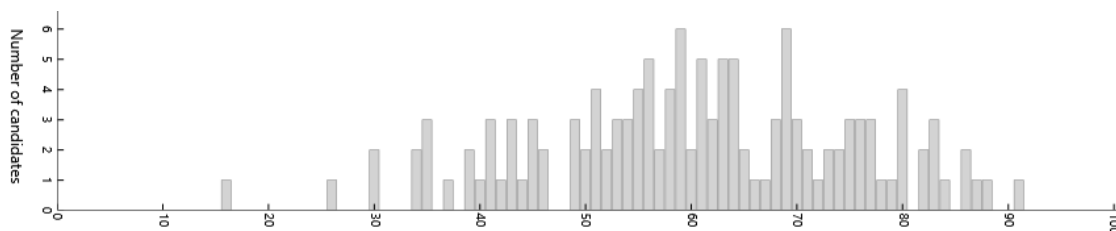




## Summary report of the 2018 ATAR course examination: Ancient History

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2018	133	3
2017	152	7
2016	184	6

### Examination score distribution-Written



### Summary

The structure of the 2018 Ancient History examination, which covers three distinct electives (Egypt, Athens, Rome), was unchanged from 2017. Individual candidates answered questions in the one elective of their choice. For any given elective, in Section One (Short answer, Unit 3 material), candidates were required to attempt three out of four options in Part A, and one from two options in Part B; in Section Three (Essay), candidates were required to attempt one question from three options for Unit 3 content, and one from three options for Unit 4. In Section Two (Source analysis), candidates were required to attempt all parts of a single question; the formulation of that question was the same for the content on Athens and Rome, but slightly different for Egypt (a difference driven by the nature of the source material for Egypt).

Attempted by 133 candidates	Mean 59.97 %	Max 90.50%	Min 16.00%
Unit 3 Part A	Mean 65.86%		
Attempted by 133 candidates	Mean 9.88(/15)	Max 14.50	Min 4.00
Unit 3 Part B	Mean 58.32%		
Attempted by 131 candidates	Mean 5.83(/10)	Max 9.50	Min 0.50
Unit 4 Source analysis	Mean 60.15%		
Attempted by 133 candidates	Mean 15.04(/25)	Max 23.00	Min 4.50
Section Three: Essay - Units 3 and 4	Mean 58.62		
Attempted by 133 candidates	Mean 29.31(/50)	Max 45.50	Min 4.50
Section means were:			
Egypt - Short answer Part A	Mean 66.56%		
Attempted by 32 candidates	Mean 9.98(/15)	Max 14.00	Min 6.50
Athens - Short answer Part A	Mean 64.96%		
Attempted by 86 candidates	Mean 9.74(/15)	Max 14.50	Min 4.00
Rome - Short answer Part A	69.56%		
Attempted by 15 candidates	Mean 10.43(/15)	Max 12.50	Min 6.50
Egypt - Short answer Part B	Mean 63.12%		
Attempted by 32 candidates	Mean 6.31(/10)	Max 9.50	Min 3.00
Athens - Short answer Part B	Mean 58.71%		
Attempted by 85 candidates	Mean 5.87(/10)	Max 9.50	Min 1.00
Rome - Short answer Part B	Mean 45.00%		

Attempted by 14 candidates	Mean 4.50(/10)	Max 7.00	Min 0.50
Egypt - Source analysis	Mean 58.06%		
Attempted by 32 candidates	Mean 14.52(/25)	Max 21.50	Min 7.00
Athens - Source analysis	Mean 61.95%		
Attempted by 86 candidates	Mean 15.49(/25)	Max 23.00	Min 4.50
Rome - Source analysis	Mean 54.27%		
Attempted by 15 candidates	Mean 13.57(/25)	Max 17.50	Min 9.00
Essay - Part A - Unit 3	Mean 60.74%		
Attempted by 132 candidates	Mean 15.19(/25)	Max 24.00	Min 2.00
Essay - Part B - Unit 4	Mean 57.39%		
Attempted by 132 candidates	Mean 14.35(/25)	Max 21.50	Min 4.00

### **General comments**

Overall, candidates showed a sound knowledge of the syllabus although at times specific detail was lacking. This was especially evident in the Short answer section but also in the Essay sections. In the Short answers, specific detail is required as general comments do not attract marks. Candidates should know the key data, terms, people and places that are demanded by the syllabus and be able to give that information in a concise manner. In the essay sections, candidates need to ensure that they are responding directly to the question posed and not to drift into parallel discussions. The Source analysis section continues to be challenging hence the planned changes for 2019 which will address the issues that have made this section problematic.

#### *Advice for candidates*

- Pay attention to the specifics of questions.
- Use ancient sources/quotes to support your points where possible.

#### *Advice for teachers*

- As a distinguishing feature, encourage students to engage directly with the ancient sources and to use relevant quotes.
- Develop essay structure planning tools that help students to build arguments that directly address questions posed.

### **Comments on specific sections and questions**

#### **Section One: Short answer – Unit 3 (25 Marks)**

##### **Part A (15 marks)**

Attempted by 133 candidates Mean 9.88(/15) Max 14.50 Min 4.00

Overall, candidates performed well in this section. Questions were very accessible and candidates who engaged directly with the specific requirements of the individual questions were well rewarded. Full marks for each of the options in Section One Part A were certainly possible and were attained in a number of these questions.

##### **Part B (10 marks)**

Attempted by 131 candidates Mean 5.83(/10) Max 9.50 Min 0.00

Most candidates performed well in this extended Short answer section with stronger answers providing appropriate detail in a succinct manner. A few candidates wrote at unnecessary length and this may have cost them later in the examination. Two candidates did not complete this section. This is the last year for this type of Short answer question.

**Egypt - Short answer Part A (15 Marks)**

This section was generally completed soundly with a mean of 66.56%.

**Egypt - Short answer Part B (10 Marks)**

This section was generally completed soundly with a mean of 63.12%.

**Athens - Short answer Part A (15 Marks)**

This section was generally completed soundly with a mean of 64.96%.

**Athens - Short answer Part B (10 Marks)**

This section was generally completed soundly with a mean of 58.71%.

**Rome - Short answer Part A (15 Marks)**

This section was generally completed soundly with a mean of 69.56%.

**Rome - Short answer Part B (10 Marks)**

The data (mean 45.00% - but note the small cohort) suggests that candidates found these questions to be challenging which is surprising given the core nature of the topics. It was not expected that these questions would have been difficult.

**Section Two: Source analysis – Unit 4 (25 Marks)**

The majority of candidates correctly identified the sources across all three electives. However, candidates who studied Rome did find this section challenging. Some responses across the electives were too generic and others repetitive.

**Section Three: Essay Part A – Unit 3 (25 Marks)**

Candidates displayed a sound grasp of Unit 3 content, with most being able to provide a coherent narrative of events. As noted earlier, the best candidates responded directly to the question posed and didn't drift into peripheral arguments. Further, those that used ancient source material where relevant achieved higher marks.

**Section Three: Essay Part B Unit 4 (25 Marks)**

Performance in Part B of Section Three was largely consistent with the performance seen in Part A.