

HSC Student Profile: Jacqueline

Question 1

Please state your name.

Jacqueline

Question 2

Which year did you complete your HSC?

2009

Question 3

Did you study any Year 12 HSC subjects (accelerated) in Year 11?
If yes, please list the subject(s).

No

Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

Killara High School

Question 5

What scores did you obtain for each of your Year 12 studies?

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Assessment Mark</i>	<i>Examination Mark</i>	<i>HSC Mark</i>	<i>Performance Band</i>
<i>English Advanced</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>English Extension</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>E3</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Modern History</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Legal Studies</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>PDHPE</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>6</i>

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

97.60

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Social Inquiry)

Question 8

Which university/tertiary institution are you enrolled in/planning to attend?

University of Technology, Sydney



The following questions relate to a typical week where there were no major examinations forthcoming:

Question 9

How many hours did you dedicate to study (outside school) across a typical week?

On weekdays, I would spend about two-three hours on study, working on mainly on developing summary notes and doing practice exercises, such as past papers or essay questions. On weekends, I would generally dedicate three or four hours, either a morning or afternoon, to study depending on what else I wanted to do that day. I would normally take Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights off, as long as I had achieved everything I needed to for the following week.

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

Woke up at about 6:30 to get the bus at 7:30, arriving at school at about 8:15. I finished school at 3:00, but only got home at around 3:40 because of the bus. I generally studied from 4-6pm, using the time from 7-8 only if there was something I had not managed to complete earlier.

Question 11

Where did you engage in the bulk of your study on a day to day basis?
(eg. bedroom, school library etc).

Bedroom.

Question 12

How many hours did you dedicate to study across school holidays?

During the school holidays, on weekdays I would study for a about five hours four days a week. I generally did not work during the evening, as I know I work far more productively during the day. I typically took the weekends off, unless I was unable to complete the aforementioned study for some reason.

Question 13

Did you engage in any extra curricular activities across Year 12? If yes, please indicate the activities and how much time was dedicated to each activity.

I had a part-time job, which took up about three hours once a week. I also played competition soccer, which took up two hours once a week for training, as well as approximately two hours once a week for our actual games.

Question 14

How did you balance/organise your study with other commitments like work or sport or family?

I took into account my other commitments and organised my study around it. For example, if I knew I had a soccer match on Sunday afternoon, I would make sure I used the time I had in the morning to do some study.

The following questions relate to a typical week where there were major examinations forthcoming:

Question 15

How did you approach the task of preparing for the exam? (For example, would you start the process by writing notes? If so, which resources did you use to compile materials etc).

Throughout the year, I made notes on topics as we covered them in class, in order to avoid having to do so at the last minute. I would do so using a range of resources, including my textbooks and notes from class, as well as study guides like Excel, Macquarie and the Dot Point series. In the weeks leading up to exams, I would read them through and refine these notes, adding anything I thought was necessary, as well cutting down things that now seemed unimportant. I would then study by reading over the information several times, reviewing the syllabus for certain subjects and doing practice papers. Practice questions were crucial to preparing for exams, particularly when I was able to get feedback from my teachers.

Question 16

How many hours did you dedicate to study (outside of school) in the weeks leading up to the exams?

In the lead up to exams, I would generally study for about four hours a day, specifically 4-6pm and 7-9pm. On the weekend, I would spend up to six hours on study. I would typically take off evenings on the weekend.

Question 17

What was your typical day to day routine when studying for the exams?

Woke up at about 6:30 to get the bus at 7:30, arriving at school at about 8:15. I finished school at 3:00, but only got home at around 3:40 because of the bus. I generally studied from 4-6pm, had dinner, and then studied from 7-9pm.

Question 18

Did you continue your extracurricular activities in the weeks leading up to the exams?

Generally, I did continue my other activities in the weeks leading up to exams. However, if they coincided with the night immediately before an exam, I would swap shifts or not go to training.

Question 19

Which technique(s) did you use to learn materials "off by heart"? (eg. writing notes, re-writing, reading texts etc).

Writing and re-writing notes, reading notes over and over again, as well as reading them out loud. The use of acronyms and making mind maps which I would put on my walls. When trying to memorise things, I found it useful to be quizzed on my notes, as this not only involved going over my content in a different way, but also made me aware of what areas I knew well, as well as those I needed to spend more time on.

