

VCE Student Profile: Charmaine Kong

Question 1

Please state your name.

Charmaine



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).

Yes. Biology

Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

Canterbury Girls' Secondary College

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
English	43	42.6
Business Management	44	42.16
Biology	40	41
Chemistry	32	36.4
Maths Methods	32	36.93
Further Maths	40	38.08

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

94.55

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Commerce Bachelor of Information Technology

Question 8

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

Monash University

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?

2 hours a night

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

School
Study
TV break
Study
Sleep

Tennis some days

Question 11

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

Home study room

Question 12

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

4 hours a 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.

Tennis 2 times a week for 2 hours
Church and Youth Group on Fridays and Sundays

Question 14

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

Create a study timetable and stick to it.
Organise my time weekly and rearrange for unforeseen events.
Go out with friends to have a break from study or study with friends to break the monotony.

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 typed up my notes for writing subjects. After I was satisfied with them I would go straight to practical work for exams. I used youtube and resources such as atarnotes to assist my learning.

Question 16

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

7 hours a day

Question 17

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

Recall of information, then practice exams. I did this for each topic. I would try to get through 2 subjects in one day.

Question 18

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

No

Question 19

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

After writing my notes I would do practice exams. For subjects such as English I found speaking a good way to learn quotes so I would talk to my dog and recall information. Seems silly but it was very effective.

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 studied the whole course before preparing for exams. I started preparing for exams 2 months before exams by doing practice 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?

I only got nervous before my first exam (English). After that the importance of exams seemed to abate.

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 tried to get at least 2 chapters ahead in each of my subjects so I was always ahead of everyone in class.

General Advice

Question 1

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

The stress and pressure to do well or to perform better than your friends really got to me. Our school is quite competitive so I found that I needed to just focus on my work and not see the VCE as a race or competition.

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 have started doing practice exams earlier. I also would have done more extra-curricular activities. I got burnt out pretty early in the year and couldn't stop procrastinating. So doing something to put your mind of study is helpful.

Question 3

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

Better teachers at school.

Clarification from examiners about the subjects.

Question 5

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

Study is not everything. It is important to do well but it is also important to have a social life otherwise you run a high risk of burning out like I did.

Question 6

How valuable was TSFX in helping you achieve your goals?

Very valuable. The lectures I attended were run by highly qualified VCAA examiners that knew their stuff and the exam requirements. I was able to clear any ambiguities I had when it came to performing well in exams.

Additional Comments

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

Don't drop all your extra-curricular activities. It is good to have something you enjoy to take your mind of study and reduce stress levels.