		scaled	23.0	8.7	45.6					
Vietnamese Continuers	190	HSC	40.6	3.7	47.5	47.0	45.0	43.0	41.0	38.5
		scaled	19.7	11.0	46.4	45.5	36.3	26.9	18.4	10.9
Automotive Exam	237	HSC	33.7	6.0	47.5	46.5	41.0	37.5	34.0	30.5
		scaled	13.9	9.2	36.6	35.8	28.7	19.9	11.8	6.7
Business Services Exam	1,155	HSC	36.1	6.2	49.0	46.5	43.5	40.5	36.5	33.0
		scaled	18.5	10.5	44.1	41.3	33.9	26.1	16.9	10.3
Construction Exam	1,741	HSC	37.9	5.1	48.5	46.5	43.5	41.5	38.5	35.0
		scaled	15.7	9.7	39.5	37.4	29.2	22.8	14.7	7.5
Electrotechnology Exam	223	HSC	36.0	4.3	46.5	45.5	41.5	39.0	36.0	33.0
		scaled	18.1	8.4	38.2	37.0	30.1	24.3	17.5	11.1
Entertainment Industry Exam	713	HSC	39.3	4.7	48.0	47.5	45.5	42.5	39.5	36.0
		scaled	21.0	9.3	43.6	42.7	34.0	27.3	20.2	13.5
Financial Services Exam	80	HSC	37.1	4.0	46.5	46.5	42.5	40.0	36.5	34.0
		scaled	27.7	9.5	50.0	50.0	41.2	35.5	25.9	19.9
Hospitality Exam	4,337	HSC	36.8	5.0	49.5	46.0	43.0	40.5	37.0	34.0
		scaled	19.4	10.0	44.1	40.5	33.6	27.6	18.1	11.8
Human Services Exam	705	HSC	34.9	4.1	46.5	44.0	40.5	38.0	34.5	32.0
		scaled	20.3	9.4	42.8	40.1	33.6	27.6	19.4	12.5
Information & Digital Technology Exam	466	HSC	37.8	4.7	48.5	46.5	43.0	40.5	38.0	35.5
		scaled	20.1	9.8	43.9	41.1	33.9	26.7	19.8	12.7
Metal & Engineering Exam	255	HSC	33.3	5.9	47.0	45.0	40.5	37.0	33.5	29.0
		scaled	15.8	9.2	38.3	36.0	29.1	22.1	14.7	7.6
Primary Industries Exam	520	HSC	36.6	4.2	48.5	45.5	41.5	39.0	37.0	34.0
		scaled	17.4	9.5	40.8	37.3	30.1	24.5	16.9	9.1
Retail Services Exam	825	HSC	34.4	4.6	45.5	44.0	39.5	37.5	35.5	31.5
		scaled	17.1	10.6	43.2	42.2	32.5	24.7	16.1	8.1
Tourism, Travel & Events Exam	161	HSC	37.4	3.4	45.5	45.0	42.0	39.5	37.0	35.0
		scaled	22.7	10.2	46.2	44.7	37.6	30.7	20.9	14.5

Table A4 Distributions of HSC marks by course: 2019 and 2020

- Notes: (i) The Number column shows the number of students who completed the course in the given year.
(ii) Columns 45, 40, 35, 30 and 25 show the percentage of the course candidature with an HSC mark less than the specified mark.
(iii) The table excludes courses with less than 40 students in either year.

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with HSC mark less than:				
			45	40	35	30	25
Aboriginal Studies	2020	653	86.8	71.2	43.2	21.9	9.3
	2019	699	89.0	71.0	53.8	27.9	8.3
Agriculture	2020	1,470	89.7	61.4	38.3	16.5	4.1
	2019	1,579	90.2	68.6	39.8	16.5	4.6
Ancient History	2020	7,164	91.1	66.6	37.1	15.6	5.3
	2019	7,233	90.7	64.0	34.3	15.0	5.5
Biology	2020	18,633	93.5	69.3	37.3	13.1	2.4
	2019	18,667	92.6	68.5	39.6	15.4	3.3
Business Studies	2020	17,877	90.6	64.7	37.6	17.0	6.2
	2019	17,586	90.6	66.6	37.9	16.2	4.8
Chemistry	2020	10,137	86.6	56.9	30.5	9.4	1.4
	2019	10,277	83.9	53.8	32.6	11.9	2.9
Community & Family Studies	2020	8,774	95.0	66.0	30.3	8.9	0.6
	2019	8,406	95.1	63.0	30.0	10.5	1.5
Dance	2020	914	90.8	42.5	12.7	1.4	0.4
	2019	969	86.9	45.9	17.5	3.5	1.0
Design & Technology	2020	3,484	84.3	52.7	16.8	2.1	0.2
	2019	3,221	85.6	53.3	17.8	4.7	1.0
Drama	2020	3,902	80.8	52.6	9.7	2.0	0.6
	2019	4,080	84.9	56.3	15.8	1.7	0.1
Earth & Environmental Science	2020	2,117	93.5	70.4	38.7	14.5	4.1
	2019	2,033	94.3	68.7	33.2	13.8	3.9
Economics	2020	5,010	86.5	48.5	22.4	8.7	2.5
	2019	5,100	84.7	48.1	25.3	7.5	1.4
Engineering Studies	2020	2,313	88.2	66.3	31.6	8.3	2.0
	2019	2,257	90.7	68.1	30.1	7.8	0.7
English Studies Exam	2020	1,274		100.0	97.9	68.8	22.8
	2019	993	100.0	99.9	96.2	64.5	23.2
English Standard	2020	30,914	99.5	88.4	42.4	10.8	0.5
	2019	30,228	99.3	88.2	47.9	12.3	1.4
English Advanced	2020	24,773	85.8	36.6	5.2	0.6	
	2019	25,251	86.5	38.1	8.1	1.0	0.1
English EAL/D	2020	2,022	96.6	73.9	42.8	15.5	4.5
	2019	2,138	96.1	76.3	41.2	13.8	3.6
English Extension 1	2020	3,551	61.2	24.0	7.3	2.2	0.7
	2019	3,490	65.8	24.6	5.8	1.2	0.2
English Extension 2	2020	1,380	74.1	41.4	17.5	5.1	0.7
	2019	1,326	73.8	48.0	19.8	3.3	0.4
Food Technology	2020	3,376	91.1	69.8	40.2	15.7	2.3
	2019	3,068	91.5	66.3	32.3	9.6	1.6

