

# VCE Student Profile: Trung Ngo

## Question 1

Please state your name.

*Trung*



## 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).

*Mathematical Methods (CAS) (Year 10)*

*Physics (Year 11)*

*International Studies (Year 11)*

## Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

*Haileybury 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	44	44
Mathematical Methods (Yr 10)	50	50
Specialist Mathematics	44	49.69
Physics (Yr 11)	46	47.75
Chemistry	44	47.23
Enhancement Maths		5.5 increment

## Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

*99.75*

## Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

*Bachelor of Biomedicine*

**Question 8**

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

*University of Melbourne*

*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?

*Around 3 hours a weekday and maybe 4 hours each weekend  
Would typically have Saturday off*

**Question 10**

What was your typical weekday routine?

*Wake at 7.30  
School starts at 8.40  
School finishes at 3.45  
Home by 4.30  
Study from 5.30 to 10 or 11 with regular breaks*

**Question 11**

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

*In the library at school and in the backroom at home.*

**Question 12**

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

*I tried to have a timetable for school holidays. I managed to squeeze in a couple of hours every few days. Friday nights would usually be taken off.*

**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.

*Debating – around 3 hours every fortnight  
Tennis and Hockey – 2 to 3 hours every week  
Public Speaking Comps – an hour every 2 weeks*

**Question 14**

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

*I started getting into a regular routine and became more focused. I prioritised the workload and was constantly aware of how much was on.*

*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 ensured that I understood the basic by going through class notes. The details would come through by reading the textbook. After that, practise exams were most important.*

**Question 16**

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

*I stuck to around 3 hours per weekday and 4 hours on Saturday and Sunday. Again, Saturday night was usually taken off to keep refreshed.*

**Question 17**

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

*Spares during school:  
checkpoint questions and review of notes*

*After school:  
4.45pm - 7.00pm: a practice exam under timed conditions  
8.00pm - 9.15pm: another practice exam under timed conditions  
9.30pm - 11.00pm: marking of the exams and analysis of my mistakes*

**Question 18**

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

*I tried to limit them as much as possible. I definitely finished them off when the exams got closer.*

**Question 19**

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

*I tried to have a solid understanding of the mechanisms. This allowed me to know how the process worked, which made memorising easier. This also enabled me to tackle new unseen questions.*

**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 got well into by mid term 3 as the school trial exams were at the end of term.*

**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. I thought of the work I had put in and relied on the basics processes to work through the questions systematically.*

**Question 22**

Did you throw yourself back into study after the mid-year exams, or did you take a significant study break?

*I had a bit of a break after the mid years, possibly a week. After that, I started catching up for my other subjects and preparing for term 3.*

**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 caught up with all my schoolwork and then tried to get as far ahead as possible for term 3. I went through a few exam questions to be familiar with the style.*

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

**Question 1**

Which subject does this report relate to?

*Mathematical Methods (CAS)*

**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).

*I got full marks for each SAC.*

*I dropped 2 marks for the school trial exam 6 weeks before the final exams.*

*In the 07 VCAA exams, I got full marks for Exam 1 and dropped 3 marks for Exam 2.*

**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?

*I was always hopeful.*

**Question 4**

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

*The application of calculus to analysis questions.*

**Question 5**

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

*I probably spent an entire weekend preparing for each SAC. It was probably a total of 10 hours preparing for each one. ie. Questions from the text, criteria, past SACs.*

**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).

*The teacher, VCAA syllabus and my own research probably best prepared me for the SACs.*

**Question 7**

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

*N/A*

**Question 8**

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

*I attended some TSFX lectures and classes. They were extremely useful in going through the material thoroughly. We were exposed to many analysis questions, which gave valuable experience for the exams.*

**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?

*Probably not. The lectures were extremely beneficial to consolidate everything that was learnt throughout the year. They helped to build on that knowledge to tackle specific exam questions.*

**Question 10**

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

*My teacher and the lecture programs provided an abundant amount help when required. My teacher, especially, was able to provide extra help outside of class and help fix early weaknesses.*

**Question 11**

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

*I tried to stay ahead as much as possible. I attempted to do all the questions in the text and repeated them if I got any of them wrong. Taking advantage of the school holidays to review the work and look ahead provided a massive advantage.*

**Question 12**

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

*I stayed on top of the work throughout the year and so did not have to cram when the big assessments came.*

**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.

*N/A*

**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?

*No. I just reviewed my notes from class and the tsfx notes provided at lectures. They were priceless, reinforcing everything that we learnt.*

**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?

*Yes, both tsfx and A+ Publishing notes were very good in giving me different points of view on the same topics.*

**Question 16**

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

*I went through around 20 Exam 1 papers and 20 Exam 2s papers.*

**Question 17**

Which exam papers did you work through?

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

*VCAA past papers back to 2000*

*Heffernan*

*Neap*

*TSFX*

*MAV*

*IARTV (CSP)*

*A+ Publishing*

*Kilbaha*

**Question 18**

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

*Yes, I did all my practice exams under exam conditions with reading time.*

**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?

*N/A*

**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?

*Mostly all the questions had been seen before, but a few did show up that were a bit new. However, I tried to relate them back to the basic foundations. I just worked through them systematically. They were a bit similar to some of the Heffernan and TSFX practice questions.*

**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, during practice I timed myself to try to leave around 15mins checking time. Luckily I had 15 mins to check in the final exam.*

**Question 23**

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

*I just used the basics strategies of going back to reread the question after answering it and ensuring that everything that is asked is answered.*

**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?

*N/A*

**Question 25**

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

*My teacher, the textbook and tsfx lectures.*

**Question 26**

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

*Start preparing for exams early. Try to start trial exams by mid term 3. Ask for help from your teachers when needed. They can provide valuable one-on-one assistance. Don't be afraid to make mistakes when practising exams. They are important learning tools to help you avoid them when it really counts.*

## General Advice

**Question 1**

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

*The stress of knowing most assessment tasks count towards your final score. I just tried to relax and think of the tiny tasks at hand, I did my best to study continuously and not just when assessments came up. That took a lot of pressure off.*

**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 probably have structured my time better to avoid procrastination. I wouldn't have 'saved' exams for the end of the year. There is an abundant amount, and they need to be done early. That way, you can analyse the repetitive mistakes that you keep making.*

**Question 3**

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

*The importance of having a balanced diet, routine and sleeping pattern.*

**Question 4**

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

*The VCE Notes website.*

**Question 5**

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

*Be conscientious - study continuously throughout the year. Don't cram.*