Question 20

When did you start preparing for your TRIAL exams?

I had been writing notes and doing practice papers throughout my entire HSC year, but specifically started preparing for trials about a month and a half before they began.

Question 21

How much study did you engage in between the TRIALS and the final HSC exams?

In the period between the trials and the final HSC exams, I engaged in a lot of study. During my last term of school, I used this opportunity to fix up my notes for all subjects, to immerse myself in my English texts and to do practice papers and essays, which I handed in to my teachers to get feedback. During the holidays and the HSC exam period, I would study for up to ten hours a day.

Question 22

Do you feel that you invested enough time into study between the Trials and the final HSC exams?
Would you have benefited from additional study across this period?

Yes, I do feel I invested enough time into study during this period. I think that doing anymore would have actually been detrimental to my preparation, as it is important to retain life balance and perspective.

Question 23

Did your Year 12 peers at school invest in significant study in the lead up to the TRIALS?

Not particularly. I think most of us were preoccupied with other assessment tasks prior to TRIALS, and thus for many of us they came around before we knew it and were consequently left feeling quite unprepared when it came to our exams.

Question 24

Did your Year 12 peers at school invest in significant study between the TRIALS and the final HSC exams?

Immediately prior to the HSC and during, mostly yes. However I think that many people really did not make the most of our last term of school in terms of HSC preparation, thinking of it as pointless and a waste of time, rather than using it as an opportunity to revise and improve whilst still being able to get guidance from our teachers.

Question 25

Were the TRIAL exams an accurate reflection of the difficulty and style of questions encountered in the final HSC exams?

I found the TRIAL exams mixed in this regard. However overall I found the TRIALS easier, although I know I was certainly less prepared for these exams. I found that the actual HSC exams were of a vastly different style, both in comparison to TRIALS and previous HSC exams, which made them somewhat more difficult.

Question 26

Did you suffer from anxiety attacks or mind blocks in any of your exams? What did you do to alleviate or get through these situations?

As a very anxious person, although I didn't have any panic attacks during exams, I often suffered from anxiety immediately before my exams and sometimes the night or so before them. To get through these, I would either take a break from study to do something to relax and unwind, such as kicking a soccer ball or going for a walk. If it occurred right before an exam, I would talk to friends or listen to music to distract myself. If I had a mind block during my exam, I would go on to another section I felt confident about, then return to the section I had struggled with later.

Questions Relating to the Subject You Have Been Asked to Write About

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

PDHPE

Question 2

Based on your results and performance throughout the year, were you confident that you would obtain a Band 6 result? If not, what Band or overall mark were you anticipating/hoping to receive?

I was expecting a result of either Band 5 or 6, but definitely hoped to get a Band 6.

Question 3

Which section/topic of the syllabus did you find most challenging?

No particular area.

Question 4

How much time did you spend preparing/working on school assessments?

For exams, I would spend time doing notes and later revising these and doing past papers, taking a total of about 20hours but spread out over two weeks or so. The time I spent on assignments would depend on the nature of the task, but generally 10hours over time.

Question 5

What was the best source of help/information for your assessments? (Text book, teacher, friends, lectures, tutorial programs, private tutors, internet, own research etc).

Text book, study guides, teacher, friends, research.

Question 6

Did you regularly use a private tutor in this subject? If so, did you find this assistance beneficial?

No.

Question 7

Did you attend a tuition college/tutorial classes/lectures to assist in this subject? Did you find this assistance beneficial?

No.

Question 8

If applicable, do you feel that you would have obtained the same score if you did not use tutors/coaches/lectures/tuition programs?

N/A

Question 9

What was your best source of help across the year (teacher, tutor, lecture program etc)?

Textbooks and study guides.

Question 10

Did you do anything differently study wise in comparison to your peers at school?

I think I dedicated more time and approached exam preparation differently. I did so closely following the syllabus and spent time memorising this, as knowledge of the syllabus is essential to do well in PDHPE. I also did several practice questions and papers, as doing so made me more confident and better able to answer questions in a way which conveyed my understanding.

Question 11

Do you feel that you had an advantage over other students in this subject? If so, what was this advantage?

I think my thorough knowledge of the syllabus gave me an advantage, as well as my broad knowledge about a range of sports which I could draw on to provide examples.

Question 12

Compare the subjects for which you obtained your lowest and highest HSC Marks/Bands.

