



# The HSC Guide to 99+



# Introduction

# Issues students face when trying to get 99+

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1

**Lack of knowledge about the workings of the HSC**

2

**Disproportionate studying patterns (too much maths)**

3

**Thinking too short term**

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# Strategies to solve these issues

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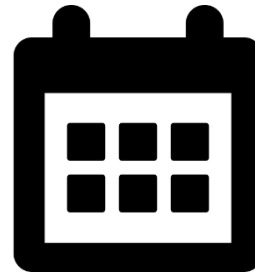
## Learn

Understand the conceptual underpinnings and processes of the HSC



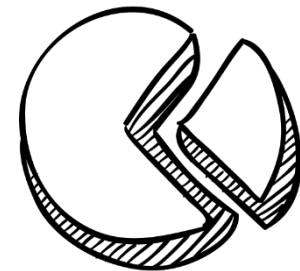
## Plan

Find out the internal rank and external raw marks you need



## Partition

Track your progress and work toward these planned ranks and marks



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# Strategies to solve these issues

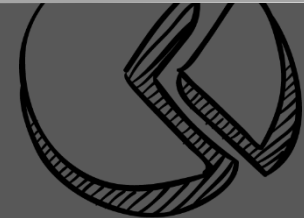
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This method means you do not have to worry about SCALING!  
(I might make a slides about that later)



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**Learn**

# Treat the HSC like an actual subject

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## What is the HSC?

- The certificate awarded to students when they complete their secondary studies
- Very complex



You need to understand something properly to do well in it

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# An ATAR is calculated using internal and external marks

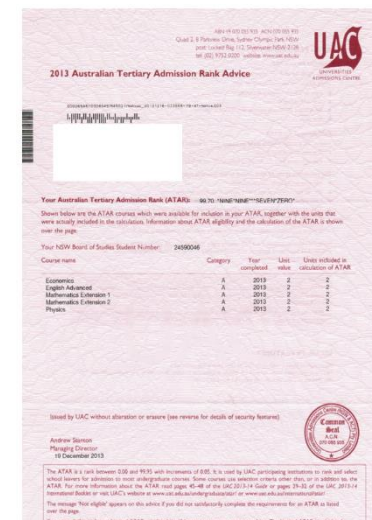
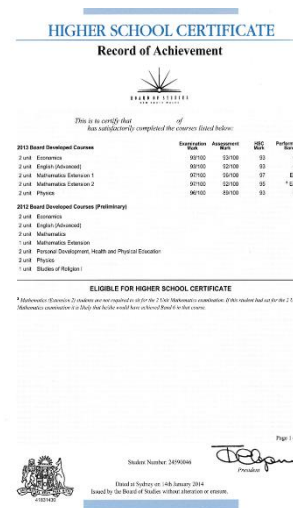
“Internal” assessment mark



