ATARNotes

HOW TO ACE YOUR WACE

Presented by: Henry Delbridge

Welcome!

ATARNotes

WACE RESOURCES

Success for all students

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INTRODUCTION



- I love the beach, the outdoors and music.
- I graduated from Manea Senior College in Bunbury in 2019.
- I now study Aerospace Engineering (Hons.) at Monash University in Melbourne.

Q&A

Today you can ask questions throughout the lecture, which I will go through during our Q&A blocks.

The Q&A allows you to ask questions anonymously, and then at the end of each content block we'll do a 5-minute Q&A with the most popular questions.

You can ask a question from the page that you're on now!

You can also upvote other people's questions.

P.S. Questions are moderated by staff – inappropriate questions won't be shown.

COMMON ATAR PHRASES WE HEAR TOO OFTEN

- Year 12 will be the hardest year of your life."
- "To do well in Year 12, you have to be a mindless robot with no personality who studies at least [insert ridiculously high number here] hours every day."
- "You need to achieve a high ATAR to guarantee entry into your dream course at uni"
- "Your ATAR is just a number and doesn't define you."
- "So... what do you want to do next year?"

ATAR Notes

HOW TO ACE WACE GENERAL STUDY SKILLS

OVERVIEW

Topics to be covered

Mindset

Organisation

How to Study

Other Tips

Overview Mindset Organisation How to Study Other Tips Summary

8

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right."

MINDSET

Everyone is capable of getting scores they want in their WACE and ATAR

 Doing well is not a matter of "innate" intelligence; it is more about consistent hard work.

• Nothing is worse than looking back on your ATAR studies and feeling like you could have done better.

10

Task One: Set Goals

What are you hoping to achieve by the end of your school studies?

Having **intrinsic** goals are key to your success. Your goal could be anything – it doesn't have to be ATAR related.

Some other questions to consider

- What do you say to yourself to maintain motivation during intense bouts of study?
- What drives you to keep studying?

Setting goals can be daunting!

 It can be difficult to visualize exactly what you want to achieve out of your studies.

• It's important to understand why we are putting ourselves through this pathway (a challenging one for sure!!)

• Having a S.M.A.R.T goal makes staying motivated *much* easier.

Measurable Achievable Specific Realistic **Timely** What How will you Is it in your Can you When exactly do you want know when power to realistically do you want to accomplish it? achieve it? accomplish it? to do? you've reached it?

Task Two: Create a 'success pathway'

"Begin with the end in mind."

- Start with your primary goal you hope to achieve by the end of this year. Where do you envision yourself to be?
- Then, work back toward to where you are now. What things might you need to achieve this goal?

An example success pathway might be,

My end of year goal: To be admitted into my dream course, Bachelor of Commerce at UWA.

- What do I need to achieve this goal? To give my best attempt for all my subjects by being prepared for all my exams.
- How do I achieve this goal? I will sit at least one WACE past paper for each of my subjects before the exams, and to spend an extra hour per week on my weakest two subjects.

*Note: You do not have to have an ATAR or Uni course as you primary target. Pick the single biggest thing that is influencing you to take on the ATAR pathway.

Summary

15

MINDSET

 Change your mindset about due dates. Do the homework as soon as you get it, rather than just before it's due.

Making this a habit now will make the rest of this year so much easier!!

Monday: Get a task that is due on Friday

- Monday Night: Do the task
- Thursday Night: Watch everyone else freak out about the task while you sit smugly at home
- Friday: Hand in the task yours is probably better that everyone else's seeing you didn't rush it the night before

Other Tips

Your teachers are here to help you!

Your teacher should be your friend, not your enemy!

Visit them before and after class with any pre/follow-up questions you may have regarding course content.

Your teacher can be your most valuable resource! Use them wisely!

Fun fact: 80% of students have never approached their teacher for help outside of class. Lets work to change this statistic!

Keeping organized is important for making study efficient.

How to organize yourself?

 Have a neat and tidy filing system that gives you quick and clear access to your notes.

 Developing a study schedule which keeps you on top of your assessments and gives you an indication of when you need to study.

HOW DO I SORT ALL MY STUFF?!

If you haven't created a filing system for your notes, do it A.S.A.P

A good filing system should *reduce* the time you spend looking for your notes.

