

VCE Student Profile: Abhy Mandala

Question 1

Please state your name.

Abhy

Question 2

Which year did you complete your VCE?

2009

Question 3

Did you study any Unit 3/4 subjects in Year 11? If yes, please list the subject(s).

No

Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School

Question 5

What scores did you obtain for each of your Unit 3/4 studies? Please indicate both the raw scores and scaled scores.

Subject	Raw Score	Scaled Score
<i>English</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>Physics</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Chemistry</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Further Maths</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Maths Methods</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Specialist Maths</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>42</i>

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

99.20

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery

Question 8

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

James Cook University



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?

An average school week would consist of between 12-15 hrs of study outside school. The days between Mon-Thurs inclusive would consist about 2 hours of study after school and Friday evening was typically my time off. Saturday often was taken up by sport, family and cultural activities. However, I would still try to fit in some study on Saturday but this would often depend on that particular week's commitments. Sunday was my study day where I had to catch up on any outstanding work or prepare for any assessments coming up in that week. Therefore, the hours of study completed on Sunday would vary greatly from 2 hours up to 6

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

On an average school day, I would wake up at 6.45am to catch the 7.20am bus. Getting to school by 8.00am, I would have just over 30min to complete any work I had forgotten to complete or look over notes for any assessments. School finished at 3.30pm and I would usually be home by 4.45pm. Study would begin by 7.00pm and most study would be done by 10.00pm. From about 10pm to midnight I would usually read novels.

Question 11

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

The bulk of my study was completed in my study which was separate to my bedroom. I tried to keep my bedroom mostly study free.

Question 12

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

*All the school holidays except for the ones just previous end of year exams were often erratic and had no strict study routine. However, one week of school holidays would be study free while the other week would consist of about 4 hours of study a day except weekends which in holidays were mostly study free.
The holidays just prior to end of year exams were very packed with study up to 8 hours a day while weekends were still mostly study free.*

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.

In year 12 all extra-curricular activities were put on hold except for the compulsory school sport.

Question 14

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

There were cultural and family activities which I had to attend. Therefore, on weekends which had these activities, I would have to allocate work to Friday evening which was often my time off. Sport was often on Saturday mornings and did not have any drastic effect on my study. Also, I did no paid formal work during year 12.

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).

I did not write my own notes for the end of year exams but rather used the TSFX notes which I got by attending revision lectures for all subjects. I found that instead of writing detailed, lengthy notes I was benefited more by completing past exams given to me by my school.

Question 16

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

Coming up to end of year exams, I would do about 4-5 hours of study after school on the days Mon-Thurs inclusive but Friday evening was still my time off. At this point all extra-curricular activities were paused so Saturday and Sunday were filled with study. Up to 8 hours of study would be completed on Saturday and Sunday.

Question 17

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

My travelling to and from school was not changed but after school when I got home at 4.45pm I would take less time off. Study would usually start at 6.30pm and go on until 11pm or midnight. Even if there was work to be done, I would try not to stay up too late studying.

Question 18

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

No. Sport was ceased any other extracurricular activities were also avoided.

Question 19

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

I found that I could not effectively sit and read notes for hours. Therefore, I would break up my study a lot and change what subject I was studying frequently. I would go through notes highlighting and this seemed to work well for me. Also I would jot down any particular pieces of information which I deemed important or needed more attention.

Question 20

If applicable, when did you start preparing for your Unit 3 exams?

When did you start preparing for your Unit 4 exams?

I started preparing for my Unit 3 (mid year) exams about 1 month before the exams.

When did you start preparing for your Unit 4 exams?

I started studying for my end of year (unit 4) exams about 2 months before the exams.

Question 21

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 knew I could not approach these exams with fear or anxiety and I was lucky to not suffer any major mind blocks during exams.

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

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

Further Mathematics.

Question 2

What sort of marks did you get in this subject across the year? (Please detail the marks you obtained for each SAC and exam).

Our school did not give us percentage SAC marks but we did get our marked SACs back. I lost about a mark in each SAC and all up across both exams I lost about 1 mark.

Question 3

Based on your results and performance throughout the year, were you confident that you would obtain a perfect Study Score? If not, what Scaled Score were you anticipating/hoping to receive?