Table A4 Distributions of HSC marks by course: 2019 and 2020

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with HSC mark less than:				
			45	40	35	30	25
Geography	2020	4,396	87.5	58.2	29.1	12.8	4.3
	2019	4,188	89.6	56.4	27.4	12.5	4.2
Industrial Technology	2020	5,856	91.9	76.2	47.5	19.2	5.9
	2019	5,702	94.4	78.5	50.4	20.2	4.9
Information Processes & Technology	2020	2,024	92.3	67.5	41.3	17.9	5.8
	2019	2,098	89.3	65.1	36.8	14.6	5.6
Investigating Science	2020	2,589	95.3	71.7	41.8	16.1	4.8
	2019	2,770	97.5	76.5	45.8	20.9	7.2
Legal Studies	2020	10,651	84.8	60.1	31.8	10.8	2.5
	2019	10,516	86.4	58.4	34.3	15.7	5.7
Mathematics Standard 1 Exam	2020	1,340	97.4	83.7	45.1	18.0	4.9
	2019	1,139	96.9	82.4	43.2	15.6	2.8
Mathematics Standard 2	2020	30,026	94.6	75.3	49.6	24.5	7.1
	2019	29,656	94.8	75.7	43.3	16.4	2.9
Mathematics Advanced	2020	16,771	76.9	47.4	19.0	4.2	1.5
Mathematics	2019	17,311	76.4	50.7	21.5	7.6	2.6
Mathematics Extension 1	2020	8,804	62.1	42.0	25.5	12.4	5.5
	2019	8,830	60.9	36.6	19.7	9.6	4.4
Mathematics Extension 2	2020	3,372	63.6	34.0	16.0	7.0	2.8
	2019	3,134	64.2	32.5	14.1	7.0	3.0
Modern History	2020	10,860	89.8	62.6	33.8	15.5	6.5
	2019	11,329	90.2	60.3	33.4	13.6	4.4
History Extension	2020	1,746	79.4	50.2	23.9	6.6	1.8
	2019	1,825	72.3	45.7	23.2	7.1	1.5
Music 1	2020	4,500	78.1	35.5	9.3	1.8	0.4
	2019	4,676	77.8	33.7	9.0	1.8	0.4
Music 2	2020	688	61.6	12.2	0.3		
	2019	730	58.8	9.0	0.1		
Music Extension	2020	400	31.5	11.3	2.8	0.8	0.8
	2019	417	33.6	11.0	2.2	0.5	
PDH&PE	2020	16,183	90.8	65.5	38.6	14.4	4.1
	2019	15,545	93.7	68.5	37.7	11.5	2.4
Physics	2020	7,991	87.4	59.4	32.8	13.9	4.1
	2019	8,404	87.6	63.0	35.6	14.3	4.0
Science Extension	2020	608	93.1	65.6	26.2	3.3	1.3
	2019	668	93.4	71.3	31.6	7.0	0.4
Society & Culture	2020	4,566	89.0	56.1	19.8	5.8	1.2
	2019	4,769	87.6	55.5	21.4	6.2	1.5
Software Design & Development	2020	1,737	87.1	62.2	34.3	11.7	3.8
	2019	1,796	84.9	55.5	28.8	12.9	3.5
Studies of Religion I	2020	8,129	92.3	56.1	22.9	5.9	1.3
	2019	8,475	89.1	53.7	20.7	4.0	0.6
Studies of Religion II	2020	6,133	93.4	56.2	25.7	7.8	2.1
	2019	6,046	92.6	55.2	20.3	6.4	1.2

Table A4 Distributions of HSC marks by course: 2019 and 2020

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with HSC mark less than:				
			45	40	35	30	25
Textiles & Design	2020	1,323	82.5	43.2	15.0	3.8	0.5
	2019	1,274	83.5	46.3	18.5	6.0	1.1
Visual Arts	2020	8,580	83.1	35.0	9.9	1.8	0.3
	2019	8,526	84.2	37.3	10.1	2.0	0.1
Arabic Continuers	2020	299	91.0	50.2	19.1	4.3	1.3
	2019	322	85.1	38.2	11.8	4.0	2.2
Arabic Extension	2020	101	68.3	47.5	23.8		
	2019	113	77.9	51.3	30.1		
Chinese Continuers	2020	187	56.7	24.1	11.2	4.3	2.1
	2019	178	59.6	20.8	7.3	2.2	
Chinese & Literature	2020	461	83.1	31.5	7.4	3.5	1.5
	2019	576	80.7	29.3	2.6	0.5	
Chinese in Context	2020	137	44.5	10.9	0.7		
	2019	107	50.5	10.3			
French Beginners	2020	507	75.0	48.3	29.2	14.4	5.3
	2019	479	76.2	52.6	32.6	15.9	6.1
French Continuers	2020	593	69.5	36.4	14.7	3.2	0.3
	2019	648	69.1	35.3	12.5	2.9	0.2
French Extension	2020	133	72.9	41.4	18.8	2.3	
	2019	177	71.2	38.4	11.9	3.4	
German Beginners	2020	89	69.7	48.3	28.1	6.7	2.2
	2019	95	75.8	57.9	27.4	4.2	
German Continuers	2020	212	75.0	35.4	13.7	5.2	0.5
	2019	209	78.0	44.0	11.5	1.4	0.5
German Extension	2020	55	47.3	9.1			
	2019	47	57.4	12.8			
Indonesian Continuers	2020	78	74.4	37.2	17.9	2.6	
	2019	72	86.1	48.6	22.2	1.4	
Italian Beginners	2020	306	84.0	53.9	26.1	10.5	3.6
	2019	274	85.4	67.2	34.3	10.9	3.6
Italian Continuers	2020	210	72.9	41.9	12.9	3.3	1.4
	2019	265	75.5	41.1	17.0	6.4	3.4
Italian Extension	2020	42	42.9	19.0	7.1		
	2019	52	44.2	11.5			
Japanese Beginners	2020	635	82.8	64.7	40.8	19.7	6.3
	2019	677	85.7	57.0	34.4	19.2	7.5
Japanese Continuers	2020	671	71.1	43.7	21.0	5.2	1.3
	2019	617	72.3	39.7	17.8	3.7	0.8
Japanese Extension	2020	163	55.8	28.2	11.0	0.6	0.6
	2019	138	53.6	31.2	10.1	0.7	
Korean Beginners	2020	127	81.9	46.5	11.8	5.5	1.6
	2019	116	75.9	42.2	19.0	4.3	1.7
Latin Continuers	2020	142	50.0	11.3	4.2		
	2019	131	48.9	10.7	2.3		

