



**A parent and student guide to the**

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**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**



- 1) NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) requirements**
- 2) School assessment policy**
- 3) Schedule of tasks**
- 4) Reporting the HSC**
- 5) Moderation**
- 6) HSC and ATAR**



# NESA Requirements

# **NESA Requirements –**

**Schools to certify that students have satisfactorily completed HSC courses by:**

- Following NESA courses**
- Working with sustained effort and diligence**
- Achieving course outcomes**



# School Assessment Policy



# Policy Covers

- Purpose
- Procedures
- Student responsibilities
- Non completion of tasks
- Approved Leave
- Feedback
- Appeal procedures
- Assessment schedules for individual subjects



# Schedule of Tasks



# Four Assessment Blocks

1. Term 4 Week 9
2. Term 1 Week 9
3. Term 2 Week 7
4. Term 3 Weeks 3-5





**School Assessment for the HSC is**

**CRUCIAL**

# Reporting the HSC

**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**  
Record of Achievement

**BOSTES**  
BOARD OF SENIOR  
TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS

This is to certify that  
**Sample Student**  
of  
**Sample High School**  
has met the requirements of the Higher School Certificate and has  
received the results shown below.


**STAGE 6 HSC COURSES**

Year	Course	Examination Mark	Assessment Mark	HSC Mark	Performance Band
<b>Board Developed Courses</b>					
2014	English (Advanced) (2 unit)	81/100	83/100	90	6
	English Extension 1 (1 unit)	44/50	45/50	45	E4
	Mathematics General 2 (2 unit)	85/100	83/100	85	5
	Business Studies (2 unit)	80/100	91/100	90	6
	Modern History (2 unit)	95/100	95/100	96	6
	Society and Culture (2 unit)	88/100	85/100	85	5
	Studies of Religion I (1 unit)	47/50	45/50	46	6

78446217

Student Number: 123456789

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Sydney, NSW, Australia

  
President

This is to certify that  
**Sample Student**  
 of  
**Sample High School**  
 has met the requirements of the Higher School Certificate and has  
 received the results show

**Student's HSC  
 Mark**

**School  
 Assessment**

**Examination  
 Mark**

**STAGE 6 HSC COURSES**

Year	Course	Examination Mark	Assessment Mark	HSC Mark	Performance Band
<b>Board Developed Courses</b>					
2014	English (Advanced) (2 unit)	81/100	80/100	80	6
	English Extension 1 (1 unit)	44/50	48/50	45	E4
	Mathematics General 2 (2 unit)	86/100	83/100	85	5
	Business Studies (2 unit)	90/100	91/100	90	6
	Modern History (2 unit)	96/100	95/100	96	6
	Society and Culture (2 unit)	86/100	85/100	85	5
	Studies of Religion I (1 unit)	47/50	45/50	46	6

**Student's HSC  
 Band**

SAMPLE



# Moderation

# School assessment marks

Each school submits marks for their students in all their courses (assessment marks)

- schools are very good at putting their students in order – according to ability and achievement - in each course
- but, schools differ in the tasks they set and the marks they allocate

So, the first step is to remove school differences by estimating what the assessment marks would have been if there was only one school.

