

10. Other Information

10.1 Information about the ATAR

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) uses study scores as a basis for determining a student's Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Ranking (ATAR). The ATAR, a ranking based on VCE performance, is only designed for use in tertiary selection. The ATAR is based on the scaled scores in the English study and at least three other studies in an allowable combination. The study scores need not be from the same year. The ATAR aggregate is found by adding:

- 1) English/ESL/Literature plus
- 2) Highest ATAR subject score plus
- 3) Second Highest ATAR subject score plus
- 4) Third Highest ATAR subject score plus
- 5) 10% of fifth highest ATAR subject score (if available)
- 6) 10% of sixth highest ATAR subject score (if available)

(The increment for the fifth or sixth study may be replaced with the appropriate increment for a VET in the VCE subject or with the appropriate increment for an approved university extension study programme).

At most, six results contribute directly to the ATAR aggregate. Where more than six results are available, the six legitimate results yielding the highest ATAR aggregate are used. The ATAR aggregate is a number between 0 and a little over 210.

All eligible students are ranked in order of their ATAR aggregate, and a percentage rank is assigned with (as far as possible) an even distribution among the students who received an ATAR aggregate that year. All students with a particular ATAR aggregate receive the same percentage rank.

All students are then assigned an ATAR based on this aggregate score. This is the estimate of where the student came in the relevant age group, taking account of the students who have successfully completed their VCE as well as those who left school before Year 12. This is achieved using a method agreed to by all states, and has the effect (except for the maximum percentage rank) of raising the rank of those who successfully complete the VCE and qualify for tertiary entrance. The ATAR is a number between 0 and 99.95 in intervals of 0.05.

10. Other Information

10.1 Information about the ATAR (Cont...)

Sample Calculation

A student studied these subjects at the Unit 3 and 4 levels:

- English, Chemistry, Biology, Studio Arts and Mathematical Methods.

The student's results were as follows:

Other	Study	VCAA Study Score	VTAC ATAR Score	Contribution to Aggregate
English	English	30	28	28
#2	Mathematical Methods	30	37	37
#3	Chemistry	30	35	35
#4	Biology	30	30	30
#5	Studio Arts	30	25	2.5
	ATAR Aggregate			132.5

10.2 Example ATAR Scores Based on Aggregates

Based on the scaling and aggregation process, the following table gives an indication of the minimum scaled aggregate required to achieve at least a particular ATAR. The table can be used to roughly check an ATAR calculation.

ATAR	Minimum Scaled Aggregate for ATAR	ATAR	Minimum Scaled Aggregate for ATAR
40.00	93.2	86.00	152.8
45.00	98.7	88.00	156.8
50.00	104.4	90.00	160.7
55.00	110.3	91.00	163.0
60.00	115.9	92.00	165.4
62.00	118.3	93.00	167.8
64.00	120.8	94.00	170.6
65.00	122.2	95.00	173.5
66.00	123.5	96.00	176.9
68.00	126.1	97.00	181.0
70.00	128.8	97.50	183.4
72.00	131.5	98.00	186.1
74.00	134.1	98.50	189.3
75.00	135.5	99.00	193.6
76.00	136.9	99.25	196.2
78.00	139.8	99.50	199.4
80.00	142.8	99.60	200.7
82.00	145.9	99.70	202.5
84.00	149.3	99.80	205.1
85.00	151.1	99.90	208.6

10. Other Information

10.3 Scaling Report (By Subject)

VCAA provides VTAC with study scores (relative positions). These study scores are scaled in order to calculate scaled aggregates and Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Ranks (ATARs). The following table gives the scaled means and standard deviations as well as the ATAR subject scores (rounded to the nearest integer) corresponding to the VCAA study scores of 20, 25, 30, 40, 45 and 50 (for 2009). The formal aggregation process uses ATAR subject scores to two decimal places, but the following information gives a good indication of how scaling adjusts scores in the various studies.