Table A4 Distributions of HSC marks by course: 2019 and 2020

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with HSC mark less than:				
			45	40	35	30	25
Latin Extension	2020	104	13.5	2.9			
	2019	83	22.9	3.6			
Modern Greek Beginners	2020	70	60.0	20.0	10.0	1.4	
	2019	87	63.2	25.3	10.3	3.4	
Modern Greek Continuers	2020	72	55.6	19.4	4.2		
	2019	80	52.5	21.3	3.8	1.3	
Spanish Beginners	2020	328	86.0	58.8	32.0	12.8	2.4
	2019	259	82.2	63.7	36.3	16.2	4.6
Spanish Continuers	2020	164	90.2	48.8	19.5	1.8	0.6
	2019	172	93.0	52.9	18.6	2.3	1.2
Spanish Extension	2020	53	71.7	24.5	1.9	1.9	1.9
	2019	48	75.0	25.0	6.3		
Vietnamese Continuers	2020	190	89.5	36.3	5.8	1.1	0.5
	2019	175	92.0	30.9	8.0	2.3	1.7
Automotive Exam	2020	237	97.5	86.1	54.9	21.1	4.6
	2019	259	96.1	80.7	56.8	18.5	2.7
Business Services Exam	2020	1,155	95.6	69.5	38.0	13.0	2.9
	2019	1,119	94.2	62.4	22.5	4.8	1.3
Construction Exam	2020	1,741	94.5	57.9	22.2	7.0	1.0
	2019	1,614	98.6	74.1	32.5	9.3	0.6
Electrotechnology Exam	2020	223	97.3	81.6	41.3	4.5	0.4
	2019	239	98.3	84.5	44.8	16.7	
Entertainment Industry Exam	2020	713	87.0	51.3	15.3	3.2	0.4
	2019	735	90.9	58.0	22.0	5.3	0.4
Financial Services Exam	2020	80	96.3	71.3	32.5	1.3	
	2019	62	98.4	67.7	46.8	4.8	3.2
Hospitality Exam	2020	4,337	96.4	69.2	32.5	7.0	1.0
	2019	4,518	96.3	66.7	35.5	11.2	2.3
Human Services Exam	2020	705	99.3	86.8	53.3	8.8	0.4
	2019	735	99.5	92.5	53.6	12.8	1.6
Information & Digital Technology Exam	2020	466	96.1	70.0	19.5	3.9	1.3
	2019	483	98.3	74.3	20.7	3.1	0.6
Metal & Engineering Exam	2020	255	98.8	86.7	58.0	26.3	5.1
	2019	276	99.6	94.9	66.3	32.2	7.6
Primary Industries Exam	2020	520	97.5	78.8	29.2	5.4	1.3
	2019	567	94.9	74.8	25.6	2.5	0.4
Retail Services Exam	2020	825	99.5	91.6	47.2	16.5	1.5
	2019	841	99.2	87.3	47.7	15.1	1.5
Tourism, Travel & Events Exam	2020	161	97.5	80.1	23.6	0.6	
	2019	188	98.4	82.4	34.6	3.2	

Table A5 Distributions of scaled marks by course: 2019 and 2020

- Notes: (i) The Number column shows the number of students who completed the course in the given year.
(ii) Columns 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20 and 15 show the percentage of the course candidature with a scaled mark less than the specified mark.
(iii) The table excludes courses with less than 40 students in either year.

