



St Bede's College

General Achievement Test

Preparing for the GAT: June 18 2024

What is the GAT?

The General Achievement Test is a **test of general knowledge and skills** in these broad areas:

- Written communication and Numeracy skills
- Science and Technology
- Humanities and the Arts

If you're enrolled in one or more VCE, or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence, you are expected to complete Section A and B of the GAT.


If you are enrolled in Senior VCE VM, you're expected to complete Section A only, unless you are also enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence.

Source: VCAA General Achievement Test: <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/general-achievement-test/Pages/Index.aspx>



Purpose of the GAT

GAT results:

- Ensure students can demonstrate they meet the Victorian Literacy and Numeracy Standards,
 - Check that school-based assessments have been accurately delivered and assessed,
 - Check that external assessments have been accurately assessed.
- 



STANDARDISING
YOUR SAC
MARKS



EXAM MARKS
ACCURATELY
REFLECT YOUR
LEVEL

GAT EXPLAINED

What is the purpose of the GAT? How does it impact on VCE scores?

The image is a collage illustrating the GAT exam. It features a laptop keyboard in the top left, a whiteboard with handwritten notes on the right, and a GAT exam paper in the bottom left. The central text is overlaid on the whiteboard background.

**GENERAL
ACHIEVEMENT
TEST (GAT)
PART 1**

Handwritten notes on the whiteboard include:

- GAT MARK
- EXAM MARK
- 50
- 20
- GOOD THING 😊
- WORK HARD IN IT!

The GAT exam paper in the bottom left shows the title "General Achievement Test" and a table with columns for "Question Number", "Mark", and "Total".

Question Number	Mark	Total
1	10	10
2	10	20
3	10	30
4	10	40
5	10	50

Purpose of the GAT

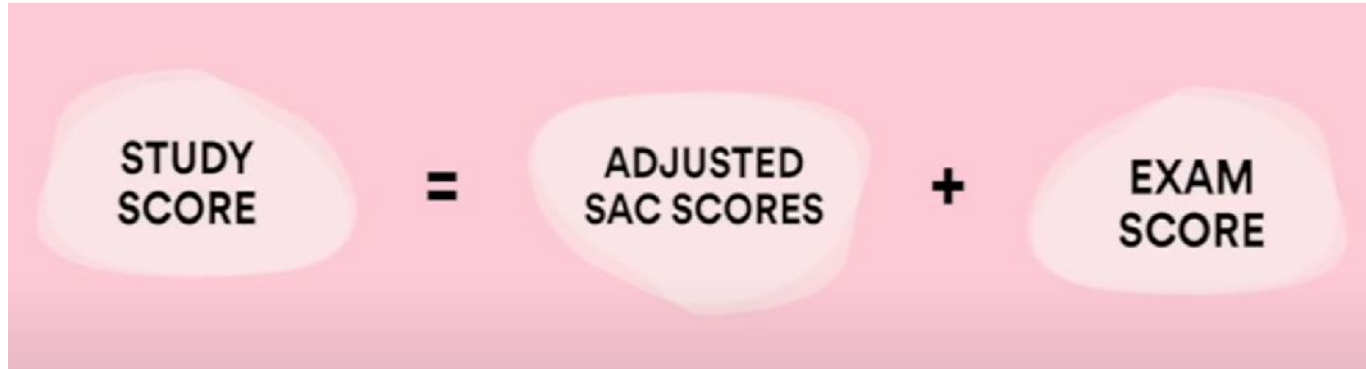
GAT results:

- Help calculate Derived Examination Scores
- The GAT can *count* towards a your VCE results – but only ever in a positive way

There is a close correlation between receiving good GAT results and academic achievement.

Source: VCAA General Achievement Test: <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/general-achievement-test/Pages/Index.aspx>

Importance of the GAT: What is an Adjusted Study Score?



Student	Rank	Original SAC Score (Internal)	Adjusted SAC Score (internal)	Exam Score (External)
A	1	90	95 ↑	95
B	2	85	90 ↑	90
C	3	83	89 ↑	89
D	4	80	78 ↑	74
E	5	70	74 ↑	78

Blue arrows indicate score adjustments: vertical arrows point up from the original to the adjusted SAC score for each student. Horizontal double-headed arrows connect the adjusted SAC score to the exam score for students A, B, and C. For students D and E, blue arrows cross between the adjusted SAC score and the exam score, indicating a swap.