- Keep a display file for all loose paper and worksheets sort content by topic
- Keep a neat exercise/Lecture book for your notes avoid mixing notes with practice problems or essays
- Create folders for all of your electronic documents, and please BACK UP YOUR DATA!

HOW DO I SORT ALL MY STUFF?!

Using A4 top loader attaché files are a great way to sort your stuff!

Can be found at Officeworks, or other stationary stores.

PERKS:

- Can be colour coded sort subjects into their separate colours
- Fits most textbooks, display folders and exercise books
- Keep all your work for one subject in one place!



20

Keep your notes <u>separate</u> to your problems/ workings and practice essays.

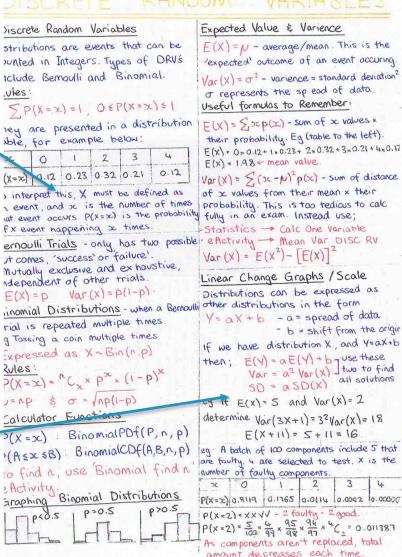
• **Summarise** your notes content into <u>one A4 sheet of paper</u> before each assessment.

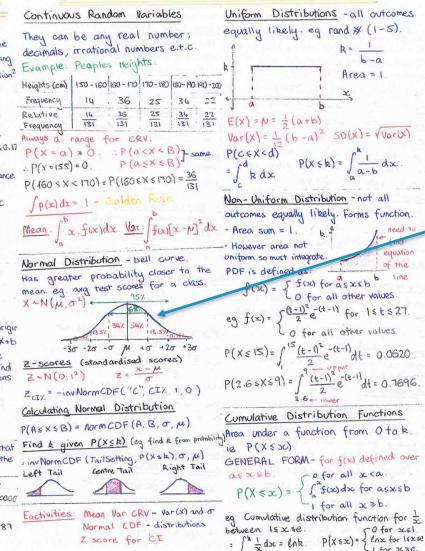
- KISS Principle Keep It Simple and Straightforward
- Use a photocopier to shrink and combine notes pages if you need to take them into the exam (applicable for Applications, Methods and Specialist).

ORGANISATION - NOTES EXAMPLE

Colour coded

Show working out for tricky problems





Diagrams are great!

Creating Schedules

23

Avoid schedules like this.

- Revise Psych
- Revise Legal Studies
- Revise Spesh
- Job interview next week
- Get 99.95 ATAR



Creating Schedules

To-do lists – good.

- ✓ Respond to Ms White's email
- ✓ Summarise Legal Studies class notes
- ✓ Revision questions 1-10 for Spesh SAC

The 'optional – if you have the time section'

- ✓ Read Biology textbook chapter 9
- ✓ Clean room

<u>Due</u>

Tomorrow

Friday

Monday Next Week

Wednesday Next Week



24

Ticking off these goals does motivate you

Have "study spaces" (and "no study spaces").

Routine → fewer distractions → better study.

• Don't try and 'half-study' and 'half-relax'. Study properly, and then relax properly.

It actually leads to more enjoyment (greater total utility).

• And it leads to a higher quality of work.

Study Routines:

 Having a routine is super important for your success in your ATAR exams, and the earlier you develop one, the easier that it will be to stick to.

It may not be easy at first, but once you have a routine, it takes a lot
of the mental effort out of studying

Getting in these good habits early is key!!!

Routines - Example:

- Last year, I would arrive at school at 8 am well before school started (country buses run very early).
- I would spend an hour before school to study before class. And would stay in the library after school in the afternoons until 5 pm
- My weekends were pretty busy sport on Saturday, work on Sunday I didn't have much time to study
- This meant I rarely had to study in the evenings when I was tired. I saw home as a place to relax. Good habits are difficult to form, but also easy to stick to.

Procrastination and laziness will get you *nowhere*.

Be consistent.