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with scaled mark less than:						
			45	40	35	30	25	20	15
Aboriginal Studies	2020	653	100.0	96.8	89.6	84.4	79.0	72.7	60.0
	2019	699	100.0	95.4	89.6	84.5	77.1	69.8	61.9
Agriculture	2020	1,470	99.7	95.9	90.1	81.6	68.6	55.8	42.1
	2019	1,579	99.9	95.3	88.9	80.2	70.9	57.8	43.4
Ancient History	2020	7,164	98.7	93.0	83.4	70.7	55.5	40.4	26.2
	2019	7,233	98.8	92.8	82.5	68.1	52.6	36.7	23.9
Biology	2020	18,633	98.7	91.9	79.6	62.8	45.4	29.0	15.5
	2019	18,667	98.9	92.4	79.8	62.8	45.9	29.5	16.0
Business Studies	2020	17,877	99.1	93.0	81.0	67.2	53.2	38.6	24.8
	2019	17,586	99.3	92.7	81.0	67.2	52.7	38.2	24.1
Chemistry	2020	10,137	95.1	77.8	58.5	41.0	25.4	13.9	5.8
	2019	10,277	95.8	77.9	57.1	39.7	26.4	15.7	7.6
Community & Family Studies	2020	8,774	100.0	98.6	92.4	81.9	69.5	55.1	39.7
	2019	8,406	100.0	98.3	92.1	82.2	69.7	55.4	40.4
Dance	2020	914	98.7	94.6	83.6	71.0	57.5	42.0	28.4
	2019	969	99.3	92.8	83.1	70.5	55.4	40.6	24.9
Design & Technology	2020	3,484	98.8	93.9	86.0	74.1	61.0	45.2	29.4
	2019	3,221	99.3	94.7	86.6	74.1	59.8	43.4	27.2
Drama	2020	3,902	97.3	90.6	81.0	69.8	55.9	40.1	24.3
	2019	4,080	97.7	91.6	82.2	70.2	56.4	40.7	24.9
Earth & Environmental Science	2020	2,117	99.2	94.7	84.6	71.8	55.8	40.2	26.2
	2019	2,033	99.3	95.1	85.1	71.7	55.4	39.7	25.7
Economics	2020	5,010	96.0	78.0	55.3	35.0	21.7	13.1	6.7
	2019	5,100	96.7	78.6	56.0	36.8	22.7	13.5	6.6
Engineering Studies	2020	2,313	99.5	93.4	80.6	64.2	46.5	28.1	14.9
	2019	2,257	98.5	92.9	80.0	65.5	46.8	29.1	14.5
English Studies Exam	2020	1,274				100.0	99.8	98.7	89.6
	2019	993			100.0	99.9	99.1	96.2	86.8
English Standard	2020	30,914	99.9	99.3	96.3	87.6	71.9	49.8	28.7
	2019	30,228	99.9	99.1	95.7	87.5	71.8	50.6	28.7
English Advanced	2020	24,773	97.4	82.1	58.7	34.9	17.4	7.2	2.5
	2019	25,251	97.5	83.6	60.1	37.1	19.4	9.0	3.4
English EAL/D	2020	2,022	98.7	94.9	86.1	74.9	64.5	49.9	33.4
	2019	2,138	98.6	94.0	85.9	74.2	59.3	44.6	29.9
English Extension 1	2020	3,551	94.3	68.0	35.9	14.6	5.4	2.1	0.7
	2019	3,490	93.6	68.5	37.5	15.2	5.2	1.5	0.5
English Extension 2	2020	1,380	91.4	68.3	37.2	16.3	5.5	1.2	
	2019	1,326	89.7	66.7	42.4	18.3	5.5	1.3	0.2
Food Technology	2020	3,376	99.9	96.6	89.1	80.3	68.5	54.9	42.1
	2019	3,068	99.5	95.7	88.0	78.5	66.2	52.6	38.3

Table A5 Distributions of scaled marks by course: 2019 and 2020

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with scaled mark less than:						
			45	40	35	30	25	20	15
Geography	2020	4,396	98.2	90.1	77.4	61.6	46.4	32.8	21.1
	2019	4,188	98.4	91.1	77.7	62.9	47.3	32.8	20.9
Industrial Technology	2020	5,856	100.0	99.6	94.9	86.0	74.9	62.3	46.5
	2019	5,702	100.0	99.7	95.2	87.2	76.0	62.2	45.8
Information Processes & Technology	2020	2,024	99.0	93.9	84.8	72.6	57.9	41.9	27.7
	2019	2,098	99.1	94.7	86.7	75.1	61.6	45.2	31.2
Investigating Science	2020	2,589	100.0	98.7	93.8	84.1	69.8	54.8	40.0
	2019	2,770	100.0	99.6	94.2	84.0	70.8	54.4	39.0
Legal Studies	2020	10,651	98.4	90.7	78.6	65.4	50.2	35.2	21.6
	2019	10,516	98.7	91.4	78.2	62.6	47.7	33.2	20.7
Mathematics Standard 1 Exam	2020	1,340			100.0	96.1	88.6	76.0	62.3
	2019	1,139			100.0	96.0	89.6	80.2	68.7
Mathematics Standard 2	2020	30,026	100.0	97.5	88.5	74.5	58.6	42.5	27.2
	2019	29,656	100.0	97.2	88.1	75.4	60.8	45.1	29.1
Mathematics Advanced	2020	16,771	94.6	78.5	59.4	42.0	26.4	14.2	6.3
Mathematics	2019	17,311	95.9	81.3	61.3	40.7	24.3	13.5	7.2
Mathematics Extension 1	2020	8,804	74.9	43.3	21.9	11.4	5.6	2.3	0.9
	2019	8,830	82.0	45.5	21.7	10.2	4.8	1.9	1.0
Mathematics Extension 2	2020	3,372	48.1	15.5	5.8	2.5	1.1	0.7	0.3
	2019	3,134	64.5	18.6	6.3	2.4	0.8	0.1	
Modern History	2020	10,860	98.5	91.2	78.1	62.1	45.3	31.3	20.1
	2019	11,329	98.3	90.3	77.2	61.5	46.1	31.6	19.9
History Extension	2020	1,746	96.2	80.3	53.7	28.9	12.0	3.9	1.6
	2019	1,825	96.6	81.6	53.3	28.0	11.1	4.0	0.8
Music 1	2020	4,500	99.2	95.1	87.4	75.9	61.9	47.9	32.1
	2019	4,676	99.7	96.0	88.1	76.7	63.0	47.3	32.1
Music 2	2020	688	90.3	74.4	53.3	29.8	16.9	5.8	0.9
	2019	730	91.6	74.5	54.8	36.7	18.6	6.7	1.1
Music Extension	2020	400	74.5	60.0	43.8	28.3	16.3	8.5	2.8
	2019	417	78.9	68.3	48.9	30.2	13.4	6.5	1.4
PDH&PE	2020	16,183	99.5	94.4	84.3	71.4	56.9	41.3	26.1
	2019	15,545	99.7	95.5	85.8	71.8	56.2	40.8	25.6
Physics	2020	7,991	97.0	80.8	59.5	41.1	26.9	16.2	7.9
	2019	8,404	96.9	82.3	62.0	43.2	28.1	16.3	7.7
Science Extension	2020	608	96.1	82.1	57.7	30.1	10.5	3.5	1.5
	2019	668	96.0	83.7	56.6	29.8	12.7	4.6	0.3
Society & Culture	2020	4,566	99.1	94.2	84.2	71.9	57.4	41.4	25.3
	2019	4,769	98.6	93.2	83.2	71.2	57.1	42.0	25.6
Software Design & Development	2020	1,737	97.5	88.7	76.6	62.7	47.3	33.5	20.4
	2019	1,796	98.5	91.6	77.9	61.2	45.2	30.6	19.4
Studies of Religion I	2020	8,129	99.4	91.9	75.3	55.2	36.1	20.0	9.0
	2019	8,475	99.1	91.5	75.9	56.5	37.1	20.5	8.5
Studies of Religion II	2020	6,133	98.0	90.1	73.9	55.4	38.3	24.6	13.7
	2019	6,046	98.5	89.9	74.1	55.9	37.2	22.9	12.5

