

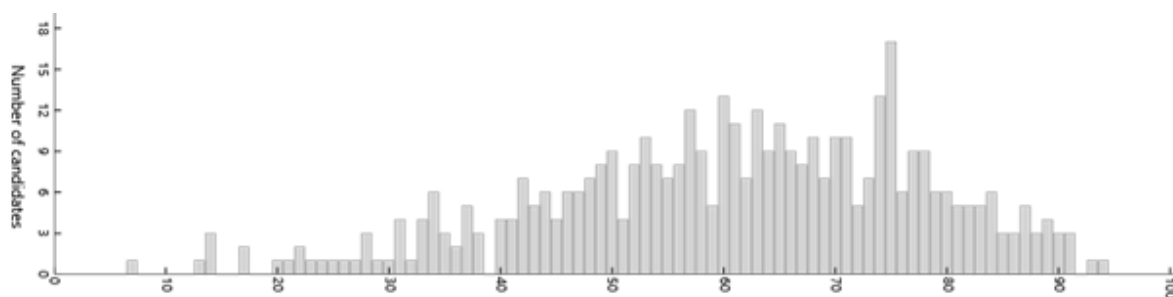


## Summary report of the 2020 ATAR course examination: Computer Science

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2020	428	10
2019	410	6
2018	469	9
2017	389	6

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

### Examination score distribution–Written



### Summary

Attempted by 428 candidates                      Mean 60.56%                      Max 93.77%                      Min 6.54%

Section means were:

Section One: Short answer	Mean 61.41%		
Attempted by 428 candidates	Mean 24.56(/40)	Max 38.44	Min 2.89
Section Two: Extended answer	Mean 60.00%		
Attempted by 426 candidates	Mean 36.00(/60)	Max 56.42	Min 0.00

### General comments

More candidates sat this paper than last year. The examination appeared to be less challenging overall as evidenced by the mean percent and the maximum score. The examination provided candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and discriminated across the range of candidate performance.

#### Advice for candidates

- You are advised to read questions carefully and ensure that you address the requirements of questions.
- Examination technique should include checking the mark allocation for each question, as this is a strong indicator of the level of detail that is required in the answer to a question.
- Examine the marking keys from past examination papers which will provide guidance regarding the depth of responses required and how marks are allocated.

#### Advice for teachers

- Ensure that students are familiar with all aspects of the syllabus, especially database interconnectivity.
- Require students to write algorithms in both pseudocode and the programming language of their choice.

- Ensure students understand the level required for written responses to questions with different verbs e.g. list, describe and explain.
- Show students how to create network diagrams from problem statements.

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

#### **Section One: Short answer (90 Marks)**

Overall, this section was answered well by most candidates. Questions 11, 12 and 18 were completed particularly well; however, Questions 2, 5, 6 and 15 did challenge many candidates.

#### **Section Two: Extended answer (109 Marks)**

The mean score of this section was higher than the 2019 examination paper. Some questions in the 2020 examination paper were more challenging than in recent papers. In contrast to previous examination papers, the programming question, which required candidates to write pseudocode, was answered well. Most candidates attempted most of the questions in this section, with Question 25(d) having the lowest attempt rate.