Come up with a system that works for you.

An example of a system:

- ✓ The night before every class: Read over the relevant chapter so you know what to expect
- ✓ **During class:** Take down notes, particularly anything you didn't realise when reading
- ✓ Later that night: Make a summary, do questions whatever works for you to consolidate information
- ✓ Day after class: Do assigned homework without looking at notes

Summary

HOW TO STUDY

Have your own system – Do what works for you!

Study in whichever way is most effective for you – not what works for the smartest kid
in the class.

 Examples – questions, summaries, cue cards, posters, videos, mind maps, teaching others etc.

E.g. I am a note taker who loves colours. I organize my notes into colour coded groups to help me remember content better by colour association.

Here is how another student takes their notes – notice how they like to use fonts to categorise their notes.



29

HOW TO STUDY

Do Practice Questions – Before Every Assessment!

They are *ESSENTIAL* in **every subject**.

- They are the number one way you can apply and test your knowledge.
- First off, they help you to improve your understanding the content
- And! They help you to prepare for your tests and, eventually, the exam.
- Practice questions should be done whenever you learn something new/ are revising an old topic.

Practice Exams

31

HOW TO STUDY

- The best way to prepare for the real exams is to do practice exams.
- Try to do as many practice exams for each of your subjects as you possibly can
- They take a fair bit of time make sure you allow for this!!

Additional tips

- Start by attempting the questions you are weakest at on older/school practice papers
- One week before your exam, try set yourself a time and place to sit a practice exam ideally
 in a room that you don't usually study in
- Attempt the whole paper in time conditions as if you were REALLY in the exam room helps with nerves!

HOW TO STUDY

The **study design** is one of most **valuable** resources you have in Year 12

- The study design literally stipulates exactly what you need to know for the exam
- Regular consultation with the study design helps you to identify what you haven't learnt yet / what you need to revise
- Nearly all high achievers are familiar with the study design
- The beginning of the year and the end of the year (approaching exams) are the most important times to revisit the study design

The Number #1 Key to Success:

Be consistent!

- More than anything consistent studying over a long period of time really makes the most difference.
- It takes self-discipline and effort, but it will get results

OTHER TIPS

BALANCE YOUR TIME

- Rest is an essential element in any long-term physical training program. It is the same with ATAR.
- Without having a break or taking time to relax, you can easily begin to burn-out and lose motivation to continue working. (Think of your phone without being charged)
- At the same time, try to avoid using small excuses to take unnecessary breaks or time off. Assess the times at which you are most vulnerable to procrastination.
- Taking certain afternoons or evening off during the week specifically for recreation can be a good way to develop a balanced lifestyle.

Other Tips

OTHER TIPS

"Net gains":

- Staying hydrated
- Exercising
- The extra five minutes
- Paying attention in class
- Using your free periods productively
- Eating well
- Sleeping well
- Staying social
- Being organised



OTHER TIPS

Making mistakes leads to progress.

"It's good to learn from your mistakes. It's better to learn from other people's mistakes." - Warren Buffett

Anything Is Possible

OTHER TIPS

- With consistent studying and an overall life balance, anyone can get great results
- We all have rough patches in year 12 where we slip/ fall/ don't do as good on a test
- It is how we rebound from our mistakes that measure our success
- EVERYONE is capable of doing well in year 12!!!

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

How are you finding this session so far?

Have any study tips that you would like to share?

Share your thoughts in the text box down below this stream.

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BREAK TIME!

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ATAR Notes

ATAR, SCALING + MODERATION HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?

PRESENTER: Henry Delbridge

RUN-DOWN

- ATAR
- TEA Aggregate
- Subject Scaling
- Marks Moderation
- Standardisation

NUGGET OF WISDOM

My Brilliant Nugget of Wisdom #1:

In WACE, effort equals results.

There are no cheat codes.

ATAR

What is an ATAR?

ATAR = Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

It is a rank, not a score.

Basically, it compares you to the rest of the students in Year 12 in Australia.

Note: This rank includes all students who entered Year 7 of that year level

ATAR

So, if you get an ATAR of 95.00, it means you performed better 95% of other students (woohoo!)