Table A5 Distributions of scaled marks by course: 2019 and 2020

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with scaled mark less than:						
			45	40	35	30	25	20	15
Textiles & Design	2020	1,323	98.4	92.4	82.4	71.0	56.4	42.3	28.3
	2019	1,274	98.4	93.3	83.2	69.6	56.9	42.4	27.6
Visual Arts	2020	8,580	98.9	93.3	84.6	73.9	60.9	46.4	30.5
	2019	8,526	98.5	93.1	84.6	73.0	59.6	45.2	30.2
Arabic Continuers	2020	299	100.0	98.7	92.6	87.0	76.6	66.2	55.2
	2019	322	100.0	97.8	91.3	83.5	75.8	64.6	50.6
Arabic Extension	2020	101		100.0	94.1	85.1	66.3	42.6	17.8
	2019	113	100.0	98.2	92.9	84.1	69.9	52.2	34.5
Chinese Continuers	2020	187	96.8	72.7	54.5	31.6	20.3	13.4	5.3
	2019	178	90.4	73.6	57.3	39.9	17.4	11.2	5.1
Chinese & Literature	2020	461	97.2	92.4	82.4	65.1	51.8	37.7	22.3
	2019	576	96.7	91.5	79.9	67.2	51.6	35.8	20.7
Chinese in Context	2020	137	90.5	77.4	64.2	47.4	29.9	18.2	8.8
	2019	107	96.3	80.4	64.5	47.7	30.8	16.8	10.3
French Beginners	2020	507	97.6	90.9	81.5	64.3	49.3	33.9	23.5
	2019	479	98.1	92.3	82.0	68.9	51.6	38.0	25.9
French Continuers	2020	593	89.5	70.3	48.4	30.0	17.4	8.8	2.9
	2019	648	91.2	72.1	46.5	26.2	14.5	5.9	1.2
French Extension	2020	133	85.0	45.1	25.6	6.8	2.3	0.8	
	2019	177	82.5	41.8	12.4	5.1	1.7		
German Beginners	2020	89	97.8	86.5	70.8	59.6	48.3	31.5	13.5
	2019	95	95.8	90.5	78.9	62.1	46.3	31.6	16.8
German Continuers	2020	212	91.5	73.1	44.8	22.6	14.6	9.0	5.7
	2019	209	91.9	74.2	49.8	31.1	17.2	6.7	2.4
German Extension	2020	55	89.1	49.1	10.9				
	2019	47	87.2	51.1	21.3	2.1			
Indonesian Continuers	2020	78	92.3	82.1	71.8	50.0	34.6	21.8	7.7
	2019	72	93.1	87.5	56.9	48.6	33.3	16.7	4.2
Italian Beginners	2020	306	95.8	87.9	75.5	58.2	46.1	32.4	19.0
	2019	274	97.8	88.3	77.4	65.7	48.2	32.8	19.0
Italian Continuers	2020	210	91.9	74.8	63.3	43.3	26.7	11.4	6.7
	2019	265	95.1	83.0	61.5	44.5	29.1	13.6	6.8
Italian Extension	2020	42	81.0	66.7	23.8	16.7	4.8		
	2019	52	90.4	61.5	28.8	5.8			
Japanese Beginners	2020	635	98.9	92.9	78.9	67.1	54.2	38.9	26.3
	2019	677	99.0	93.8	83.2	68.8	52.7	36.8	22.9
Japanese Continuers	2020	671	93.3	79.6	63.3	46.3	30.3	16.4	7.2
	2019	617	91.7	78.1	60.5	41.8	28.2	15.9	6.8
Japanese Extension	2020	163	84.7	62.0	32.5	12.3	1.2	0.6	
	2019	138	92.8	59.4	26.8	6.5	0.7		
Korean Beginners	2020	127	96.9	89.8	77.2	63.8	49.6	34.6	17.3
	2019	116	99.1	90.5	75.9	62.9	40.5	23.3	14.7
Latin Continuers	2020	142	64.8	31.7	19.0	6.3	4.2	2.1	
	2019	131	67.2	37.4	16.8	9.2	3.1	1.5	