“External” examination mark



You get an ATAR



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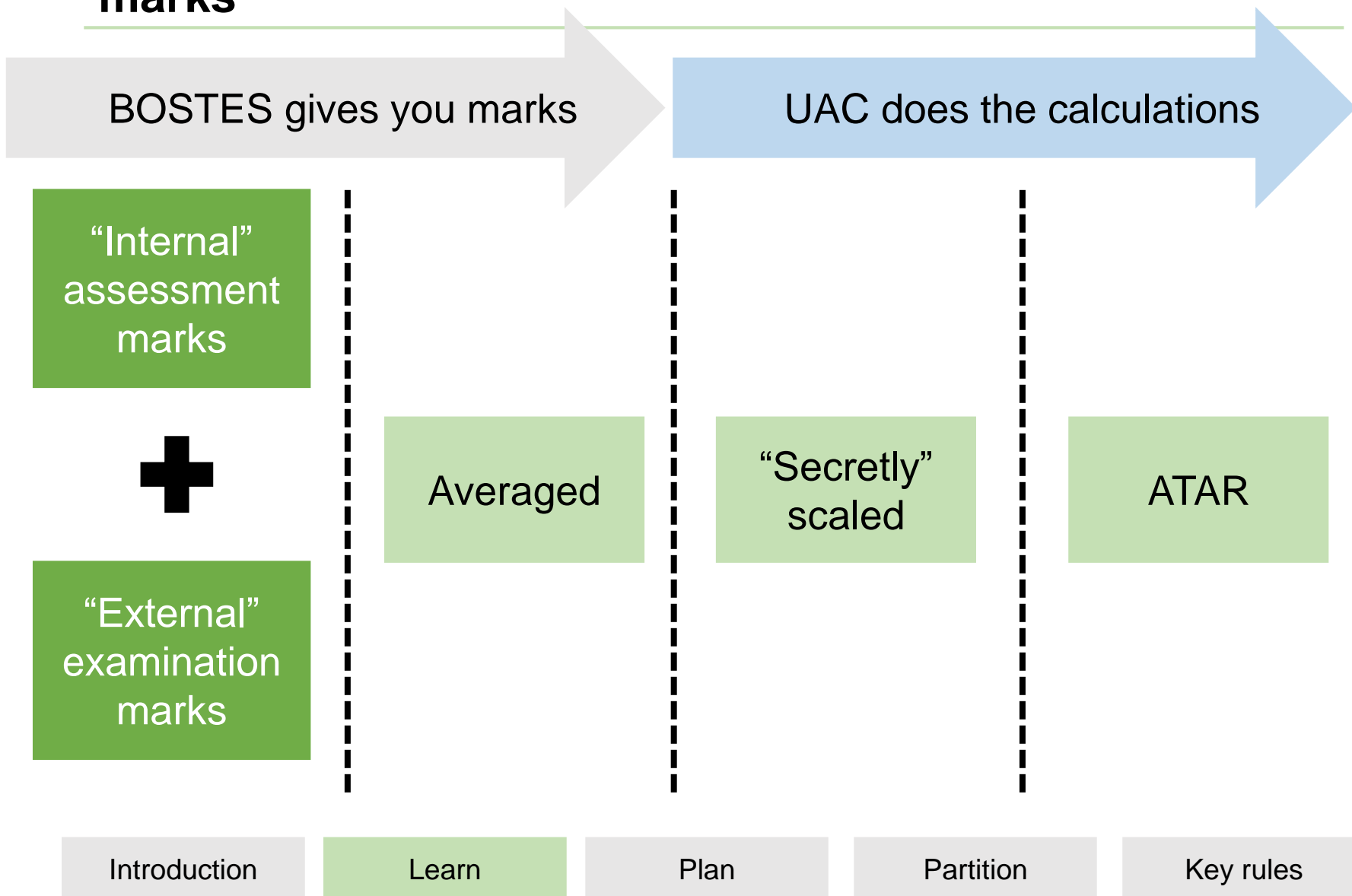
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