Study	Mean	St Dev	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Accounting	30.19	7.2	18	24	30	35	41	46	50
Art	27.38	7.3	16	21	27	32	38	44	50
Biology	30.3	7.1	19	25	30	36	41	46	50
Chemistry	34.41	7.2	22	29	35	40	44	48	50
Classical Societies & Cultures	31.65	7.4	20	26	32	37	42	47	50
Economics	31.85	6.9	21	27	32	37	42	46	50
English	28.42	7.4	17	22	28	34	39	45	50
English (ESL)	29.14	8.3	16	22	29	35	41	47	50
English Language	31.31	7.5	20	26	31	37	42	47	50
Health and Human Development	26.39	7.2	16	20	26	31	37	44	50
History: Revolutions	30.25	7.6	19	24	30	36	42	46	50
IT – Software Development	27.1	6.7	17	22	27	32	38	44	50
IT – IT Applications	25.79	7	15	20	25	30	36	43	50
IP: International Studies	31.92	7.4	20	26	32	38	43	47	50
Legal Studies	28.64	7.5	17	23	28	34	40	45	50
Literature	31.12	7.1	20	26	31	36	41	46	50
Chinese (FL)	34.22	7.6	20	27	34	40	45	48	50
Greek	32.74	6.9	22	28	33	38	42	47	50
Further Mathematics	27.81	6.9	18	23	28	33	38	44	50
Mathematical Methods	35.52	7	25	31	36	41	45	48	50
Mathematical Methods (CAS)	35.16	7	25	31	36	41	45	48	50
Specialist Mathematics	37.35	7.4	26	32	38	43	47	50	52
Media	26.31	7.1	15	20	25	31	37	43	50
Music Performance: Solo	31.52	6.4	22	27	32	36	41	46	50
Physical Education	27.22	7.2	17	21	27	32	38	44	50
Physics	32.64	7.2	21	27	33	38	43	47	50
Psychology	28.44	7.1	17	22	28	34	39	45	50
Theatre Studies	29.69	7.1	19	24	29	35	40	45	50

NOTES

- 1) It is important NOT to pick subjects based on the amount they are scaled up (or not pick them based on the fact that they are scaled down). Scaling simply reflects the fact that a cohort of students have, in a given year, done better or worse in a Study than they did in other studies. Subjects that are scaled up are scaled up because students have performed worse in them than they have performed in other subjects. Students should choose subjects based on interest and need rather than based on Scaling.

10. Other Information

10.4 VCE Glossary

<i>Accredited Course</i>	A course that leads to an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Qualification or Statement of Attainment that is nationally recognised. The accredited course has been endorsed by either a state or national authority responsible for accrediting courses against agreed principles of accreditation. In Victoria the statutory Authority is the Victoria Registrations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).
<i>Accreditation Period</i>	The period during which a course or certificate is accredited.
<i>Assessment</i>	The student's level of achievement is determined by a combination of coursework tasks and examinations
<i>Assessment Task</i>	A task set by the teacher to assess student achievement of Learning Outcomes
<i>Assessing School</i>	The school responsible for providing the assessment (through VASS) for one or more units for a student. The assessing school is usually, but not always, the home school. A student may have more than one assessing school.
<i>Authentication</i>	The process of ensuring that work submitted by students is their own. Teachers and students confer regularly during the completion of the task. Students acknowledge all sources and types of help received in the completion of the task.
<i>ATAR</i>	<p>Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank; the overall ranking on a scale of 0-100 that a student receives based on his or her Study Scores. The ATAR is calculated by the VCAA and used by Universities and Tertiary and Further Education Institutes to select students for their courses. The ATAR is calculated from an aggregate, produced by adding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> The subject score in English, ESL, Literature or English language; and> The next best three STUDY subject scores permissible; and> 10% of any fifth and/or sixth permissible STUDY subject score that is available <p><i>The ATAR is calculated in steps of 0.05 with the highest ranking being 99.95</i></p>
<i>Coursework Audit</i>	As part of an ongoing monitoring and quality assurance programme by the VCAA, samples of School-assessed Coursework material are collected from schools each semester. The work collected is used to monitor schools' administration of School-assessed Coursework.
<i>Derived Examination Score</i>	Provision available for students who have missed an examination or whose examination performance has been impaired due to illness or other serious cause.
<i>Extension studies</i>	First-year university studies recognised by the VCAA for contribution to the ATAR for students who are very able academically.