Table A5 Distributions of scaled marks by course: 2019 and 2020

Course	Year	Number	Percentage of students with scaled mark less than:						
			45	40	35	30	25	20	15
Latin Extension	2020	104	59.6	28.8	12.5	7.7	2.9	1.0	
	2019	83	57.8	32.5	14.5	3.6	1.2	1.2	
Modern Greek Beginners	2020	70	95.7	82.9	65.7	54.3	40.0	22.9	15.7
	2019	87	97.7	88.5	72.4	50.6	37.9	26.4	16.1
Modern Greek Continuers	2020	72	97.2	90.3	69.4	55.6	38.9	25.0	12.5
	2019	80	100.0	92.5	83.8	71.3	52.5	33.8	20.0
Spanish Beginners	2020	328	96.3	89.3	79.9	67.4	53.4	37.8	24.4
	2019	259	96.9	84.6	74.5	64.5	49.8	35.5	22.8
Spanish Continuers	2020	164	98.8	90.9	80.5	62.2	43.3	27.4	15.2
	2019	172	97.7	89.0	74.4	64.5	46.5	29.7	15.7
Spanish Extension	2020	53	96.2	90.6	71.7	43.4	18.9	1.9	1.9
	2019	48	91.7	85.4	60.4	37.5	12.5	4.2	
Vietnamese Continuers	2020	190	98.9	93.7	88.9	80.0	71.6	57.4	37.4
	2019	175	98.9	96.0	93.1	82.9	70.9	52.0	36.6
Automotive Exam	2020	237		100.0	98.7	92.4	84.8	75.5	62.0
	2019	259		100.0	97.7	94.2	84.6	74.1	61.0
Business Services Exam	2020	1,155	100.0	98.4	92.8	82.6	72.1	57.0	41.7
	2019	1,119	100.0	96.8	92.9	84.1	71.9	55.6	39.6
Construction Exam	2020	1,741		100.0	96.9	90.4	81.2	67.2	52.0
	2019	1,614		100.0	97.7	90.7	79.4	64.5	49.1
Electrotechnology Exam	2020	223		100.0	96.4	87.9	77.1	62.8	41.3
	2019	239		100.0	95.4	90.0	79.9	61.1	44.8
Entertainment Industry Exam	2020	713	100.0	98.2	92.0	81.1	65.2	47.7	28.5
	2019	735	100.0	98.5	94.4	82.4	64.9	47.9	31.3
Financial Services Exam	2020	80	96.3	87.5	73.8	62.5	42.5	26.3	6.3
	2019	62	98.4	93.5	87.1	75.8	59.7	46.8	22.6
Hospitality Exam	2020	4,337	100.0	98.9	92.5	82.4	69.2	53.5	36.2
	2019	4,518	100.0	98.6	93.0	84.6	70.0	55.5	38.6
Human Services Exam	2020	705	100.0	98.4	92.9	82.3	68.8	50.2	33.3
	2019	735	100.0	98.8	92.5	82.4	69.9	57.1	37.7
Information & Digital Technology Exam	2020	466	100.0	98.1	92.3	82.0	70.0	52.1	36.3
	2019	483		100.0	96.5	88.2	74.3	57.3	40.8
Metal & Engineering Exam	2020	255		100.0	98.4	92.5	79.2	67.8	52.2
	2019	276		100.0	96.4	91.3	82.2	68.8	51.8
Primary Industries Exam	2020	520	100.0	99.8	97.5	87.7	75.8	57.3	44.4
	2019	567	100.0	99.5	94.9	88.4	77.2	63.5	47.8
Retail Services Exam	2020	825	100.0	97.6	92.6	86.4	76.6	65.7	47.2
	2019	841	100.0	98.8	94.2	85.4	75.0	62.9	44.9
Tourism, Travel & Events Exam	2020	161	99.4	93.2	85.1	74.5	60.2	46.0	28.0
	2019	188	100.0	98.4	89.4	80.3	68.6	44.7	25.0

Table A6 Courses that contribute to the ATAR (more than 10 units)

- Notes: (i) This table shows the percentage of the course candidature who completed more than 10 units of ATAR courses and for whom *all* units of that course contributed to their ATAR.
- (ii) The **Number receiving ATAR** column shows the number of students who did the course in 2020 or a previous year, and received an ATAR in 2020.
- (iii) The **ATAR students with > 10 units** columns show the number and percentage of ATAR students who completed more than 10 units of ATAR courses.
- (iv) The **Percentage who counted course** column shows the percentage of the ATAR students who completed more than 10 units of ATAR courses for whom all units of that course contributed towards their ATAR.
- (v) The **Maximum ATAR including the course** column shows the maximum ATAR of any student doing the course in any year and including all units from that course in their ATAR calculation.
- (vi) The table excludes courses with less than 10 students.

Course	Number receiving ATAR	ATAR students with > 10 units			Maximum ATAR including the course
		Number	Percentage	Percentage who counted course	
Aboriginal Studies	389	103	26	77	98.40
Agriculture	1,073	406	38	79	99.70
Ancient History	6,437	2,438	38	85	99.95
Biology	17,856	7,440	42	82	99.95
Business Studies	16,512	5,689	34	85	99.95
Chemistry	10,029	5,829	58	75	99.95
Community & Family Studies	7,140	2,065	29	88	98.20
Dance	795	227	29	65	99.05
Design & Technology	3,021	1,092	36	75	99.20
Drama	3,440	1,281	37	77	99.80
Earth & Environmental Science	1,903	634	33	83	99.55
Economics	4,965	2,567	52	76	99.95
Engineering Studies	2,225	1,095	49	71	99.85
English Studies Exam	516	103	20	100	80.30
English Standard	28,008	7,823	28	100	99.35
English Advanced	24,547	11,906	49	99	99.95
English EAL/D	1,823	570	31	100	99.95
English Extension 1	3,543	2,341	66	88	99.95
English Extension 2	1,372	820	60	86	99.95
Food Technology	2,654	824	31	87	98.35
Geography	4,043	1,606	40	84	99.90
Industrial Technology	4,074	1,254	31	74	96.90
Information Processes & Technology	1,858	770	41	73	99.95
Investigating Science	2,100	723	34	84	98.85
Legal Studies	10,065	3,762	37	85	99.95
Mathematics Standard 1 Exam	838	217	26	53	83.75
Mathematics Standard 2	27,399	8,013	29	72	99.50
Mathematics Advanced	15,897	8,739	55	72	99.95
Mathematics Extension 1	8,769	6,236	71	89	99.95
Mathematics Extension 2	3,363	1,798	53	98	99.95
Modern History	10,161	4,266	42	84	99.95