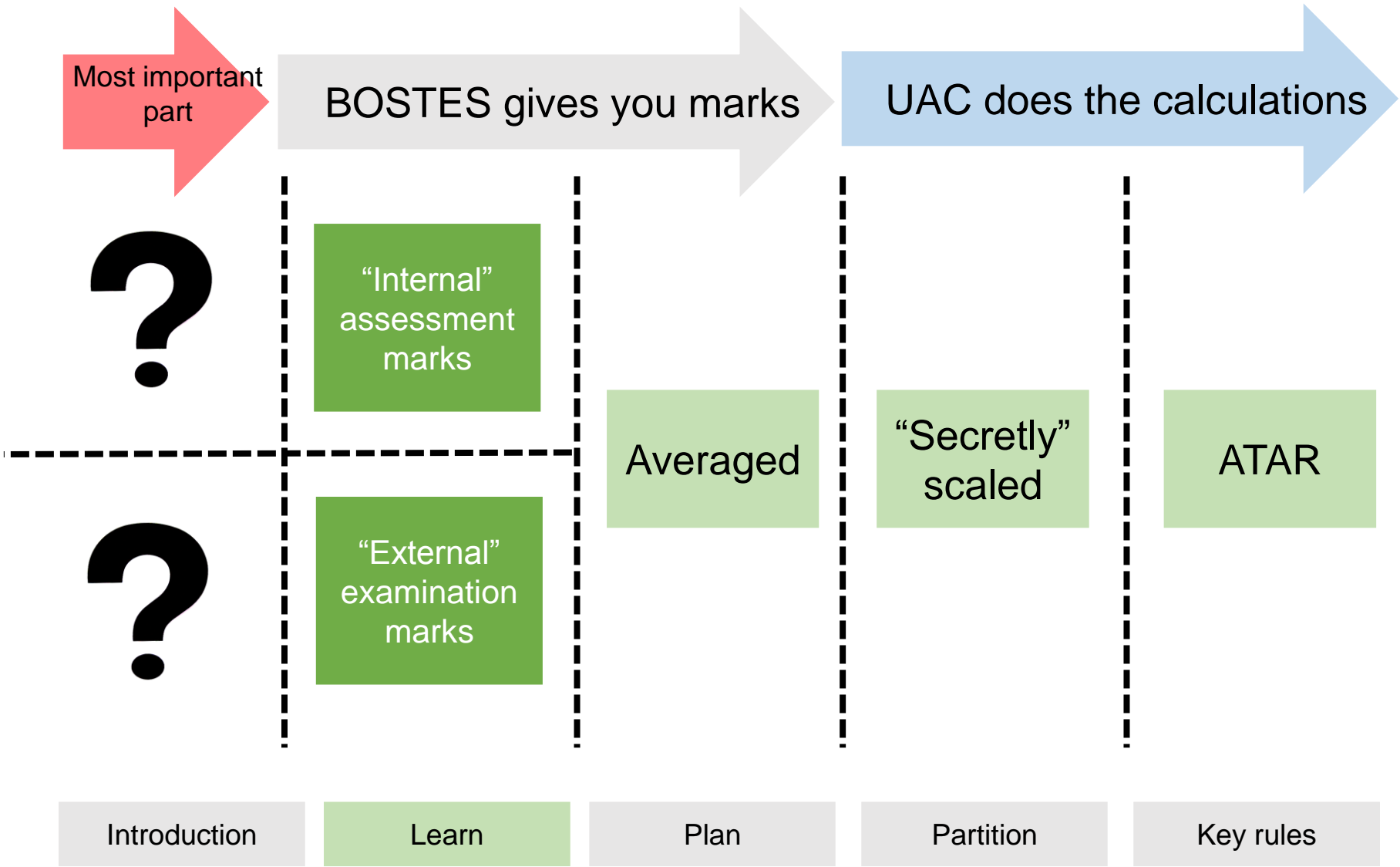
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# An ATAR is calculated using internal and external marks