Detail what you did differently between the two subjects and if applicable, provide your opinion on why you obtained such different scores.

I was far more confident about my PDHPE course content, and went into my exam knowing that I had the ability and had done the preparation to do well. In my worst subject, Mathematics, despite my preparation I was not at all confident, having not particularly enjoyed the subject and knowing that there were some areas of the course which I had not fully mastered.

Question 13

As part of your HSC/TRIAL exam preparation for this subject, did you spend time writing up a comprehensive set of notes from which to learn? If yes, how many hours do you believe you invested into this task?

Yes. As I did it over the course of the year as we covered each topic, I am unable to estimate how long it took me, but definitely recommend doing this over the year, rather than specifically in the lead up to an exam.

Question 14

Did you purchase/acquire quality notes to assist in your examination preparation? If yes, did you find this acquisition beneficial? Why/why/not?

I never purchased notes, although I did get a copy of the notes of someone who did well in the subject in the previous year. However, I did not find these particularly useful, as I felt I needed to organise my information the way I personally like best, whilst I also felt better knowing that my notes consisted of what I thought was important, not someone else.

Question 15

How many examination papers did you work through as part of your exam preparation?

Overall, I would have worked through about 10 or so past papers, as well as random practice questions I came across in study guides.

Question 16

Which exam papers did you work through?

(List the names of the entities/organisations that produced the exam papers).

Past HSC exams, as well as past trial exams from my own school.

Question 17

Did you work through any exam papers under exam conditions? If yes, how many?

Yes, probably two or three.

Question 18

How much time was invested into preparing for the TRIAL examination?

How much time was invested into preparing for the final HSC examination?

Which examination did you find more difficult and why?

Not including time spent writing notes, probably 205 or so hours over a few weeks.

For the HSC, probably 40 or so hours over time. I didn't like some of the questions, which tried to combine multiple syllabus points which didn't particular link to one another, making them very difficult to respond to.

Question 19

Had you previously covered all the questions/concepts that appeared in the exams or did the exam paper contain materials that you had never seen before? If so, did this make you panic in the exams?

No.

Question 20

Did you complete every question in the TRIAL exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes.

Question 21

Did you complete every question in the final HSC exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes.

Question 22

Did you use any special exam techniques when working through the actual exams?

No.

Question 23

If applicable, what mistakes did you make when preparing for the TRIAL exams?
Did you do anything differently when preparing for the final HSC examinations?

I should have started to prepare earlier, as I felt very overwhelmed by the sheer quantity of content to learn. Yes, I began to learn my content much earlier, allowing me to use the time immediately prior to the exam to do past questions and go over the syllabus.

Question 24

Which resources did you find most helpful when preparing for the exams?

Study guides, Text book and Past papers.

Question 25

What advice would you provide to those students aiming for a Band 6 in this subject?

To achieve a Band 6 in this subject, you NEED to know your syllabus. No matter how smart you are, you will never be able to do well in PDHPE exams without knowing the syllabus back to front. Make sure you know your content well, and are able to relate your statements to relevant examples. Doing practice papers and getting feedback from your teacher is also essential- by doing so you will not only be able to answer questions more coherently and concisely, but you will also be more confident when it comes to the actual HSC exam.

General Advice

Question 1

What was the most difficult aspect of completing your HSC studies and how did you overcome this?

For me, the hardest part of completing my HSC was simply overcoming my anxiety and managing to take time out. In order to overcome it, I tried to do as much preparation as I could, in order to feel I had some control over the situation. I also made sure I did fun things to relax and unwind, such as seeing my friends or playing sport.

Question 2

If you had your time over again, would you do anything differently across Year 11 and/or 12?
Why/Why Not?

Not particularly.

Question 3

Is there anything that you wish you had known about before entering the HSC?

All the stress is unnecessary. Whilst your HSC is important and you need to study so that you can do the best you can possibly do, obsessing over it won't help you at all. Just like any other exam you've throughout high school, if you've done the study, made the most out of your classes and taken advantage of the guidance your teachers have given you, you will do well.

Question 4

Are there any resources/services/products that would have assisted you in your studies had they been available?

I feel that a website of some kind which provided information about each syllabus dot point would have been very useful in assisting me in writing notes.

Question 5

If you had one piece of advice to give future students, what would it be?

Write your notes as you go and KNOW YOUR SYLLABUS!