



KILLARNEY  
HEIGHTS  
HIGH SCHOOL

# HSC Information

Demystifying assessment, Scaling and ATARs

What does *ATAR* stand for?

▶ Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

# What is UAC?

## Uni Admissions Centre

UAC processes applications for:

- University Entry
- 26 institutions
- Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS)
- Educational Access Schemes (EAS)
- Equity Scholarships (ES)

Calculates the ATAR for NSW HSC students.

# Why do you need an ATAR?



# ATAR REQUIREMENTS

- To gain a ATAR at least 10 units must be *Board Developed* courses. It must include 2 units of English
- Only one category “B” course can be included. These are “VET Courses” offered at school.

Note: about ½ of students gaining an ATAR do 12 units.

# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NESAS & UAC

NESA	UAC
Calculates HSC marks	Calculates the ATAR
Moderates assessment marks to take away the difference between schools	Scaled raw marks to take away the difference between patterns of study
Reports HSC marks to NSW HSC students	Reports the ATAR to NSW HSC students
Oversees NSW K-12 school Curriculum	Processes university applications on behalf of participating institutions

**NESA – MODERATES ASSESSMENT MARKS**

**UAC – SCALES RAW MARKS**



# HSC vs ATAR

- **Performance vs Position.**
- HSC marks are about a student's **performance** against the standards.
- ATAR is about a student's **position** against all other students in NSW.
- Good performance does not guarantee a high position.
- The only thing a student can control is their performance.



# HSC MARKS

- ▶ 50% from the exam
- ▶ 50% school based assessment tasks

Before a student gets to the exam -  
*half their marks are already decided.*

# SCALING OF MARKS

- ▶ Scaling of HSC marks is done by the University Admissions Centre, not NESAs
- ▶ Scaling is an attempt to even out the differences in difficulty in subjects

# SCALING OF MARKS

- ▶ The goal is to gain the highest rank you possibly can in each and every subject.
- ▶ Here's why...

## Information Processes and Technology 2013

	Name	School Assess.	Moderated Assess	Exam Rank	Exam Mark	HSC mark
1	Gail	84	95	2	92	94
2	Di	81	94	1	95	95
3	Roger	79	93	2	92	93
4	Peter	72	91	2	92	92
5	Janelle	71	91	7	88	90
6	Jenny	70	91	5	91	91
7	James	66	88	7	86	87
8	David	66	88	11	84	86
9	Jane V	65	87	15	79	83
10	Christine	63	86	9	86	86
11	Liz	62	85	8	87	86
12	Greg	61	84	12	81	83
13	Nico	59	82	10	85	84
14	Max	59	82	6	90	86
15	Janelle	57	80	18	74	77
16	Phil	54	78	13	79	79
17	Annie	54	78	13	79	79
18	Kathleen	40	65	19	64	65
19	Marie	39	64	15	79	72

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8	David	66	87	11	84	86
9	Jane V	65	87	15	79	83
10	Christine	63	86	9	86	86
11	Liz	62	84	8	87	86
12	Greg	61	84	12	81	83
13	Nico	59	82	10	85	84
14	Max	59	78	6	90	86
15	Janelle	57	80	18	74	77
16	Phil	54	78	13	79	79
17	Annie	54	78	13	79	79
18	Kathleen	40	65	19	64	65
19	Marie	39	64	15	79	72

# What is the ATAR?

- ▶ It is a **RANK** not a mark
- ▶ Actually a rank between 0 and 99.95 that ranks you with your cohort that started in Year 7 with you
- ▶ An ATAR of 80 means that you are in the top 20% of your year group

# Example of Marks

## Example 1

Consider the following two students, Liam and Kellie, whose HSC marks are shown in Table 6.1. These students are middle students (the 50th percentile) in all of their courses. Their average HSC marks per unit are exactly the same, at 39.6, but their ATARs are quite different, 60.00 and 82.00 respectively.

Table 6.1 Two examples of student achievement to show the effect of different scaled means

Liam ATAR: 60.00		
Course	HSC mark per course	HSC mark per unit
Design & Technology	81	40.5
English Standard	71	35.5
Music 1	83	41.5
Society & Culture	78	39.0
Korean Beginners	83	41.5

Kellie ATAR: 82.00		
Course	HSC mark per course	HSC mark per unit
Chemistry	76	38.0
Economics	80	40.0
English Advanced	83	41.5
Mathematics Advanced	80	40.0
Physics	77	38.5

# Example of Marks

## Example 2

Consider the following two students, James and Amy, whose HSC marks are shown in Table 6.2. Their average HSC marks per unit are identical at 38.2, but their ATARs are quite different, 66.10 and 76.10 respectively.