# Students need to understand what to do before these marks are calculated



Most important part

BOSTES gives you marks

UAC does the calculations

?

“Internal” assessment marks

Averaged

“Secretly” scaled

ATAR

?

“External” examination marks

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# What they look like on paper you receive at home



These marks out of 100 are called **aligned marks**

# How your “EXTERNAL” aligned mark is calculated

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```
graph LR; A[Do the final external examination] --> B[Raw mark]; B --> C[It gets aligned to an "aligned" mark]; C --> D[ ]; style D fill:none,stroke:none
```

Do the final external examination

Raw mark

It gets aligned to an “aligned” mark

Getting a band 6/E4 (90+) for MX2 means I didn't get over 90% in my final exam. In fact I probably got approx. 60%+ raw (more on this later)

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# How your “INTERNAL” assessment mark is calculated

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- 1 Do school exams and get your final rank
- 2 Get external mark from final exam; your peer’s external marks are also ranked
- 3 External ranked mark corresponding to your internal rank will be your internal assessment mark

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## Step 3 explained in-depth

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Student	Final school mark	Rank
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BOSTES does not care about the internal school marks because all schools have different standards, teachers, marking methodology etc. They will not be able to tell the difference between a top school and a public school

**ONLY THE RANK IS MATTERS.** BOSTES do not care about your final mark. It is **irrelevant**.

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## Step 3 explained in-depth – Student A

### Relevant ranks

Student	Internal Rank
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5

### External marks and external ranks

Student	Final external mark	External Rank
A	95	1
B	92	4
C	91	3
D	94	2
E	93	5

Because student A came first in school **he will get the corresponding external rank** (1<sup>st</sup> external mark) which is his own score of 95

## Step 3 explained in-depth – Student B

### Relevant ranks

Student	Internal Rank
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5

### External marks and external ranks

Student	Final external mark	External Rank
A	95	1
B	92	4
C	91	3
D	94	2
E	93	5

Using the same reasoning because student B ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> internally and student D ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> externally, B will get D's external mark of 94

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## Step 3 explained in-depth – Student C

### Relevant ranks

Student	Internal Rank
A	1
B	2
C	3
D	4
E	5

### External marks and external ranks

Student	Final external mark	External Rank
A	95	1
B	92	4
C	91	5
D	94	2
E	93	3

C was 3<sup>rd</sup> internally and will get the 3<sup>rd</sup> external mark from E = 93

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# Final results of these students

Student	Internal rank	Internal assessment mark	External assessment mark	Average
A	1	95	95	$\frac{95 + 95}{2} = 95$
B	2	94	92	$\frac{94 + 92}{2} = 93$
C	3	93	91	$\frac{93 + 91}{2} = 92$
D	4	92	94	$\frac{92 + 94}{2} = 93$
E	5	91	93	$\frac{91 + 93}{2} = 92$

External marks are just as important as internals. Don't give up if your internal rank is poor! E was ranked last and still got a good result

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**Plan**

# Steps for planning

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1

**Determine what ATAR you want? 99+**

2

**Determine what aligned marks for each subject you need**

3

**Find external mark that corresponds to this aligned mark**

4

**Find internal rank you need for a band 6**

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# Example: Step 1 and 2 for the Asian Combo

The following aligned marks are required to achieve 99+ for the Asian combo

English advanced	93.5
Maths extension 1	91.8
Maths extension 2	86.0
Chemistry	91.9
Physics	92.2
ATAR (2014)	99.00

These are your **target** marks

Source: Calculated using Matrix reverse ATAR calculator

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# Planning your external rank

# Simply find the raw mark that will align to target marks – eg. English Advanced

Target aligned mark – 93.5

Externals

Internals

Go to **rawmarks.info** and click English advanced

Find unweighted raw mark that corresponds to 93.5



rawmarks.info/wiki/Main\_Page

Apps 7 Google Calendar - ... Dashboard < The Sw... The Swiss Army Con... Gc

Page Discussion

## Main Page

HSC Raw Marks Database

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Community and Family Studies
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- English Advanced
