



QTAC | ATAR AND SENIOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

From 2020, Queensland Year 12 students will be certified for tertiary entrance with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

WHAT IS THE ATAR?

Across Australia, the ATAR is a standard measure of a student's overall academic achievement in relation to that of other students. It is intended to assist tertiary institutions to select applicants into their courses.

The ATAR is a percentile rank, not a mark. This rank indicates a student's position relative to other students in their age group in any given year.

It's expressed as a number on a 2000-point scale from 99.95 down to 0.00 in steps of 0.05.

An ATAR of 80.00 does not mean a student got 80%. It indicates that the student placed in the top 20% of students in Queensland in their Year 12 age group.

WHO CALCULATES AND RELEASES THE ATAR?

Responsibility for calculating and issuing the ATAR has been assigned to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) on behalf of Queensland tertiary institutions.

QTAC administers the application and offer process for tertiary institutions in Queensland (and a few institutions interstate) and has over four decades of experience in tertiary admissions.

ATAR AND SENIOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS FROM 2020

The Senior External Examination is a program of individual subject examinations offered to eligible Year 12 students and adult learners and is designed for:

- students in their final year of senior secondary schooling who are unable to access certain subjects at their school because of timetable clashes or subject availability
- adult students (who are 17 years or older, or students under 17 who are eligible):
 - to gain credit towards a QCE
 - to meet tertiary entrance or employment requirements
 - for personal interest.

Available subjects include language and non-language subjects.

Senior External Examination results may contribute to the award of a QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education). Visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/see/senior-external-examination for more information.

QUALIFYING FOR AN ATAR WITH SENIOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Senior External Examination results can also contribute to ATAR calculations, and are considered like General subjects for this purpose.

Five inputs must be included in the ATAR calculation i.e. either five General (including Senior External Examination) subjects, or four General subjects (including Senior External Examination) plus an Applied subject or a completed VET qualification at Certificate III level or higher.

Satisfactory completion of an English subject is also required (i.e. Units 3 and 4, minimum grade of C or higher from English, English as an Additional Language, English and Literature Extension, Essential English or Literature).

PRECLUDED SUBJECTS AND SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

The following rules apply regarding precluded subjects and subject combinations in the ATAR calculation:

- Only General English subjects or Applied English subjects can be included in the ATAR but not both.
For example: it is not possible to include both English (a General subject) and Essential English (an Applied subject) in a student's ATAR.
- Only General Mathematics subjects or Applied Mathematics subjects can be included in the ATAR but not both.
- **For example:** it is not possible to include both Mathematical Methods (a General subject) and Essential Mathematics (an Applied subject) in a student's ATAR.
- Only one result for the same subject taken as a General subject and via Senior External Examination can be included in the ATAR.
- **For example:** it is not possible to include both the General subject Chinese and the Senior External Examination subject Chinese in a student's ATAR. Similarly, it is not possible to include both the General subject Biology and the Senior External Examination subject Biology in a student's ATAR.

There are no other restrictions on the inclusion of subjects in the ATAR; for example, a student may count the following General subject results in their ATAR:

- both English and Literature
- both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics
- both Chinese and Chinese Extension
- both Italian (General) and Spanish (General)
- both German (General) and French (Senior External Examination)

SATISFYING SUBJECT PREREQUISITES WITH SENIOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

To meet the subject prerequisite requirement(s) listed for entry to a course, satisfactory completion of the relevant Senior External Examination subject is required. Satisfactory achievement means a minimum grade of C or better is achieved. Note, some courses may specify that a higher grade is achieved for a subject (e.g. a minimum grade of B required) to meet a prerequisite.

Common subject prerequisites satisfied by the relevant External Senior Examination subjects include English, General Mathematics and Chemistry.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ATAR?

For more information about the ATAR, refer to QTAC's website or contact QTAC at:

Phone: 1300 467 822

Email: atar@qtac.edu.au