Aaaannd, if you get an ATAR of 10.00, it means you beat 10% of other students (oops). The lowest reported ATAR you will receive is 30.00

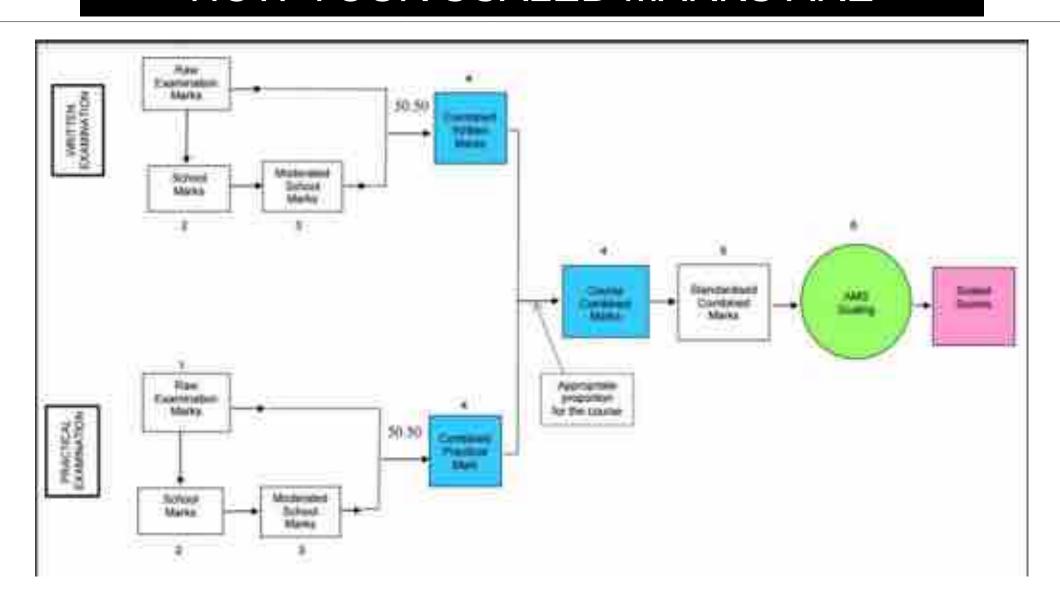


SO WHAT ARE SCALED SCORES?

Scaled scores are the final results that you receive after TISC has made all the appropriate adjustments to your school and Exam marks.

Context	Comparison
Schools	Moderation
Exams	Standardisation
Courses	Scaling

HOW YOUR SCALED MARKS ARE



MODERATION

Okay, so this is where it gets a little bit more complicated...

Your final *scaled* scores are not just your school mark and exam mark averaged together.

Why? Imagine you write a great English essay, feel really happy... and get a 70%. It turns out this 70% was the best mark in your year level – your teacher is just a really tough marker! Your mate at another school writes an average essay and gets an 85% – their teacher is a really easy marker! Would this be fair?

SCHOOL MARK MODERATION

For example, lets have a look at this table.

	School A	School B	School C
Average School Mark	70%	60%	65%
Average Exam Mark	50%	80%	65%
Effect on Moderation	School marks will go down by the exact process that SCSA	School Marks will go up	School marks will stay about the same

moderating school based assessments. Again, it's all about making WACE fairer.

SCHOOL RANKINGS

Rankings are basically how your school scores actually get moderated.

Your ranking is where you are ranked in your year level at school compared to everyone else at your school, based on your school assessment marks.

So if you have the second best overall school mark throughout the year, your ranking will be #2. If you have the best average school mark (yay!) your ranking will be #1.

SCHOOL RANKINGS

For the purpose of this example, lets pretend that there's only five people doing a particular subject in your year level.

	School Mark	School Rank	Exam Mark	Moderated School Mark
Bob	90%	1	70%	84%
You	80%	2	95%	83%
Bill	70%	3	85%	78%
Jack	60%	4	65%	68%
Jill	50%	5	70%	63%

Your school marks are moderated so the person with the highest school rank maintains that, and so on. It wouldn't be fair otherwise.