- English Extension 1
- English Extension 2
- English Standard
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- German Continuers
- History Extension

English Advanced

Year	Unweighted Raw Mark (/100)	Weighted Raw Mark (/100)	Aligned/Reported Exam Mark	Band
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# Weighted raw mark for English Advanced

Externals

Internals

## English Advanced

Year ↕	Unweighted Raw Mark (/100) ↕	Weighted Raw Mark (/100) ↕	Aligned/Reported Exam Mark ↕	Band ↕
2014	89.05	88	94	B6
2014	88.10	88	94	B6
2014	85.23	85	93	B6
2013	86.67	91	93	B6
2013	84.29	91	93	B6
2010	84.01	91	93	B6
2010	82.95	91	93	B6
2013		90	93	B6

Students should aim to achieve approximately an unweighted raw mark of **at least 85%**

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# Unweighted vs weighted?

Externals

Internals

Unweighted raw mark

The actual final percentage of your paper

Weighted raw mark

Because everyone does different option topics which may be more or less difficult markers must adjust these raw marks

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# Using the same process for MX2

Externals

Internals

## Mathematics Extension 2

Year ↕	Unweighted Raw Mark (/100) ↕	Weighted Raw Mark (/100) ↕	Aligned/Reported Exam Mark ↕	Band ↕
2014	79.00	79	93	E4
2004	72.50	73	93	E4
2010	72.50	73	93	E4
2010	70.00	70	93	E4
2014	77.00	77	92	E4
2010	67.50	68	92	E4
2010	65.83	66	92	E4
2014	73.00	73	91	E4
2013	63.00	63	89	E3
2013	59.00	59	86	E3
2011	54.17	54	85	E3
2010	49.17	49	83	E3

Students should aim to achieve approximately an unweighted raw mark of **at least 65-70%** (doesn't sound too bad aye?)

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# Planning your internal rank

# The difficulties with finding the right rank

Externals

Internals

Difficulties?

- Different schools have different standards, students teachers etc. (too many variables)
- Ranking information for schools that aren't ranked well is not readily available

Solution

- Ask teachers for required rank for band 6
- Rely solely on external marks

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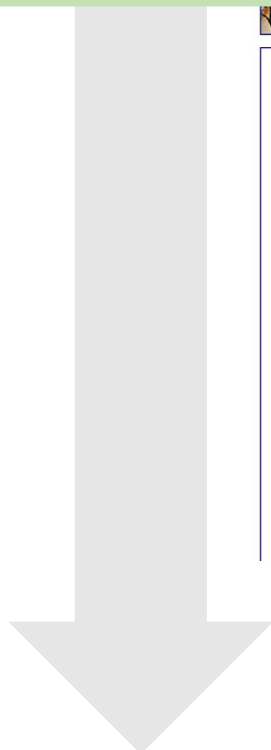
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# It is much easier to find ranking information for high performing schools

Externals

Internals

Topscores.info;  
click NSW



## Welcome!

The Top Scores web site is a national database and archive of Australian secondary school academic results. The top scores of year 12 students are available by year, by school and by student. Summary statistics about each school's year 12 results are also available.

The results have been gathered together to form a national archive of data on the topic of academic excellence. The archive currently extends back to 2001 (in some States). Data from earlier years is being added gradually, along with current year results as soon as they become available.

The score data can be sliced, filtered, sorted and grouped in many ways. Comparisons can be made between schools, between subjects, between years and so on.

Education in Australia is regulated at a state government level, with each state having its own government education department. Inevitably, this means that school assessment programs vary between the states. Thus the results and statistics on this website are organised by Australian state or territory, and the details that are available vary widely from state to state.

To proceed, please select the region you are interested, either on the map of Australia above, or via one of these links:

- National
- ACT
- NSW**
- NT
- Qld
- SA
- Tas
- Vic
- WA



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# It is much easier to find ranking information for high performing schools

Externals

Internals

Topscores.info;  
click NSW

New South Wales HSC results can be selected from the reports drop-down list below.

Select a pre-defined report from this list  2014  100 rows  Go

## HSC D.A. Counts per School and Subject, New South Wales, 2014 with Filtering on School Name

This report shows the total number of Distinguished Achiever awards won by students in each subject at each school.

**62 of 62 entries are shown.**

**To re-order the list, click on any column heading.**

**To filter the list, type your search criteria here and press enter:**

School Name  Contains  Sydney girls  ?

Search relevant  
school name

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# You will find the number of students who received a band 6 in a specific school

Externals

Internals

	School	Location	Subject	D.A. Count
32	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Ancient History	13
33	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Biology	17
34	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Chemistry	34
35	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Drama	6
36	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Economics	9
