

HSC Student Profile: Ryan

Question 1

Please state your name.

Ryan

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?

Masada College

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>Economics</i>			<i>94</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>English Advanced</i>			<i>95</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>English Extension I</i>			<i>46</i>	<i>E4</i>
<i>English Extension II</i>			<i>46</i>	<i>E4</i>
<i>Visual Art</i>			<i>96</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Modern History</i>			<i>94</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>			<i>90</i>	<i>6</i>

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

99.50

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Architecture

Question 8

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

UNSW



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?

I devoted about a total of 12 hours a week to study, school work and the development of my major works. This included 2 hours a day Mon- Thurs, and then Friday I had off, and either spent about 4 hours working on either Saturday or Sunday (with the other day taken off for other things).

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

7.00- Awoke.

8.00- Departed for school.

8:15-4:00 School.

4-5:30 Came home, had something to eat, and then had a rest.

5:30- 6:30. Went for a walk or exercise or watched TV.

6:30-7:30. Dinner and shower.

7:30- 10:00. Homework with a small break between subjects.

10:00-11:30. Computer, spoke to friends on the phone, TV or other things.

11:30-12. Read in bed.

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?

Across school holidays I averaged working about 12 hours a week, where I worked about 3 hours for 4 days, with every second day off. However this time was not only devoted to study, it was mostly used for homework and doing assignments and projects such as Essays to be handed in for submission, as well the composing my English major work, research and working on my Body of Art.

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 weekly art class (where I just painted, however this was completely unrelated to my art work at school), occupying 2 hours a week.

Question 14

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

I simply made timetables where I would roster in all my commitments and ensure I kept to it as best as possible allowing me to enjoy enough time for both my work commitments with friends and family.

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).

For most exams, I would reread the prescribed text book and our class notes, and then make summaries of both those resources which I would then revise before my examinations and tests.

Question 16

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

I dedicated about 16 hours a week to study in the 2 weeks coming up to exams, permitted I had no outstanding assignments or projects to do first. I would study about 2.5 hours for 4 days of the week, and then 3 hours on Saturday or Sunday, or alternatively 6 hours on either on day of the weekend ensuring the other day could be dedicated to rest and family commitments.

Question 17

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

After school I would come home, have a break and study a different topic of a different subject in 45 minute intervals. I would divide the syllabus of each subject into smaller units, topics or areas of study which would make it easier to break down the volume of work whilst ensuring I covered every outcome thoroughly.

Question 18

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

Yes.

Question 19

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

Re-reading all my texts and class notes, writing summaries and then revising the summaries.

Question 20

When did you start preparing for your TRIAL exams?

Due to my English and Art Major works which monopolised my time (as they were due for submission before trials) I started studying for trials 2 and a half weeks before, however much of this period was also allocated to my major works.

Question 21

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

After trials and my major works were finished I had about a month break where I did minimal study and only completed homework, however in the 3 weeks before the HSC (after Graduation) I began to start revising my material.

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?

I feel I did invest enough time during this period because I believe a break after trials is essential for ones body to recover. However, I feel I didn't use the few weeks before HSC the most constructively and efficiently because I revised the earlier topics in a very thorough manner, and then I started to run out of time when it came to the later topics which I had revised the least.

Question 23

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

Yes.

Question 24

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

Yes, particularly towards the final HSC exams, however most people relaxed slightly after trials because after studying for one set of exams, it was hard to find the motivation to continue studying the same material a week later.

Question 25

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

Yes. I feel the trials were a very accurate reflection of my final performance.

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?

No. I got somewhat anxious in the lead up to the exams, however by the time I was in the actual room I always felt adequately prepared and able to answer the questions to the best of my ability.

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

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

Modern History

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 always hopeful I would receive a band 6 for Modern History as I loved the subject, and always received above 90% in my internal assessments (which I felt suggested I would receive a band 6 as my final mark.)

Question 3

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

I found the technicality of the Core, World War I section the most difficult as the questions were much more specific, directed and really required you to have an in depth understanding of the unit.

Question 4

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

For each test or project I allocated about 4-5 hours preparation time, however exams required a larger amount of time to be dedicated as there were more topics and sections being tested.

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).

My teacher. She was extremely supportive, dedicated and always encouraged us to go to her for any additional help, clarification or assistance with revision.

Question 6

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

I did not use a private tutor in this subject once.

Question 7

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

Our entire class attended the Modern History Teacher's Association Lectures together, (for one day in the period before trials), which I found very beneficial as it reinforced everything we had learnt in class whilst offering different perspectives and insights into the same topics.

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?

Yes, as the previously mentioned lecture was interesting but didn't affect me significantly. However I do not feel I would have obtained the same score without the endless help and support of my school teacher.

Question 9

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

My Modern History teacher, Marion Seftel.

Question 10

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

Yes. Some of my peers wrote pages and pages of notes, however I felt I best absorbed things when I re-read the text book and our class notes. This reinforced all the information I had already learnt, and making summaries became a more concise manner in which to learn the information. However, my peers and I both often completed practice questions and often wrote essays which we handed in to be marked.