How to Complete the GAT

Permitted and required materials


The following materials are permitted or required to sit the GAT:

- **an English and/or bilingual printed dictionary may be used - BRING A DICTIONARY!!**
 - A thesaurus or a combined thesaurus-dictionary is **not** permitted
- a blue or black pen for the two Writing Tasks
- a pencil and eraser for responses on the Multiple-Choice Answer Sheet.
- a ruler to help you read graphs
- a scientific calculator is permitted in both sections of the GAT.

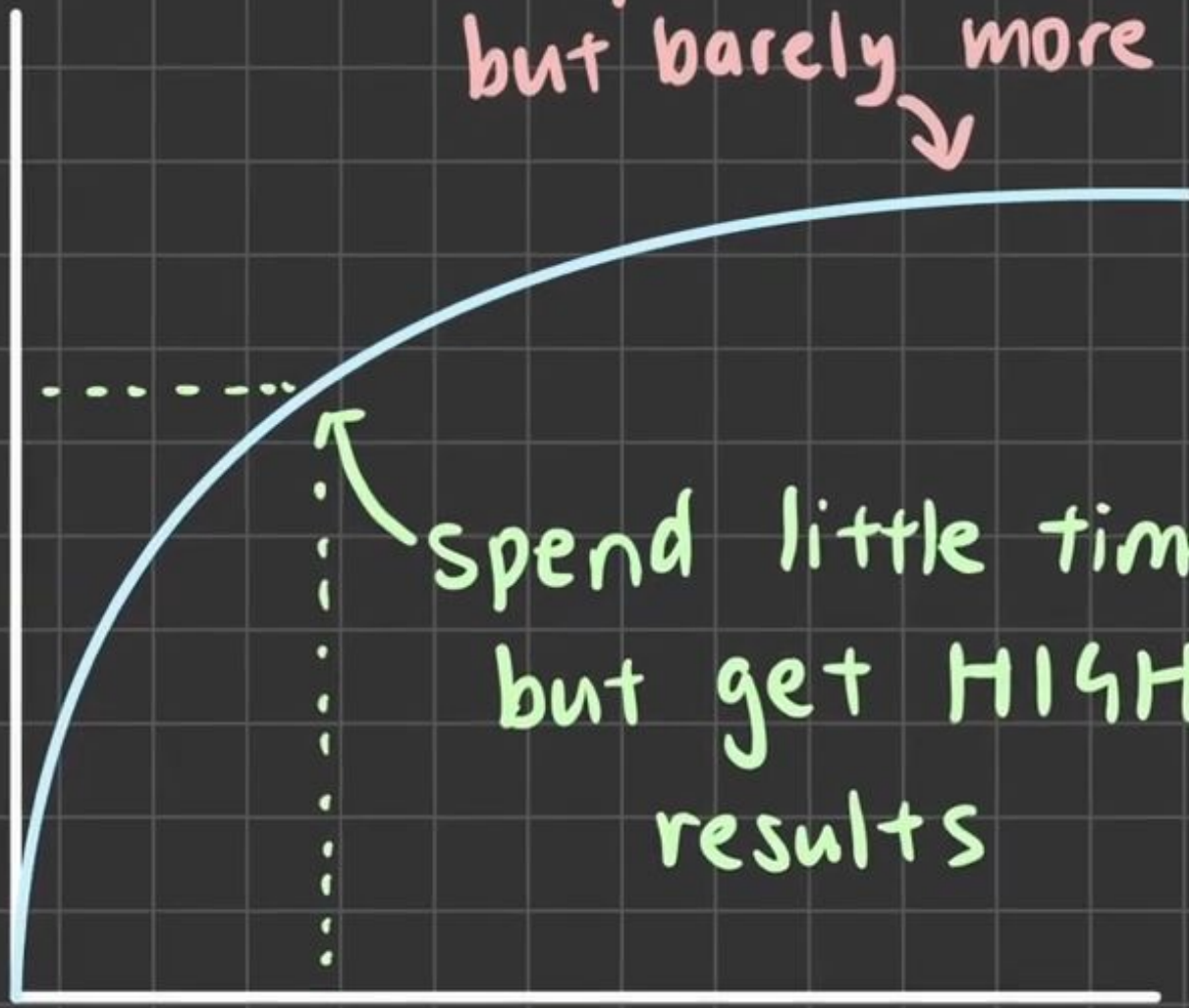
Do students need to study for the GAT?

Like any test, it is always best to be prepared, know what to expect and have some strategies for approaching the tasks and maximising your chances of success.