Table 6.2 Two examples of student achievement to show the effect of different scaled means

James ATAR: 66.10		
Course	HSC mark per course	HSC mark per unit
English Standard	79	39.5
Info Processes & Tech	79	39.5
Mathematics Standard 2	71	35.5
PDH&PE	75	37.5
Society & Culture	78	39.0

Amy ATAR: 76.10		
Course	HSC mark per course	HSC mark per unit
Biology	79	39.5
Chemistry	76	38.0
English Advanced	76	38.0
Mathematics Advanced	77	38.5
German Continuers	74	37.0



### Example 3

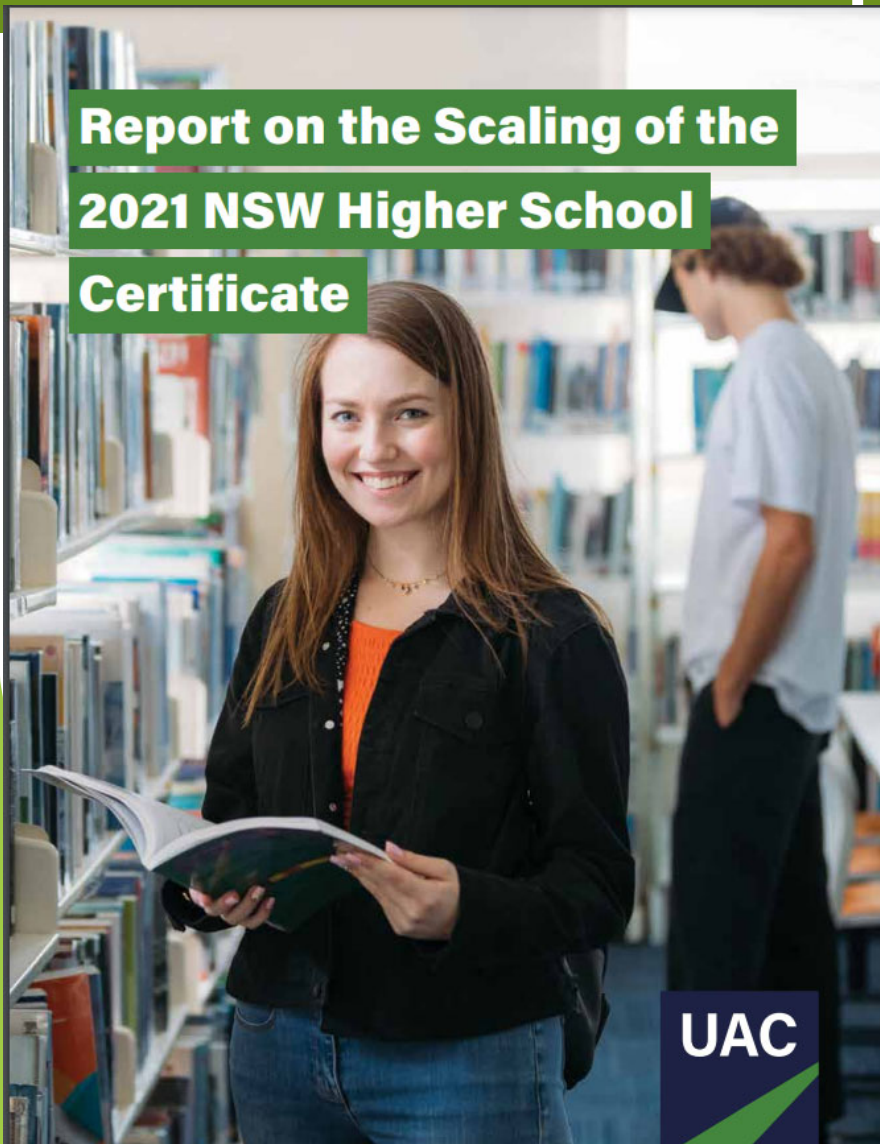
Consider the following two students who completed the same courses. The first student, Fred, receives an HSC mark of 35.0 per unit in each course, while the second student, Laura, receives an HSC mark of 40.0 per unit in each course (Table 6.3).

Table 6.3 Two examples of student achievement: Fred and Laura

Fred ATAR: 58.00			Laura ATAR: 78.00	
HSC mark per unit	Percentile	Course	HSC mark per unit	Percentile
35.0	37	Biology	40.0	72
35.0	36	Business Studies	40.0	67
35.0	7	English Advanced	40.0	35
35.0	24	Mathematics Advanced	40.0	52
35.0	37	Modern History	40.0	65
35.0	11	Visual Arts	40.0	41

# Report on Scaling of the 2021 NSW HSC

**Report on the Scaling of the  
2021 NSW Higher School  
Certificate**



**UAC**

Scaling Report

# Scott's marks

Subject	HSC	ATAR
▶ English Advanced	78	61
▶ Ancient History	83	64
▶ Biology	75	56
▶ Business Studies	80	60
▶ <b>General Maths</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>37</b>
▶ PD,H,PE	81	60