10. Other Information

10.4 VCE Glossary (Cont...)

<i>General Achievement Test</i>	The test that is done by all students undertaking a Unit 3 and 4 sequence of study. Student's GAT results are reported to them with their final Statement of Results in December. This test is designed to ensure that schools across the state fairly and correctly assess School assessed tasks and School assessed coursework. It is also used to check the accuracy of external marking of individual students' examinations. Students should do their best on the GAT, but should not spend time studying other than making sure they are familiar with the instructions and types of questions that may appear on the GAT.
<i>Graded Assessment</i>	All VCE studies have three Graded Assessments for each Unit 3 and 4 sequence except for scored VCE VET programmes, which have two. Each study includes at least one examination, most have School-assessed coursework and some have School-assessed tasks.
<i>Home School</i>	The major school of the student. Some students may choose to enrol in a given subject with another VCE provider (such as LOTE not taught at the Home school). In such cases, enrolment details are lodged with the student's Home school by the other provider. Students may be able to arrange to sit their final examinations in this subject at their home school.
<i>Outcomes</i>	What a student must know, or be able to do, in order to satisfactorily complete a unit. Each VCE unit includes a set of two to four Outcomes.
<i>Post-Results Enquiry Service</i>	A free telephone enquiry service provided by the VCAA after the release of the VCE results.
<i>Satisfactory Completion</i>	School decision that a student has demonstrated achievement of the outcomes for a unit (S). Teachers will give clearly worded criteria for satisfactory completion of outcomes and information as to when assessment activities will take place. Students may be required to undertake valuable learning activities such as reports, folios, projects, demonstrations, essays, analyses, oral presentations or structured questions. The assessment tasks related to outcome completion will often take place under test conditions. Students who fail to achieve satisfactory completion of an Outcome will be awarded 'N'.
<i>School Assessed Coursework</i>	A school-based assessment that is reported as a grade for either Unit 3 and 4 sequence or Unit 3 and Unit 4 individually. SACs are used to assess the unit's learning outcomes.
<i>Special Provision</i>	A means of ensuring that students enduring hardship are treated fairly.
<i>Statement of Marks</i>	For each examination including the GAT. Unit 3 and 4 students can apply for a statement showing the marks they obtained for each question/criteria and the maximum mark available. A fee is charged for each statement.

10. Other Information

10.4 VCE Glossary (Cont...)

<i>Statement of Marks (Study Score)</i>	A statement showing the scores for each of the Unit 3 and 4 Graded Assessments and describing the calculation of the study score. A fee is charged for each statement.
<i>Statement of Results</i>	The document/s issued by the VCAA showing the results a student achieved in the VCE and/or VCAL, and whether he/she has graduated. See also VCE/VCAL Certificate.
<i>Statistical Moderation</i>	The process used to ensure that school's assessments are comparable throughout the state. It involves adjusting each school's coursework scores for each study to match the level and spread of the combined examination and GAT scores for the student in that school doing the study.
<i>Student Number</i>	The number assigned to each student enrolled in VCE, VCE VET and VCAL.
<i>Study Design</i>	A study design for each VCE study is published by the VCAA it specifies the content for that study and how the students' work is to be assessed.
<i>Study Score</i>	A score from 0-50 that shows how a student performed in a study, relative to all other students doing that study. It is based on the student's results in school assessments and examinations.
<i>ATAR</i>	Subject Scores Previously called 'Scaled Scores'. The strength of competition in a subject is judged by looking at the total performance of the cohort of students taking that subject. That is, the performance of that group of students in all their VCE subjects are compared with their performance in that subject. Scaling usually affects VCAA study scores most at the mean (average) study score. The score may stay the same, it may be adjusted up, or it may be adjusted down.
<i>Tax File Number</i>	Students applying for tertiary placement and selecting HECS will require a Tax file Number. Proof of this number will need to be produced at their tertiary interview. A copy of the Application form can be downloaded from the Australian Tax Office website (www.ato.gov.au).
<i>The Middle Band</i>	Most university courses have two stages in the selection of students. In the First stage, all those applicants who have achieved a certain level of ATAR and have the stated prerequisite subjects are accepted. In the Second stage, all those applicants whose ATAR was close to the required ATAR are considered. Applicants in this second stage are said to be 'in the Middle Band'. Middle Band applicants are often re-ranked according to such factors as exam performance in the prerequisite subjects or even in other subjects related to the degree.
<i>Units</i>	The components of a study. There are usually four units in a study numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. One Unit lasts one semester or half a year. A minimum of 16 Units are required to achieve the VCE.

10. Other Information

10.4 VCE Glossary (Cont...)

<i>VCE Certificate</i>	The certificate awarded to students who meet the requirements for graduation of the VCE.
<i>VCE Provider</i>	A school or other institution authorised to offer VCE units.
<i>Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority</i>	The statutory body responsible for overseeing the implementation of VCE in Victoria.
<i>Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre</i>	Acts on behalf of Universities and TAFEs co-ordinating the joint selection of students. It calculates and distributes the ATAR.
<i>Victorian Tertiary Entrance</i>	An annual VTAC publication detailing year-specific prerequisite subject Requirements (VICTER) requirements. Students in Year 10 are given two years' advance notice of prerequisite subject requirements except where new courses are introduced.
Victorian Assessment Software System (VASS)	The internet-based system used by schools to register students and VCE and VCAL enrolments and enter results directly onto the VCAA central database.
<i>Vocational Education and Training</i>	Nationally recognised vocational certificate. These certificates may be (VET) integrated within a VCE or VCAL programme.