Make sure you complete a practice GAT over the next two weeks!

- **Submit writing tasks to your English teachers for feedback.**
 - **Use the answer sheets provided by VCAA to check your multiple choice questions.**
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RESULTS



Spend lots of time
but barely more results

Spend little time
but get HIGH
results

TIME

Section A: Literacy and Numeracy (2 hours + 15 minutes reading time) – 9:30am – 11:45am

Task	Description	Suggested time
Writing task (30 minutes)	<p>You're given a stimulus (for example, an image or paragraph of text) and asked to respond in two parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part 1 asks for short answers• Part 2 asks for a more detailed response	Part 1 – 10 minutes Part 2 – 20 minutes
100 multiple-choice questions (1.5 hours)	<p>These questions are based on situations you may encounter in daily life.</p>	50 numeracy questions – 45 minutes 50 literacy (reading) questions – 45 minutes

Break: 11:45am – 1:15pm

Section B: General Knowledge and Skills (1.5 hours + 15 minutes reading time) – 1:15pm – 3:00pm

<p>Writing task (30 minutes)</p>	<p>You're asked to develop a piece of writing presenting your point of view on different topics.</p> <p>The aim is to communicate clearly and effectively.</p>	<p>30 minutes</p>
<p>50 multiple-choice questions (60 minutes)</p>	<p>These questions cover mathematics, science, technology, humanities, the arts and humanities.</p>	<p>25 mathematics, science and technology questions – 30 minutes</p> <p>25 arts and humanities questions – 30 minutes</p>





St Bede's College

General Achievement Test

Ms. Dimitrokalis

Preparing for the GAT: June 18 2024

PART A: 9:30am – 11:45am

Section A: Literacy and numeracy skills

Section A is a literacy and numeracy assessment comprised of:

- a 2-part writing task – 30 minutes
- 50 numeracy multiple-choice questions – 45 minutes
- 50 reading multiple-choice questions – 45 minutes

~ 15 mins Reading + 2 hours writing ~

[Part A GAT Sample](#)

Let's have a look at this section

GAT SECTION A - WRITING TASK 1a and 1b

Example:


Part A (10 mins)

Write about how to ride safely for someone who is learning to ride an e-scooter.

- *What kind of language and tone will you use to instruct and inform new riders?*
- *How will you make sense of the visual information presented in a coherent and intelligent way?*

Part B (20 mins)

You have been asked to write a short guide for e-scooter riders which outlines **why** there are rules for riding e-scooters. You should refer to both the infographic and the article in your response.

- *Formal language*
 - *Clear structure relevant to the FORM - opinion piece, letter, speech*
 - *Clear and compelling reasons for safety regulations that encourage riders to follow them.*
 - *Intelligent use of the source material (you MUST refer to the resources/text provided to you).*
- 

SECTION

A

**GAT SAMPLE
RESPONSES
PART 1 & 2**



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PART B: 1:15pm – 3:00pm

Section B: General knowledge and skills

Section B is comprised of:

- an extended writing task – 30 minutes
- 25 mathematics, science and technology multiple-choice questions – 30 minutes
- 25 arts and humanities multiple-choice questions – 30 minutes

~ 15 mins Reading + 90 mins writing ~

Part B GAT Sample

Let's see how this section has changed


Section B - Writing Task 2

Take a moment to consider the material and directions for this writing task in your booklets.

While students may complete the tasks in any order it is suggested they complete the writing tasks first, then the multiple-choice questions. This would make the most effective use of the reading time.


Writing task 2

Write a point of view on the issue based on one or more of the statements.

- Develop a clear contention
 - Decide upon form - Speech, Essay, Debating Speech, Opinion Piece etc
 - Build your arguments logically
 - Support your Point of View
 - Use evidence and techniques
 - Plan your paragraphs
- 

Writing Task 2:

A high level response would demonstrate:

- Writer's position and voice is clear throughout
 - Demonstrates understanding of and elaboration upon the fundamental concepts involved in the issue
 - Convincing arguments presented to support position
 - Arguments are developed and supported with examples, anecdotes and evidence
 - Coherent development of piece (intro, body, conclusion)
 - Precise and skillful use of language including vocabulary and punctuation
 - Be lively, engaging and interesting to read
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SECTION

B

**SAMPLE
RESPONSE
GAT 2022**



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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner featuring a blue background with a yellow and red diagonal stripe, and faint, stylized white shapes that look like letters or symbols.