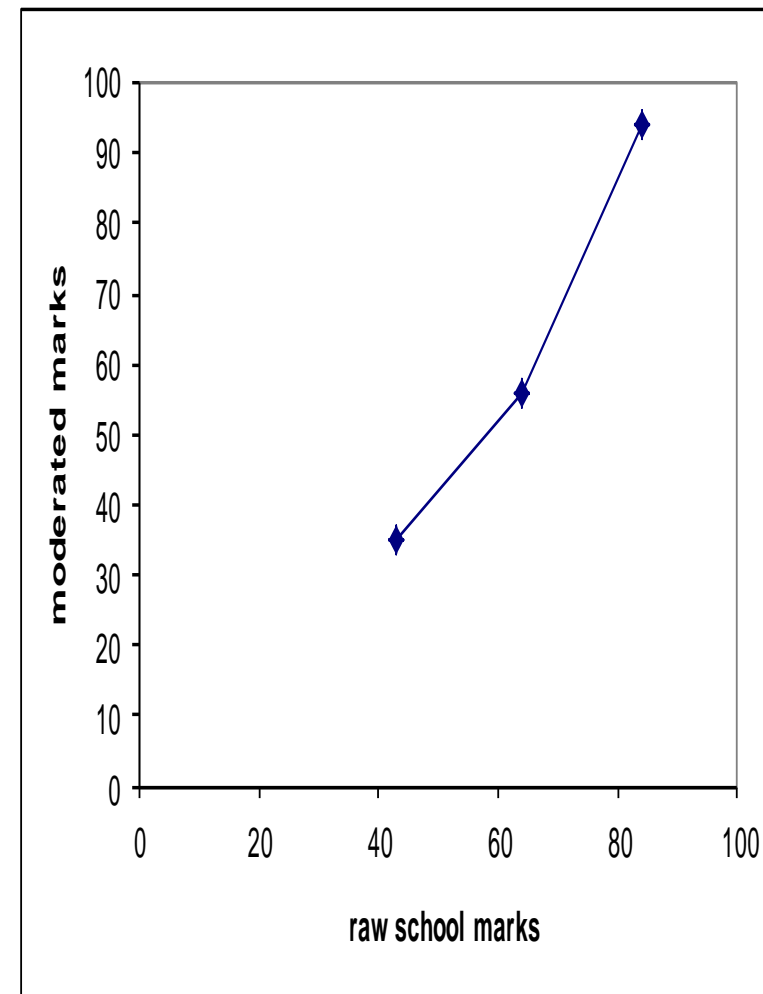
This is called moderation

# Moderating School assessments

- Assessment marks are moderated against exam marks.
- Consider these HSC marks ...

	school assessments	HSC exam marks
Top mark	84	92
Middle mark	64	56
Bottom mark	43	35

*The school assessments are moderated so that they are spread across the same range as the exam marks in that course in that school. The positions of students in a school are not changed.*



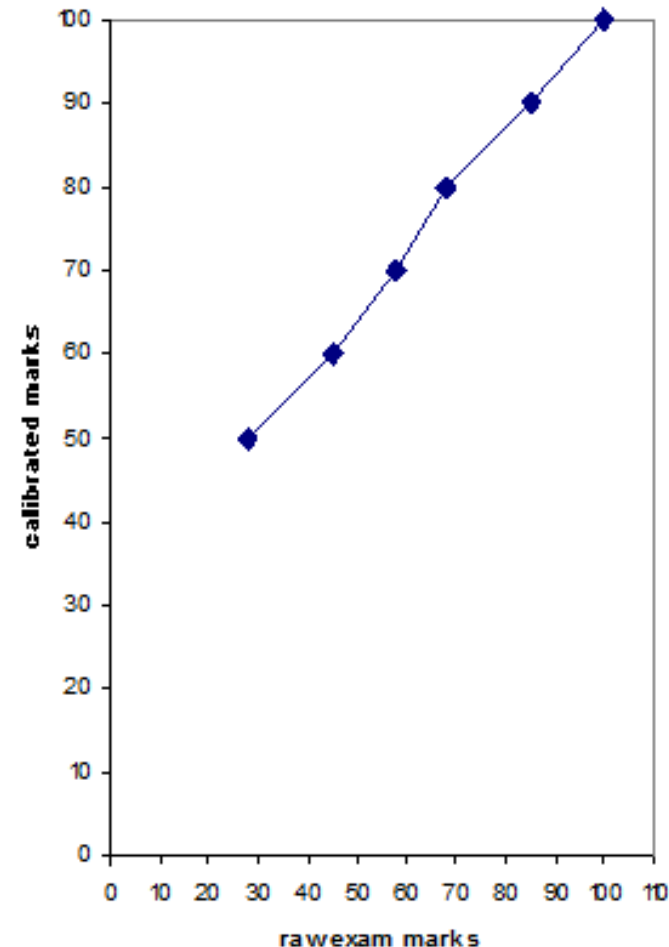
## Another example – 2U Rocket Science

School Rank	Student	Own Exam	Raw assess	Mod Assess
1st	Michelangelo	89	90	92
2nd	Leonardo	92	80	90
3rd	Van Gogh	60	65	59
4th	Monet	41	60	52
5th	Renoir	35	55	44
6th (last)	Tiberius	55	50	35
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>372</b>