37	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Engineering Studies	2
38	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	English (Advanced)	102
39	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	English Extension 1	59
40	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	English Extension 2	6
41	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	French Continuers	18
42	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	French Extension	6
43	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	German Continuers	1
44	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	Heritage Chinese (Mandarin)	6
45	Sydney Girls High School	Surry Hills	History Extension	17

You needed to be ranked at least 102 to receive 90+ for English at Sydney Girls High School in 2014

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# Repeat for all subjects for all years from 2007-14 and calculate the average – eg. Sydney Girls High School

Externals

Internals

Subject	Required rank for band 6	Recommended rank	Commentary and reasoning
English advanced	88.375	Top 80	(But recently the numbers suggest that SGHS tends to frequently have approximately 93-103 students who receive a band 6. The years 2007-2009 skew the results away from this range. So aim to be in the top 100)
MX1	69.5	Top 60	
MX2	32.375	Top 25	
Economics	17.25	Top 10	2014 only 9 students received a band 6. This year is an outlier. The required rank should be a little higher.
Chemistry	31.625	Top 25	

Note: these ranks are only **APPROXIMATIONS**, the strength of the cohort changes every year.

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**Key rules for success**

# Before we talk about these rules we need marks to refer to

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These are the subjects and marks of a student who completed his/her HSC in 2013

English advanced	93
Maths extension 1	97
Maths extension 2	95
Economics	93
Physics	93
ATAR (2013)	99.70

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# Rule 1: English is very, very, very important

Source: Matrix ATAR calculator, result averaged over 5 years (2008-2015), results of all other subjects except English are kept the same

English advanced	93	<b>80</b>	85	<b>90</b>	95	100
Maths extension 1	97	-	-	-	-	-
Maths extension 2	95	-	-	-	-	-
Economics	93	-	-	-	-	-
Physics	93	-	-	-	-	-
ATAR (2013)	99.70	<b>98.5</b>	99.125	<b>99.5125</b>	99.775	99.8875

Achieving a band 6, rather than a band 5, improves the ATAR by 1 point!

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## Rule 2: Don't concentrate on one subject (Maths)

Source: Matrix ATAR calculator, 2013, results of all other subjects except English are kept the same

English advanced	93	-	-	-	-	-
Maths extension 1	97	98	99	100	-	-
Maths extension 2	95	96	97	98	99	100
Economics	93	-	-	-	-	-
Physics	93	-	-	-	-	-
ATAR (2013)	99.70	99.70	99.75	99.80	99.80	99.80

Trying to get those extra marks for Maths barely improved the ATAR. Let's face it, you're not going to get 100 for maths. This time could be better allocated for a weaker subject.

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## Rule 3: It is better to do well in **EVERYTHING** than just a few subjects

Source: Actual results of two students

Subjects	Student A	Student B
English advanced	93	86
Maths extension 1	97	99
Maths extension 2	95	96
Economics	93	-
Chemistry	-	95
Physics	93	95
ATAR (2013)	99.70	99.60

Student B is superior to student but because he did not allocate his time to **ALL** his subjects he still had a lower ATAR

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## Rule 4: Track your progress – using this table

Subject	Required rank for band 6	Recommended rank	Rank – term 1	Rank – term 2	Rank – term 3	Rank – term 4
English advanced	88.375	Top 80				
MX1	69.5	Top 60				
MX2	32.375	Top 25				
Economics	17.25	Top 10				
Chemistry	31.625	Top 25				

If some subjects do not meet these ranks allocate time from stronger subjects to improve the weaker subjects

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## Rule 4: Track your progress post trials – using this table

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Subject	Recommended raw mark	HSC past paper 2014	HSC past paper 2013	HSC past paper 2012	HSC past paper 2011
English advanced	84%				
MX1	77%				
MX2	65%				
Economics	88%				
Chemistry	78%				

Keep doing HSC or other past papers and try to aim for the required raw marks

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## Rule 5: Never give up

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An exam is an exam. In the grand scheme of things it means sh!t. F@ck it. Honestly it's not the end of the world if you are not performing as you'd hope.

If you don't achieve the rank, just work really hard to ace the externals. Worked for me!

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# Thanks for reading!

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**Eat well**

**Sleep well**

**Farewell**

Closing remarks