Question 11

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

No. I do not feel I had an advantage over other students; however I really enjoyed the subject and felt the content of the course came easily to me. Most of the dates and information I was lucky enough to naturally remember without too much difficulty. Doing English Extension dramatically improved my essay writing style and this became very useful when structuring and writing my modern history essays.

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.

Maths was my lowest HSC subject (90, Band 6), and Visual Art was my highest subject (96, Band 6). I attribute this 6 mark difference entirely to my preferences for these subjects. I have always enjoyed the creative arts and humanities more than other subjects, and I think my passion for these subjects was reflected in my marks. I did enjoy mathematics; however I often became very frustrated with its precise exactitude and concepts, whereas art allowed me to have a vehicle of cathartic expression, and I loved the theoretical components of the syllabus so I would always prefer doing my art than maths, and I felt it was more of a release which didn't feel like work.

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?

As mentioned, I didn't initially write a comprehensive set of notes however I did make summaries of our class work which I annotated and wrote little comments on every time I revised them. Other times, I wrote many practice essays across all the remaining sections, and as the essays were very comprehensive and factual (as well as incorporating historiography), these essays were also harnessed as detailed notes, which were used together with all my notes taken in class.

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?

No. I felt I had already had so many resources between our class notes and prescribed books that I felt there was no need to acquire anything further.

Question 15

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

For Core, World War I, throughout the year (including in class practice tests) I may have done around 13 practice sections, and I estimate I wrote about 6 -7 practice essays for the National Study, Personality and Peace and Conflict sections each.

Question 16

Which exam papers did you work through?

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

Past Papers of the Higher School Certificate issued by the Board of Studies, as well as past trial papers issued by the Catholic School's Association.

Question 17

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

No. I never completed an entire paper under exam conditions as it suited my study patterns better to disassemble the paper into the different sections and practice each section once I had revised that topic.

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?

I have difficulty remembering the exact hours, or quantifying my study patterns however I estimate I spent about 2 hours a day for 5 days studying for trials. After trials, we completed our 4th topic, Conflict in Indochina, so for the HSC there was a larger volume to revise (as our trials didn't cover the entire course). I also felt I wanted to be more adequately prepared for the final HSC exam, and I had more time to study, so I probably invested about 2 hours a day for 8 days for the final exam. I found the trial exams more difficult as I hadn't grasped onto the course content as thoroughly as I had for the final HSC exams.

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?

In one form or another, I had covered all the concepts that appeared in our exams. The examination questions required different combinations of information, however if one knows their information well, then they will be easily able to transfer what they have learnt across the different questions and apply them in different ways.

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, however I was very cautious of the time. I was very alert that I spent an equal amount of time on every section as each was worth the same amount of marks as the other.

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 didn't allow myself enough preparation time to feel as confident as I could have (going into the trial examinations), however I realised how much I had covered when I was in the exam and able to recall what I had learnt the entire year. I did allocate more time preparing for the final HSC exams so I could handle the content of the course with a greater familiarity and personal opinion when constructing arguments.

Question 24

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

I found my teacher to be the most useful and helpful resource when preparing for exams. After I had handed in practice papers and essays to be marked, her comments and advice were very useful in illustrating what I could improve on, as well as in which areas I could extend my research.

Question 25

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

I would recommend to anyone aiming for a band 6 in this subject to preserve and to always remain updated with all your class work. Make sure you have a detailed and comprehensive understanding of things as you progress through the course. For the essays, prepare historiographical arguments to substantiate your own opinion. Most importantly, if the question asks, you must make a judgement and form your own response to the question (where you harness the information to support which ever line of argument you feel the most inclined to pursue)

General Advice

Question 1

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

The anxiety and stress associated with the HSC, and I eventually learnt to trust myself more and came to a realisation that anxiety was inhibiting my performance and that I would do better if I relaxed and was more calm.

Question 2

If you had your time over again, would you do anything differently across Year 11 and/or 12?

Why/Why Not?

No. I feel that I handled Year 11 and 12 to the best of my ability and do not think by changing anything I would have improved my marks. If I had my time again, I would try to be more confident and less stressed, however the exams, the pressure and all the work can be a very overwhelming combination and I think that feeling anxious is a natural outcome; although managing the anxiety was something I wish I would have learnt earlier.

Question 3

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

No. I feel I was adequately prepared and whatever I needed to know, I learnt along the way.

Question 4

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

No. I feel support from family, friends and teachers was the best assistance.

Question 5

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

As cliché as it sounds, the HSC does not influence the rest of your life. One can still finish the HSC and be uncertain about their career or which university course they want to study. It's hard to disassociate yourself from the magnitude, stress and pressure of it all, however try to keep it in perspective that there is life after HSC and many pathways which the HSC doesn't determine. If you choose subjects you enjoy, the experience may be more pleasant as studying won't seem like such a burden.