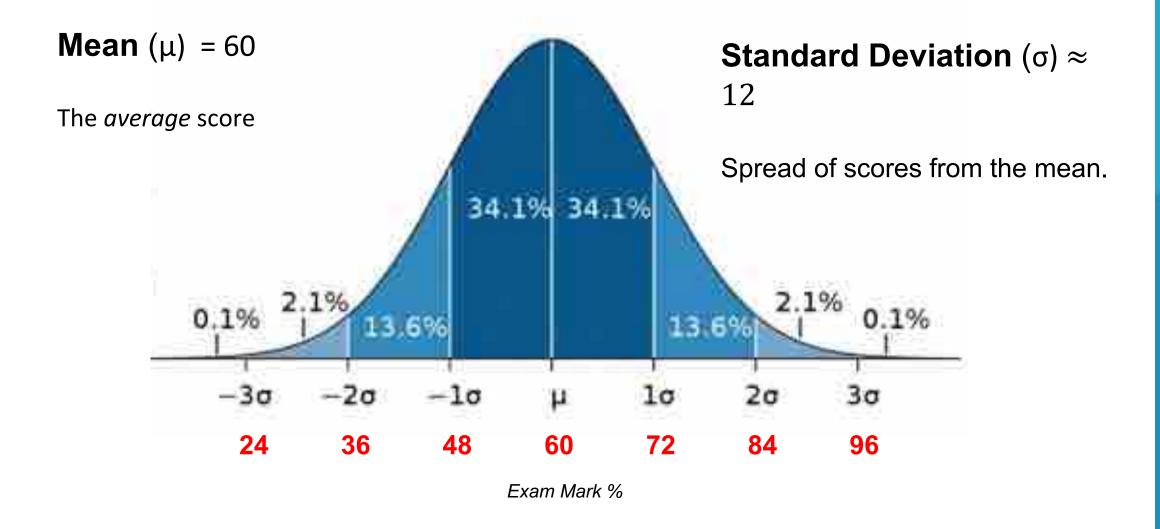
SCHOOL RANKINGS

Keep in mind that your exam score still counts as your exam score! (And therefore still counts towards your study score). So it's definitely worth doing as well as you can on the exam.

The bottom line is that you want to do as well as you can on every assessment so you can get a good ranking, and you also want your whole year level to go well on the exam.

So please don't sabotage yourselves and your classmates by walking out any WACE exam early ... this is not cool

STANDARDISATION OF EXAM



SUBJECT SCALING

Scaling reflects how *competitive* a subject is – not how "difficult".





How 'competitive' a subject is gets measured by how well students in that subject perform in their *other subjects*.

For example: Specialist Maths vs. PE

SUBJECT SCALING

- Basically, the whole idea of scaling is to equalise subjects
- People think scaling gives you a "reward" or "punishment", but that's just not the case
- Scaling is designed so there is NO reward and NO punishment for taking a subject – because scaling adjusts for competitiveness to ensure there's a level playing field

KEY POINT: Scaling makes WACE more fair. Do not stress about it.

TEA

Your ATAR is calculated from your TEA.

So what is your TEA?

- Tertiary Entrance Aggregate
- It is the sum of the combined <u>scaled</u> scores for:
 - Your best four subjects (doesn't have to be English)
 - Score Ranges from 0 to 430
 - And, if applicable, 10% bonus from Methods, Specialist and a Language other than English (LoTE)

So how is my TEA calculated?
Say you received the following <u>scaled</u> marks for the corresponding subjects;

Subject	Mark
Chemistry	65
Biology	71
English	68
Methods	55
French	67
Drama	74
·	

So how is my TEA calculated?
Say you received the following <u>scaled</u> marks for the corresponding subjects;

Subject	Mark
Chemistry	65
Biology	71
English	68
Methods	55
French	67
Drama	74

So how is my TEA calculated?
Say you received the following <u>scaled</u> marks for the corresponding subjects;

 First, your best four subjects are chosen and added together

$$74 + 71 + 68 + 67 = 280$$

 Next, add the 10 % bonus if doing Methods, Specialist or a LoTE subject.

$$0.1 \times 67 = 6.7 (French) \text{ and } 0.1 \times 55 = 5.5 (Methods)$$

Subject	Mark
Chemistry	65
Biology	71
English	68
Methods	55
French	67
Drama	74

Finally all the components are added together to get your final TEA

This TEA correlates to an ATAR of about 93.00

Subject	Mark
Chemistry	65
Biology	71
English	68
Methods	55
French	67
Drama	74

TERTIARY ENTRANCE

Your aggregate is then compared to everybody else's aggregate to calculate your ATAR. So, if your aggregate is better than 50% of other students, you will get an ATAR of 50.00.