Table A6 Courses that contribute to the ATAR (more than 10 units)

Course	Number receiving ATAR	ATAR students with > 10 units			Maximum ATAR including the course
		Number	Percentage	Percentage who counted course	
History Extension	1,747	1,400	80	83	99.95
Music 1	3,691	1,297	35	65	99.75
Music 2	676	474	70	66	99.95
Music Extension	402	311	77	67	99.90
PDH&PE	14,628	4,662	32	84	99.90
Physics	7,964	4,595	58	74	99.95
Science Extension	606	494	82	78	99.90
Society & Culture	4,256	1,289	30	83	99.90
Software Design & Development	1,654	808	49	70	99.95
Studies of Religion I	7,927	6,829	86	80	99.90
Studies of Religion II	5,987	1,616	27	84	99.95
Textiles & Design	1,125	355	32	76	99.15
Visual Arts	7,176	2,339	33	75	99.95
Arabic Continuers	247	121	49	84	97.85
Arabic Extension	82	63	77	84	93.55
Armenian Continuers	26	18	69	72	93.05
Chinese Beginners	56	25	45	72	99.75
Chinese Continuers	187	119	64	63	99.95
Chinese Extension	40	36	90	86	99.95
Chinese & Literature	443	154	35	73	99.95
Chinese in Context	136	75	55	59	99.65
Classical Greek Continuers	14	14	100	64	99.95
Classical Greek Extension	10	10	100	60	99.95
Classical Hebrew Continuers	24	13	54	77	98.15
Classical Hebrew Extension	15	11	73	82	98.15
French Beginners	463	182	39	76	97.55
French Continuers	602	398	66	67	99.95
French Extension	130	117	90	85	99.95
German Beginners	81	32	40	63	99.80
German Continuers	202	134	66	68	99.95
German Extension	56	51	91	90	99.95
Hindi Continuers	12	8	67	50	98.90
Indonesian Beginners	41	14	34	86	89.70
Indonesian Continuers	76	46	61	70	98.75
Indonesian Extension	16	14	88	57	98.65
Italian Beginners	277	140	51	70	99.90
Italian Continuers	200	139	70	67	99.75
Italian Extension	44	35	80	86	99.70
Japanese Beginners	582	194	33	64	99.55
Japanese Continuers	632	364	58	66	99.95
Japanese Extension	162	130	80	85	99.85
Japanese & Literature	11	1	9	100	98.55
Japanese in Context	31	13	42	54	96.50

Table A6 Courses that contribute to the ATAR (more than 10 units)

Course	Number receiving ATAR	ATAR students with > 10 units			Maximum ATAR including the course
		Number	Percentage	Percentage who counted course	
Khmer Continuers	20	8	40	63	87.25
Korean Beginners	124	39	31	82	99.75
Korean Continuers	16	7	44	71	97.10
Korean & Literature	42	16	38	69	98.05
Korean in Context	40	11	28	73	99.75
Latin Continuers	143	123	86	66	99.95
Latin Extension	104	88	85	73	99.95
Macedonian Continuers	20	10	50	90	89.95
Modern Greek Beginners	65	28	43	75	99.00
Modern Greek Continuers	75	48	64	58	99.70
Modern Greek Extension	27	26	96	92	99.70
Modern Hebrew Continuers	30	17	57	59	98.50
Persian Continuers	18	8	44	38	89.95
Polish Continuers	16	11	69	73	95.60
Portuguese Continuers	26	10	38	80	93.35
Punjabi Continuers	15	10	67	60	92.85
Russian Continuers	25	14	56	43	97.15
Serbian Continuers	29	14	48	79	94.95
Spanish Beginners	301	98	33	80	99.90
Spanish Continuers	156	77	49	71	99.85
Spanish Extension	51	34	67	94	99.85
Tamil Continuers	21	12	57	42	98.40
Turkish Continuers	26	5	19	80	91.25
Vietnamese Continuers	171	59	35	69	99.95
Automotive Exam	127	42	33	50	84.50
Business Services Exam	926	340	37	76	99.30
Construction Exam	1,226	373	30	77	93.30
Electrotechnology Exam	153	52	34	60	89.90
Entertainment Industry Exam	606	211	35	73	97.25
Financial Services Exam	63	18	29	72	99.65
Hospitality Exam	3,861	1,272	33	76	98.35
Human Services Exam	637	222	35	74	97.60
Information & Digital Technology Exam	384	149	39	66	96.30
Metal & Engineering Exam	165	70	42	69	91.65
Primary Industries Exam	366	148	40	63	90.15
Retail Services Exam	660	256	39	64	97.35
Tourism, Travel & Events Exam	145	42	29	71	96.70

Table A7 ATAR distribution

- Note: (i) This table shows the number of students receiving each ATAR from 99.95 to 99.00 and the number corresponding to the stated ATAR ranges down to 30.00–30.95.
- (ii) The median ATAR in 2020 was 70.15.

