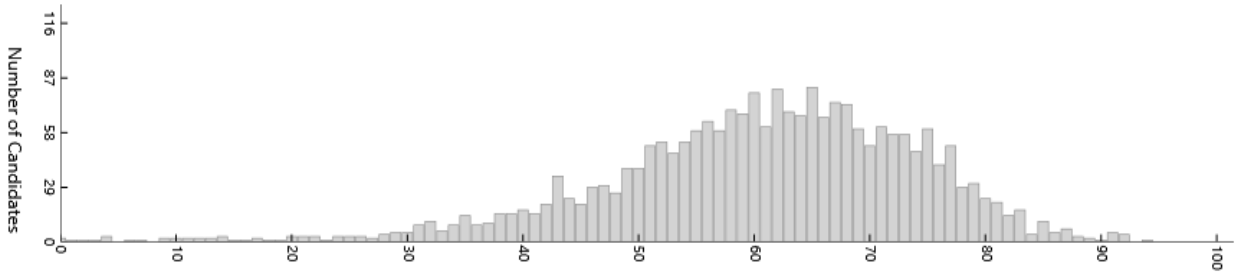
Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Summary report of the 2016 ATAR course examination:
Modern History

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2016	2295	36

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination consisted of four sections with candidates being required to attempt all questions in Sections One and Three and to choose one of the three questions available in both Sections Two and Four. The spread of marks ranged from 0% to 94.00% and the standard deviation was 13.79%.

Attempted by 2295 candidates	Mean 60.16%(/100)	Max 94.00%	Min 0.00%

Section means were:

Section One: Source analysis – Unit 3	Mean 15.91(/25)	Max 24.00	Min 0.00
Section Two: Essay – Unit 3	Mean 15.20(/25)	Max 25.00	Min 0.00
Section Three: Source analysis – Unit 4	Mean 15.09(/25)	Max 24.50	Min 0.00
Section Four: Essay – Unit 4	Mean 14.68(/25)	Max 25.00	Min 0.00

General comments

Advice for candidates

- Ensure that you read and examine the sources for your elective closely.
- Consider the wording of essay questions carefully in order to determine what is being signalled as the focus for your response. Ensure that you maintain this focus in your essay and do not get drawn into merely ‘telling a story.’

Advice for teachers

- Prepare students to interpret essay questions, to highlight the key content that the question addresses and to write essays that focus on the expectations signalled in the question. Emphasise to students that they need to avoid being drawn into writing a narrative.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Source analysis – Unit 3

Attempted by 2290 candidates Mean 15.91(/25) Max 24.00 Min 0.00

Overall, candidates across the electives performed well in this section with the majority being able to interpret the sources without difficulty, irrespective of the layout.

Section Two: Essay – Unit 3

Attempted by 2272 candidates Mean 15.20(/25) Max 25.00 Min 0.00

As evidenced by the overall mean, this section of the examination was addressed relatively well by candidates. Weaker responses tended to lapse into a narrative style of answering the question.

Section Three: Source analysis – Unit 4

Attempted by 2281 candidates Mean 15.09(/25) Max 24.50 Min 0.00

Given that this was the first year for the new course syllabus material to be examined, candidates managed the source analysis section very well.

Section Four: Essay – Unit 4

Attempted by 2225 candidates Mean 14.68(/25) Max 25.00 Min 0.00

There were slightly less candidate responses to Section Four than in other sections of the examination which may signal a time management issue for candidates. As in previous years, the number of essays that were narrative in style rather than analytical, was noticeable.