# NESA Reporting achievement against standards

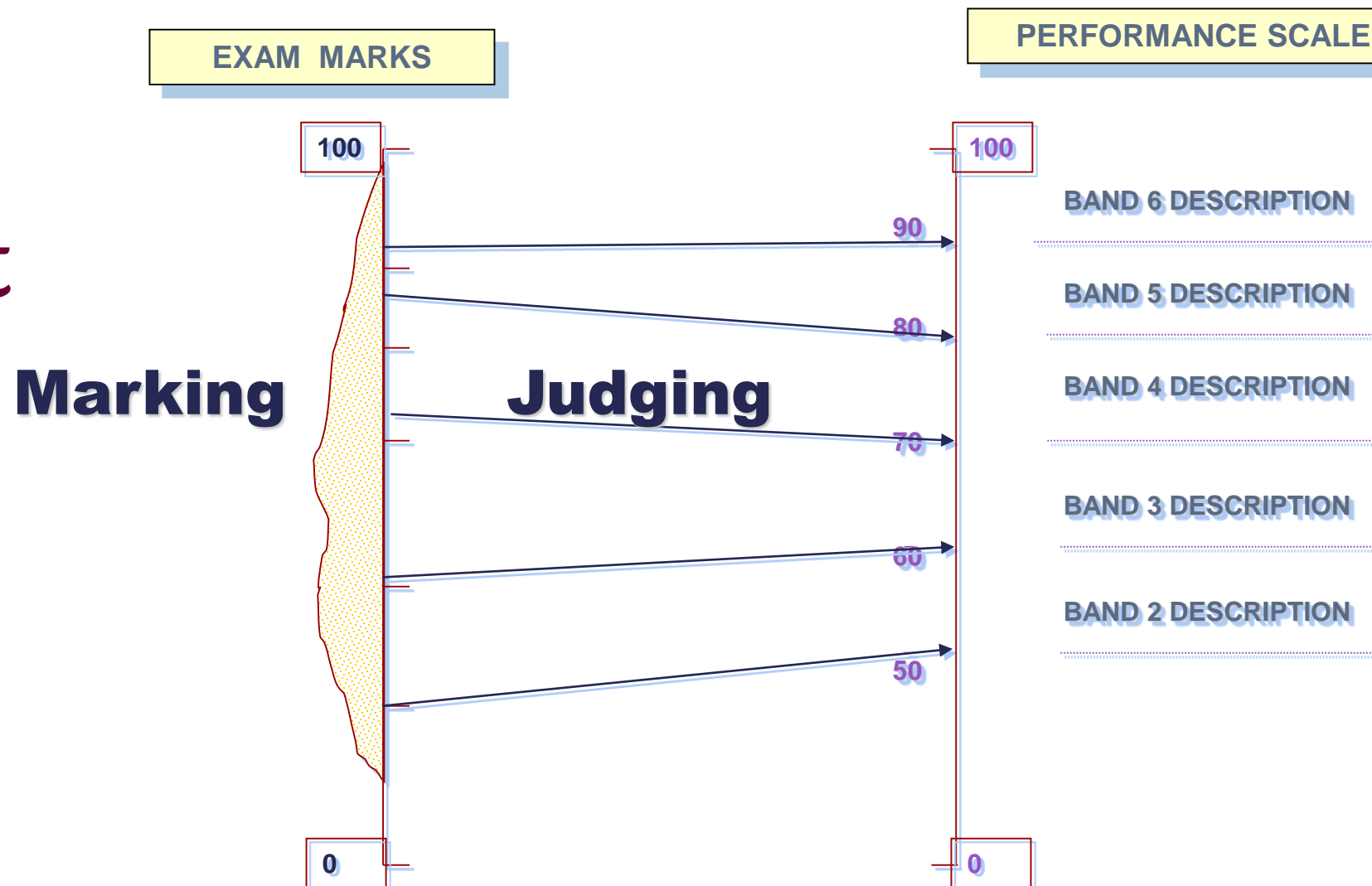
- For each course there are six standards called performance bands
- These standards are described in words
- A group of experienced markers and examiners determine what examination mark corresponds to each of the band boundaries
- The percentage of students at each standard depends only on their performance
- This graph is used to calibrate the examination marks and school assessments to the course standards

*This removes differences from year to year caused by one paper being more difficult than another*





# HSC Marks: rewarding achievement



# The HSC report – it's all about STANDARDS

You have two calibrated marks for each of your courses;

- school assessment mark
- examination mark.

Both of these reflect your performance in relation to the course standards.