ATAR	Number	Number on or above	Percentage on or above
99.95	48	48	0.1
99.90	44	92	0.2
99.85	48	140	0.3
99.80	46	186	0.3
99.75	47	233	0.4
99.70	47	280	0.5
99.65	46	326	0.6
99.60	46	372	0.7
99.55	45	417	0.8
99.50	51	468	0.9
99.45	45	513	0.9
99.40	47	560	1.0
99.35	41	601	1.1
99.30	55	656	1.2
99.25	44	700	1.3
99.20	47	747	1.4
99.15	43	790	1.4
99.10	46	836	1.5
99.05	50	886	1.6
99.00	45	931	1.7
99.00 - 99.95	931	931	1.7
98.00 - 98.95	935	1,866	3.4
97.00 - 97.95	937	2,803	5.1
96.00 - 96.95	941	3,744	6.8
95.00 - 95.95	923	4,667	8.5
94.00 - 94.95	939	5,606	10.2
93.00 - 93.95	945	6,551	11.9
92.00 - 92.95	939	7,490	13.6
91.00 - 91.95	928	8,418	15.3
90.00 - 90.95	925	9,343	17.0
89.00 - 89.95	945	10,288	18.7
88.00 - 88.95	923	11,211	20.4
87.00 - 87.95	935	12,146	22.1
86.00 - 86.95	919	13,065	23.8
85.00 - 85.95	941	14,006	25.5
84.00 - 84.95	930	14,936	27.2
83.00 - 83.95	919	15,855	28.9
82.00 - 82.95	928	16,783	30.6
81.00 - 81.95	915	17,698	32.2
80.00 - 80.95	921	18,619	33.9
79.00 - 79.95	912	19,531	35.6
78.00 - 78.95	908	20,439	37.2

Table A7 ATAR distribution

ATAR	Number	Number on or above	Percentage on or above
77.00 - 77.95	905	21,344	38.9
76.00 - 76.95	913	22,257	40.5
75.00 - 75.95	906	23,163	42.2
74.00 - 74.95	909	24,072	43.9
73.00 - 73.95	900	24,972	45.5
72.00 - 72.95	873	25,845	47.1
71.00 - 71.95	873	26,718	48.7
70.00 - 70.95	893	27,611	50.3
69.00 - 69.95	876	28,487	51.9
68.00 - 68.95	869	29,356	53.5
67.00 - 67.95	873	30,229	55.1
66.00 - 66.95	825	31,054	56.6
65.00 - 65.95	858	31,912	58.1
64.00 - 64.95	833	32,745	59.7
63.00 - 63.95	844	33,589	61.2
62.00 - 62.95	817	34,406	62.7
61.00 - 61.95	818	35,224	64.2
60.00 - 60.95	798	36,022	65.6
59.00 - 59.95	791	36,813	67.1
58.00 - 58.95	801	37,614	68.5
57.00 - 57.95	766	38,380	69.9
56.00 - 56.95	764	39,144	71.3
55.00 - 55.95	752	39,896	72.7
54.00 - 54.95	729	40,625	74.0
53.00 - 53.95	745	41,370	75.4
52.00 - 52.95	711	42,081	76.7
51.00 - 51.95	717	42,798	78.0
50.00 - 50.95	699	43,497	79.2
49.00 - 49.95	694	44,191	80.5
48.00 - 48.95	683	44,874	81.7
47.00 - 47.95	662	45,536	83.0
46.00 - 46.95	642	46,178	84.1
45.00 - 45.95	624	46,802	85.3
44.00 - 44.95	593	47,395	86.3
43.00 - 43.95	582	47,977	87.4
42.00 - 42.95	554	48,531	88.4
41.00 - 41.95	532	49,063	89.4
40.00 - 40.95	509	49,572	90.3
39.00 - 39.95	483	50,055	91.2
38.00 - 38.95	458	50,513	92.0
37.00 - 37.95	430	50,943	92.8
36.00 - 36.95	402	51,345	93.5
35.00 - 35.95	383	51,728	94.2
34.00 - 34.95	346	52,074	94.9
33.00 - 33.95	316	52,390	95.4
32.00 - 32.95	287	52,677	96.0
31.00 - 31.95	266	52,943	96.4
30.00 - 30.95	243	53,186	96.9

Table A8 ATAR percentiles: 2016 – 2020

Note: This table shows the ATAR at selected percentiles of the ATAR cohort.

Percentile	ATAR 2016	ATAR 2017	ATAR 2018	ATAR 2019	ATAR 2020
100	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95
99	99.40	99.35	99.40	99.40	99.40
98	98.75	98.75	98.8	98.80	98.80
95	96.95	96.90	97.00	97.00	97.05
90	93.95	93.85	94.00	94.00	94.10
85	90.90	90.80	91.00	91.05	91.15
80	87.85	87.75	88.00	88.05	88.25
75	84.75	84.70	85.00	85.05	85.30
70	81.60	81.60	82.00	82.05	82.30
60	75.25	75.40	75.85	75.95	76.30
50	68.65	69.00	69.65	69.75	70.15
40	61.65	62.40	63.15	63.25	63.75
30	53.95	55.35	56.20	56.35	56.90

Table A9 Relationship between the ATAR and aggregates: 2016–2020

Note: This table shows the lowest aggregate of scaled marks corresponding to each of the selected ATARs.

ATAR	Lowest aggregate				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
99.95	476.6	477.1	476.3	476.7	478.1
99.50	455.8	457.1	455.5	454.5	458.8
99.00	446.0	446.6	444.5	443.8	447.8
98.00	431.2	432.2	429.9	429.6	433.8
95.00	403.8	404.1	402.8	402.0	404.2
90.00	371.7	372.4	371.1	370.0	370.1
85.00	345.3	344.8	343.1	342.2	341.8
80.00	320.6	319.9	318.2	316.3	315.8
75.00	297.5	296.2	294.5	291.7	290.8
70.00	275.1	273.3	271.1	268.6	267.2
65.00	253.4	249.4	248.1	245.9	244.1
60.00	231.4	226.6	224.1	223.5	221.1
55.00	210.9	204.2	201.0	200.2	198.3
50.00	191.4	182.0	178.0	176.8	175.5