



Year 10 Semester 1 Exam Preparation – You need to know about prerequisites!

Semester 1 Exams are approaching all Year 10 students. While exams are always important, your Year 10 Semester 1 exams are especially so! **Your Semester 1 Grade and Exam result are used to determine your Year 11 course selections.** They are seen as being the best indicator of your potential to be successful in your Senior School course.

You need to do as well as possible! Get ready to show us what you are capable of!

Why do ATAR (University Preparation) courses have prerequisites?

When the latest version of the Senior School Course Booklet is published you will find the prerequisites for each of the ATAR courses offered in Year 11. You will also find the same prerequisites given at the top of each course description. For example – Chemistry ATAR. To get a “Green Light” in the Subject Selection Online (SSO) program, a student would need to have a B grade in Science and have an “Adjusted” score of 65%. A list of all the prerequisites can be found further on in this document.

Pre-requisites required for this course-



Science B grade/ Exam 65%

Prerequisites are based on historical data and the experience of the Head of Learning Area and teaching staff. For example to be successful at ATAR Chemistry a student would clearly have to be passing Year 10 Science well (around 65% in major tests and examinations) as well as demonstrating attributes such as a positive work attitude, strong work ethic, commitment and a history of homework completion. **The reality of ATAR courses is that they require students to have BOTH ability and work ethic. Each ATAR course requires students to complete at least 3 hours of homework/ study per week.**

If your child has not demonstrated this ability and commitment in Year 10 then they will receive a “Red Traffic Light” next to these courses and will NOT be able to select the course online. Students and parents who wish to choose a “red traffic light” course will need to meet with a course counsellor in term 3 to discuss the “Course Disclaimer” process.

Why do the prerequisites use “adjusted” exam scores?

The exam mark given in the prerequisites is an “adjusted score”. The exam score is the most appropriate indicator of student ability. New exams have to be produced each year (for obvious reasons) and while Heads of Learning Area and teachers attempt to produce examinations of a consistent standard there is always going to be a degree of variability. As a result I have instructed Learning Areas to “Adjust Raw Exam Scores” to align the prerequisite cut off exam values (e.g. 65%) with student ability. This alignment will involve applying a linear shift of several percentage points up or down to ensure that the prerequisite cut off of 65% lines up with the appropriate student.

Another issue requiring adjustment of raw exam scores is that within a Learning Area there can be different ability groups including General students, SBAE and Gifted and Talented students. The scores of all of these different ability groups have to be adjusted to align them to a common scale.

Please note that it is the “Adjusted Exam Score” that will appear in the Semester Report. Students will be aware of their “raw” exam score and it is important that they do not confuse the two. On occasions the raw score will require little or no adjustment.



What are the prerequisites?

The latest version of the Senior School Course booklet will not be published until the end of Term 2. The prerequisites however, have already been determined and can be found in the table below. While the exam scores may be adjusted to some extent, a raw total is a good indicator.

STANDARD PREREQUISITES TO STUDY TERTIARY (ATAR) COURSES IN YEAR 11

ATAR Courses (Year 11)	Year 10 Course General/ SBAE/ Extension	Grade	Adjusted* Exam Score
Accounting and Finance	Mathematics	B	65%
Applied Information Technology	English	B	65%
Biology	Science	B	60%
Chemistry	Science	B	65%
Computer Science	Mathematics	C	65%
Drama	English	B	60%
Economics	Society & Environment	B	65%
English	English	B	65%
Literature	English	B	70%
French	French	B	65%
	English	B	65%
	Students studying French should also be studying ATAR English		
Geography	Society & Environment (General)	B	65%
Human Biology	Science	B	60%
Modern History	Society & Environment	B	65%
	Note – Modern History students must also be studying: Year 11 ATAR English		
Physics	Science	B	65%
Psychology	Science	B	60%
Politics & Law	Society & Environment	B	65%
Physical Education Studies	Science	B	60%
	Physical Education	B	60%
Visual Art	English	B	65%
	Year 10 Art	B	
Mathematics	Year 10 General Mathematics	C	65%
APPLICATIONS	Note – All GAT/ SBAE/ Extension students can select Applications.		
Mathematics - METHODS	Year 10 GAT/ SBAE/ Extension	B	65%
Mathematics - SPECIALIST	Year 10 GAT/ SBAE/ Extension	B	75%

My child wants to go to University – do they need to do a full ATAR course (4 ATAR courses)?



Several of our Universities now offer pathways into University courses that **do not require students to have an ATAR score. The minimum ATAR score for University entry is 70. So unless you are confident of passing**



ALL your ATAR courses then consider an Alternative Entry Pathway.

These pathways are ideal for students who struggle with the rigour of a full ATAR program but who have the potential to succeed at a range of University courses.

I would encourage you to explore the options by following some of the links below or by making an appointment with our Careers Advisor – Ms Maree Marcon. Here are a small range of options for you to explore:

Portfolio Entry courses – these programs allow students to enter a range of courses at the start of the University year.

[Portfolio Entry into ECU](#)

[Portfolio entry into Curtin](#) [Portfolio entry into Murdoch](#)

University Preparation Courses/ Enabling Programs

University Preparation Courses prepare students for entry into University Courses. They give students additional skills in essay writing, research skills and a great transition ideal for many students. Check out the details but very often there is no cost involved and students can be ready to commence their courses mid year if not earlier. Some links to get you started include:



Curtin University

[ECU University Preparation Course](#) [Curtin University – UniReady Enabling Program](#)

.... And there are more. Please explore options with the Universities themselves or by speaking to Ms Marcon.

So what do I do now?

Prepare for your Semester 1 Exams! Do your best and show us what you can do.

Make sure you are at the Year 10 – 11 Parent night (first Tuesday of Term 3)

Speak to teachers about how you can get the best result.

For career advice see Ms Marcon, Ms Baker or myself.

Good luck for your Semester 1 Exams

Mr. Goyder

Associate Principal – Senior School