Further Maths was one of my easier subjects and I knew I could get a perfect study score. However, I was still fully aware that it would not be easy getting a perfect study score.

Question 4

Which section/topic from Unit 3 and 4 did you find most challenging?

In Geometry and Trigonometry, I found the ratio of volumes and surface areas the most challenging. In Graphs and Relations, I found the Linear Programming topic the most challenging.

Question 5

How much time did you spend preparing/working on SACS?

Most SACs were completed in class under exam conditions. There was no work to do on SACs at home but I would have to often look over notes before SACs and I estimate I spent about 1 hour preparing for each SAC.

Question 6

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

Our teacher was a experienced Further Maths teacher and the notes we took down in class were very thorough and complete. The guidance of our teacher was alone enough to do well in this subject as well as a bit of self-directed study to address own personal problems.

Question 7

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

No.

Question 8

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

I completed a TSFX revision and I found it useful.

Question 9

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

It is hard to say but I think I would have obtained the same study score if I had not attended the revision lecture.

Question 10

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

My school teacher was definitely my best source of help during the year.

Question 11

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

No. I think most people at my school completed a similar approach to the subject which was mainly guided by the school teacher.

Question 12

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

No. I think I was on the same playing field as everyone else in this subject.

Question 13

Compare the subjects for which you obtained your lowest and highest Subject Study Scores.

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

My lowest raw study score was 34 for specialist maths and my highest was 50 for further maths. I think the subject difficulty was the main factor for score difference but also, I think I was partially disadvantaged in specialist maths as all my peers had private tutor while I didn't. For further maths my peers did not have private tutors so I was not disadvantaged.

Question 14

As part of your 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?

The notes I took down from classes during the year formed the basis of my notes and I added any other important bits to have a good set of notes. Hence not writing from scratch, I only would have spent an hour or two writing notes.

Question 15

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

I got notes from TSFX when I attended their lectures and I used these to add to my other notes. I believe these notes were indeed beneficial.

Question 16

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

I would have completed about 8 exam papers in preparation which were given by my school.

Question 17

Which exam papers did you work through?

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

Most of the exams papers were VCAA exam papers from 2002-2008 inclusive. We did not get given exam papers from other companies for this subject.

Question 18

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

Yes. I completed 2 practice exam papers under exam conditions.

Question 19

If applicable, how much time was invested into preparing for the Unit 3 examination?

How much time was invested into preparing for the Unit 4 examination?

Which examination did you find more difficult and why?

We did not have separate Unit 3 and Unit 4 exams for this subject in 2009. In preparing for the Further Maths exams, I would have completed about 18-20 hours of work all up including practice exams, revision and notes-preparation.

Question 20

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?

Yes. I could recognise all questions in the exams and had seen them before.

Question 21

If applicable, did you complete every question in the Unit 3 exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

N/A

Question 22

If applicable, did you complete every question in the Unit 4 exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes.

Question 23

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

No. I just worked through the exam starting at the front.

Question 24

If applicable, what mistakes did you make when preparing for the Unit 3 exams? Did you do anything differently when preparing for the Unit 4 examinations?

I knew that I could finish these exams very fast but would often make careless mistakes. Therefore, for the end of year exams, I slowed down and worked more thoroughly in order to make less careless mistakes. I think this worked well for me.

Question 25

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

My notes were my most helpful resource for my final preparation for exams.

Question 26

What advice would you provide to those students aiming for a 50 in this subject?

People often think that this subject is easy and a perfect score is not hard to attain. I saw this first hand and many students who thought they were on path for a perfect score did not attain the score they wanted. Therefore, students need to be careful and thorough with this subject and not neglect it as assume they will get a perfect score when they don't put the required work in.

General Advice

Question 1

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

Motivation. Motivation is hard to come by and I had to regularly keep motivating myself to keep going throughout the year.

Question 2

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

Yes. I would not leave tasks to the last minute and try to complete them well before the deadline.

Question 3

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

Not really.

Question 4

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

As I had no private tutors maybe private tutors would have assisted me.

Question 5

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

Address your weaknesses early as I know many students who didn't do as well as they wanted because they were let down in one subject or a particular area in a subject.