GAT WRITING TASK B

Another example of how to approach this task

VCE GAT PREP

SUCCESS WITH WRITING TASK TWO - A SAMPLE PIECE



Writing Task 2: What to do

Use connectives and transitions to give your work clarity and cohesion:

COHESIVE DEVICES

ADDING	SEQUENCING	EMPHASISING	CONTRASTING
and	first/firstly	above all	however
also	second/secondly	in particular	whereas
as well as	third/thirdly	especially	instead of
moreover	finally	significantly	nevertheless
too	next	indeed	alternatively
furthermore	before	notably	otherwise
in addition	after	chiefly	unlike
additionally	then	mainly	on the other hand
plus	subsequently	clearly	conversely
along with		generally	yet

COMPARING	CAUSE and EFFECT	EXCEPTIONS	ILLUSTRATING
similarly	because	but	for example
likewise	so	however	such as
as with	therefore	although	for instance
just as	thus	unless	in the case of
like	consequently	if not	as revealed by
equally	hence	except	illustrated by
not only ...	as a result	apart from	
but also	due to this	aside from	
in the same way		as long as	

Multiple-choice questions

- Students should attempt every question – you don't lose points for incorrect answers.
- Students need to use a pencil on the multiple-choice answer sheet. The instructions will show how to shade the boxes to indicate answers.
- The multiple-choice section begins with some single questions, with the rest divided into groups of questions or units.

Each unit will offer one or more pieces of information and a number of questions about that information

See [Past GATS](#)

TIPS for Multiple Choice Questions: Advice from ATAR NOTES

GAT PREPARATION – A BEGINNER’S GUIDE

By Lauren White in [Easy Reading](#)


17th of May 2016

<https://atarnotes.com/gat-preparation/>

Reading comprehension and dealing with visuals

*“For questions that require you to read a passage or look at a cartoon and then describe what the author is saying, there are some easy tricks you can use to maximise efficiency. For starters, do a quick skim of the material, and then **read the questions!** Then, go back, and take a closer look at the material. This will ensure that you’re on the lookout for the relevant information, rather than having to keep rereading sections until you work out what you’re meant to be doing.*

Don’t be too quick to select an answer, either. Read them all, and don’t jump for one that seems ‘close enough’ on a first reading. You’re looking for the most correct option, and it may take a couple of rereadings before you find it.”



HOW TO APPROACH THE READING QUESTIONS



TIPS for Multiple Choice Questions: READING COMPREHENSION

The passage below is the beginning of a short story.

Besides the neutral expression that she wore when she was alone, Mrs Freeman had two others, forward and reverse, that she used for all her human dealings. Her forward expression was steady and driving like the advance of a heavy truck. Her eyes never swerved to left or right but turned as the story turned as if they followed a yellow line down the centre of it. She seldom used the other expression because it was not often necessary for her to retract a statement, but when she did, her face came to a complete stop, there was an almost imperceptible movement of her black eyes, during which they seemed to be receding, and then the observer would see that Mrs Freeman, though she might stand there as real as several grain sacks thrown on top of each other, was no longer there in spirit.

5

10

2 The description suggests that Mrs Freeman hardly ever

- A admitted defeat.
- B won an argument.

- C thought of herself.
- D kept to her line of argument.

3 The passage gives the impression that Mrs Freeman was

- A crude and unsubtle.
- B lazy and complaining.

- C enthusiastic but misguided.
- D strong-minded but gracious.



TIPS for Multiple Choice Questions: Advice from ATAR NOTES

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Maths and data interpretation

“If you’re not doing Maths in VCE, you’re still required to answer these questions, but they won’t have a big impact on the potential standardisation of your scores. But it pays to think of these kinds of questions as being ‘logic-based’ rather than ‘maths-based.’ They may involve ‘x’s and y’s and $(n-1) \times (n-2)$ ’s, but you should quite easily be able to work out what’s going on.

*And, as always, be sure to read the question **carefully**. There’s a big difference between ‘which of these statements is true,’ ‘which of these statements is the most true,’ and ‘which of these statements is not true.’*

DON’T SHADE IN THE WRONG BUBBLES!

Your Turn:

- You may use the hard copies that we have provided for you as practice papers.
 - There is no answer booklet as yet for the 2023 GAT
 - We do have a second practice set of GAT papers that do have a corresponding answer booklet. We have purchased these for use by St Bede's Students.
 - Your teachers will post these for you on your English Google Classroom.
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