

VCE Student Profile: Anthony Muleta

Question 1

Please state your name.

Anthony

Question 2

Which year did you complete your VCE?

2015

Question 3

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

Mathematical Methods (CAS)

Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

Parade College, Bundoora

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
Mathematical Methods (CAS)	46	49.07
Literature	37	38.20
Italian	39	44.32
Biology	46	46.68
Chemistry	47	48.65
Specialist Mathematics	50	55.00

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

99.55

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science Advanced (Honours)

Question 8

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

Monash University (Parkville campus)



The following questions relate to a typical week in which there were NO major examinations forthcoming:

Question 9

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

~15 hours

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

I would wake up early and get ready for school, catch the bus, go to school and catch the bus home. Once I got home I would take 30 minutes to myself to relax, watch TV and have a snack or two, and then do my homework. If I finished my homework early I would take a break and do some unassigned study, have dinner and spend time with my family and then go to bed (usually at about 10.30-11.30).

Question 11

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

I spent the most of my time studying in the study room at home, since it was quiet and I could focus and get my work done easily without being distracted.

Question 12

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

~3 hours per day

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 was a member of my school's academic prefect committee, which took up about an hour per week. I also volunteered for a refugee tutoring program in term 1 which took up 2 hours per week.

Question 14

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

I cut down my hours at work to only one 4-5 hour shift per week so I would have more spare time for studying and tutoring. I generally tried to keep my Saturday and Sunday nights free to spend with my family or socialise, so I would wake up early every day (yes, even on weekends) so I could make the most of the day and get my studying out of the way in the morning.

The following questions relate to a typical week in which 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 wrote my notes for my subjects as the year went on, adding notes from my textbooks, notes from my teachers and those from TSFX. By the time I had finished learning the course materials (mid-late term 3) I had comprehensive sets of notes that I could start studying from right away. To prepare for the exam I would revise my notes whenever I had the chance, and more importantly, I did lots of practice exams for my subjects.

Question 16

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

I dedicated 2-3 hours of study per day in the weeks leading up to exams. I spent the bulk of my time preparing for the subjects I struggled with (Literature) and less time for my strong subjects (Specialist).

Question 17

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

When studying for exams, I would get up early and sit a practice exam. I would take a break after I finished to relax and then check my answers for the exam, making sure to revise the concepts I got wrong. After this I would have lunch and take some time out for myself, then get back to studying, mostly going through challenging questions from past exams.

Question 18

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

No, I decided to dedicate most of my time to studying for exams.

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 reading text aloud helped me to understand it better and remember it. However, my favourite technique was teaching the materials to other people. This forced me to explain concepts and really tighten my understanding of them, so I wouldn't have them memorised, but logically understood, which in my opinion is better than memorising facts. I explained the concepts to my classmates who didn't understand them, to my family members who were willing to listen, and even to my dog.

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 studying for my school's Unit 3 exams about 2 weeks before. I started preparing for my Unit 4 exams right from the start of the year, always trying to learn concepts to VCAA exam standard and studying for tests etc. using past exam questions. This proved to be very helpful and rewarding when exams started as I had been preparing with exam style questions for the entire year and was able to anticipate the types of questions that would be asked and know exactly how to structure them to get full marks.

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?

Yes, there was a particularly daunting application question in my Biology exam and I had no idea what the answer was. Rather than wasting time on it, I moved on and finished the rest of the exam and then went back to this question. After spending a few minutes calming down and thinking about the question, noting key words and trying to relate them back to concepts learned that year, I was able to answer the question without any trouble. A similar thing happened in my Chemistry exam on a really standard/simple question, but I think it was just the stress of the exam situation getting to me. I moved on from the question again and when I had time I came back to it and had no difficulties at all that time.

Question 23

Did you study across the Term 2 school holidays? If yes, what did you spend the bulk of your time doing?

Yes, I spent most of my time going through the study design and making sure I understood all the topics and key points I had studied up to that point. After that, I spent a lot of my time studying Unit 4 materials and concepts so I would have a solid understanding of them when they were taught next term.

Question 24

If you did not study across the Term 2 school holidays, do you believe that your workload and stress levels would have been reduced if you did engage in some study?

N/A

General Advice

Question 1

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

The most difficult aspect of VCE was definitely having to learn so much new content to such a high standard and understanding, and then remembering all of it at the end of the year. I overcame this by constantly revising things we had already learnt throughout the year so I wouldn't forget about them before exams started.

Question 2

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

I would like to have spent more time socialising and going out with my friends. Whilst it was important to spend the bulk of my time studying in VCE I feel that I could have balanced my social life a bit better than I did.

Question 3

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

N/A

Question 5

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

Use your teachers! They're there to help you and are usually happy to help you. I constantly pestered my teachers to explain things to me or check my answers to questions and they were always willing to help.

Question 6

How valuable was TSFX in helping you achieve your goals?

Invaluable. Attending TSFX's lectures and masterclasses I got to hear everything from a different perspective than my teachers', and the little exam tips they constantly give out are so important to doing well, like how to structure your answers to get full marks or how to manage your time during the exam.

Additional Comments

As an experienced student who has been through Years 11 and 12, what other wisdom can you offer future students?

It's never too early to start preparing for your exams. Whilst they may seem to be miles away, they approach very fast and can be very intimidating if you haven't done the necessary preparation.