Total 301

▶ ATAR = **77.5**

# Eve's marks

Subject	HSC	ATAR
▶ English Advanced	75	52
▶ Biology	87	78
▶ Chemistry	75	65
▶ Earth & Environment	89	75
▶ Mathematics	68	49
	Total	319

▶ ATAR = **81.6**

# Heather's marks

Subject	HSC	ATAR
▶ English Advanced	86	76
▶ Modern History	89	80
▶ Economics	88	84
▶ Business Studies	96	90
▶ <b>Mathematics</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>60</b>
▶ Legal Studies	92	82

Total 412

▶ ATAR = **96.5**

## Table A9 Relationship between the ATAR and aggregates: 2017–2021

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

ATAR	Lowest aggregate				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
99.95	477.1	476.3	476.7	478.1	478.8
99.50	457.1	455.5	454.5	458.8	458.7
99.00	446.6	444.5	443.8	447.8	448.0
98.00	432.2	429.9	429.6	433.8	433.7
95.00	404.1	402.8	402.0	404.2	404.8
90.00	372.4	371.1	370.0	370.1	369.8
85.00	344.8	343.1	342.2	341.8	340.2
80.00	319.9	318.2	316.3	315.8	313.5
75.00	296.2	294.5	291.7	290.8	288.0
70.00	273.3	271.1	268.6	267.2	263.8
65.00	249.4	248.1	245.9	244.1	239.8
60.00	226.6	224.1	223.5	221.1	217.2
55.00	204.2	201.0	200.2	198.3	195.4
50.00	182.0	178.0	176.8	175.5	172.8

# How to help

- ▶ Help your son or daughter to be organised



# How to help

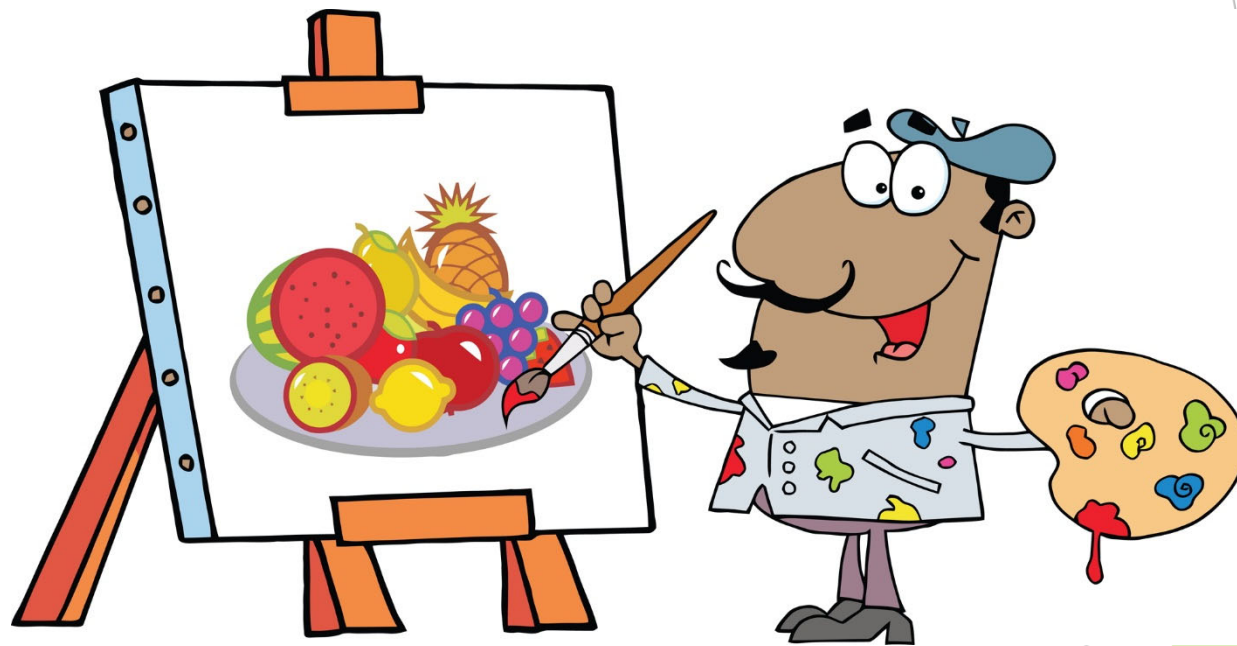
- ▶ Help your son or daughter to have a balanced lifestyle





# How to help

- ▶ Start major works early



# How to help

- ▶ Become familiar with the assessment handbook (including policy and schedule) which is available from the School Assessment Year 12 Tab/page on the school website. Hard copy already handed to students.

# How to help

- Put dates on a calendar

## December 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <del>X</del>	10 <del>X</del>
11 <del>X</del>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# How to help

- ▶ Dont go away
- ▶ July holidays
- ▶ in 2023



# How to help

- ▶ Remember you can't do
- ▶ It for them!