These two marks are averaged – the result is your HSC mark

Course	School mark	Exam mark	HSC mark	Standard achieved
English (Advanced)	80	86	83	5
Mathematics	86	90	88	5
Economics	88	94	91	6
Physics	92	92	92	6
Visual Arts	84	78	81	5

# The HSC Bands

Moderated HSC marks are also assigned a band. The range of marks for the bands are as follows:

## 2 unit courses

Band	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mark Range	0-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-100

## Extension Courses (except Mathematics Extension 2)

Band	E1	E2	E3	E4
Mark range	0-24	25-34	35-44	45-50

## Mathematics Extension 2

Band	E1	E2	E3	E4
Mark range	0-49	50-69	70-89	90-100



# HSC and the ATAR

## **HSC and the ATAR**

**NO DIRECT relationship between the HSC marks and the ATAR.**

**Reporting of HSC marks is a NESA responsibility and reports specific achievements of candidates in each of their chosen courses.**

**The ATAR is calculated by the universities' Technical Committee on Scaling, independent of NESA.**

## HSC and the ATAR

- **The ATAR IS NOT a mark OR an average of a student's HSC mark.**
- **The ATAR ranks university applicants based on statistical scaling of their raw exam marks and moderated assessment marks from NESAs.**

## HSC and the ATAR

- ATAR ranks are based on quite a complex algorithm scaling process – based on the assumption of what students' marks would have been if all courses had been studied by all students.
- The ATAR is based on
  - A student's position in their course (against NSW)
  - The scaled means of the course
  - The standard deviation of their courses

# Performance will impact ATAR

Course	Fred		Laura	
	HSC Mark	Percentile	HSC Mark	Percentile
Biology	70	43	80	75
Business Studies	70	36	80	67
Mathematics	70	21	80	47
English Advanced	70	11	80	51
Modern History	70	21	80	59
Visual Arts	70	14	80	51
<b>ATAR</b>	<b>57.50</b>		<b>79.65</b>	

Source: [UAC.edu.au](http://UAC.edu.au)



# Candidature of cohort can also impact ATAR

Year	Fred	Lauran
2009	57.80	81.20
2010	57.05	80.15
2011	58.20	79.80
<b>2012</b>	<b>57.45</b>	<b>79.65</b>
2013	57.55	80.00
2014	55.95	79.45
2015	57.50	79.65

Source: [UAC.edu.au](http://UAC.edu.au)

# Calculating the ATAR

For example, here are Elizabeth's 2008 HSC results:

	Units	Examination mark	Assessment mark	HSC mark	Performance band
Business Studies	2	83/100	77/100	80	5
English Advanced	2	77/100	73/100	75	4
Mathematics	2	75/100	83/100	79	4
Modern History	2	84/100	80/100	82	5
Visual Arts	2	85/100	83/100	84	5
French Continuers	2	89/100	85/100	87	5

Source: [UAC.edu.au](http://UAC.edu.au)

# Calculating the ATAR

- HSC marks in different courses are not comparable

	Units	HSC mark/100	Percentile
Business Studies	2	80	71
English Advanced	2	75	31
Mathematics	2	79	55
Modern History	2	82	70
Visual Arts	2	84	63
French Continuers	2	87	63

Source: [UAC.edu.au](http://UAC.edu.au)

# Calculating the ATAR

- Scaled means

	Units	Scaled mean
Business Studies	2	47.6
English Advanced	2	62.6
Mathematics	2	60.8
Modern History	2	54.4
Visual Arts	2	46.0
French Continuers	2	68.6

Source: [UAC.edu.au](http://UAC.edu.au)

# Calculating the ATAR

## Elizabeth's Scaled marks

	Units	HSC mark/100	Scaled mark/100
Business Studies	2	80	61.6
English Advanced	2	75	54.3
Mathematics	2	79	65.0
Modern History	2	82	67.1
Visual Arts	2	84	53.0
French Continuers	2	87	76.5

Total

**324.50**

Source: [UAC.edu.au](http://UAC.edu.au)

# Aggregates and ATAR relationship

ATAR	Lowest Aggregate				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
99.95	476.5	475.2	477.9	475.3	478.1
99.50	456.2	454.2	455.0	454.0	457.9
99.00	445.6	443.9	443.8	444.5	446.9
98.00	432.2	429.7	429.5	432.2	432.4
95.00	403.7	401.6	402.6	404.4	404.2
90.00	371.2	369.4	371.3	372.2	371.2

## Calculating the ATAR

*Elizabeth's aggregate is 324.5 out of 500*

*Elizabeth's ATAR is 82.5*

**This means that Elizabeth did well enough overall to perform better than 82.5% of her Year 12 cohort.**



## So...how do you get a good ATAR?

- **Selecting subjects to which you have an aptitude; and**
- **Working hard at those subjects throughout the year.**