Here are the minimum aggregates required for the following ATAR score

(2019)

AGGREGA TE	AVG %	ATAR
408.5	97.2	99.95
353.1	88.3	99.00
305.0	76.2	95.00
278.2	69.5	90.00
243.4	60.8	80.00
219.4	54.8	70.00

Source: https://www.tisc.edu.au/static/guide/atar-about.tisc

What scores do I need to get a certain ATAR?

Subject	Scaled Score	Aggregate	ATAR (approx.)
English	55	= 63 + 59 + 57	77.80
Methods	52	+ 55 + 10% of	
Chemistry	49	52	
Biology	57		
Bus. Man	63	239.2	
Psych	59		

What scores do I need to get a certain ATAR?

Subject	Scaled Score	Aggregate	ATAR (approx.)
English	64	= 69+ 67 + 61	87.50
Methods	58	+ 64 + 10% of	
Chemistry	61	58	
Biology	67		
Bus. Man	69	266.8	
Psych	65		

What scores do I need to get a certain ATAR?

Subject	Scaled Score	Aggregate	ATAR (approx.)
English	75	= 76+ 76 + 75	95.85
Methods	73	+ 74 + 10% of	
Chem	68	73	
Biology	76		
Bus. Man	76	308.3	
Psych	74		

What scores do I need to get a certain ATAR?

Subject	Scaled Score	Aggregate	ATAR (approx.)
English	82	= 90 + 87 + 86	99.20
Methods	85	+ 85 + 10% of	
Chem	87	85	
Biology	86		
Bus. Man	90	356.5	
Psych	79		

PREDICTING YOUR ATAR

Want to know what ballpark your ATAR is in?

What difference does that extra subject actually make?

NUGGET OF WISDOM

My Brilliant Nugget of Wisdom #2:

Control what you can control, and don't worry about the uncontrollables.

What can you control?

 Your performance on your assessments and the exam (or at least how prepared you are)

What can't you control?

- Your ranking
- Subject scaling
- School moderation
- Your aggregate/ATAR

My Attitude During Year 12: Do as well as I could on every assessment and exam and see where it gets me.

SUMMARY

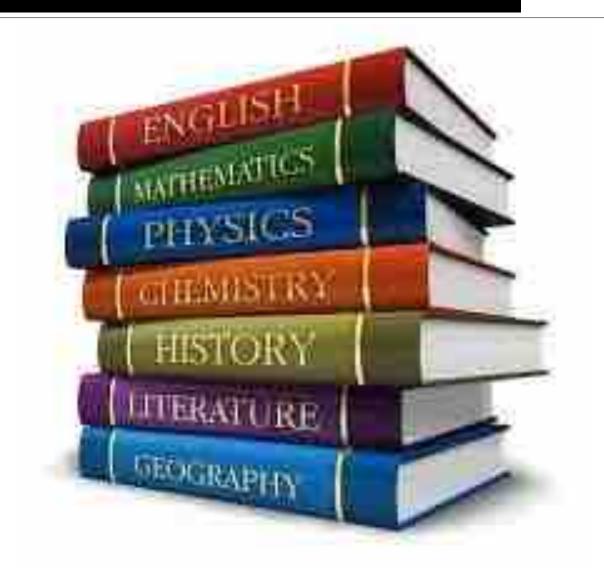
- You complete your assessments at school, and, based on your results, receive a ranking
- You do the exam. Your school mark are moderated based on the exam performance of your year level (including you!) and your ranking
- You will get a combined scaled score from 1-100 for each subject based on your school and your exam result(s)

SUMMARY

- Your TEA is calculated off your scaled study scores
 - Best 4 subjects
 - + 10% bonus if doing Methods, Specialist or LoTE
- Your ATAR is calculated off your TEA

HOW DID YOU FIND TODAYS SESSION?

- A. Great!
- B. Awesome!
- C. Loved it!
- D. Good
- E. meh



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ATAR Notes

THANKYOU AND GOOD LUCK!