



BEHIND THE ACTION

Welcome to Term 3!

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KEY DATES

TERM THREE STARTS
22/7

TERM THREE ENDS
27/9

TOM'S CHECK IN

In the blink of an eye, we're already in Term 3!

As Trials and the HSC creep closer, I want to wish all of our Year 12 students the absolute best of luck with their upcoming exams.

I also want to thank everybody again for the amazing response to our re-branding into *Better Tuition Academy* earlier this year. It's been a very exciting time for BTA and we only have more growth and improvement on the horizon!

Wishing you all an amazing Term 3 ahead.

All the best,
Tom Downie, Co-Founder of BTA



CHOOSING THE RIGHT MATHS PATHWAY

In Years 9 and 10, students typically follow one of two streams: Core (Stage 5.2) or Advanced (Stage 5.3).

These pathways lay the foundation for the HSC courses in Years 11 and 12.

Core Stream (Stage 5.2)

- Focus on fundamental mathematical skills.
- Prepares students for HSC Standard Maths.

Advanced Stream (Stage 5.3)

- Covers more complex and abstract mathematical concepts.
- Prepares students for HSC Advanced Maths and extension courses.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Students studying the Core Stream (Stage 5.2) in Year 9 and 10 who aspire to take Advanced Maths in Year 11 and 12 may face challenges due to the differences in curriculum complexity. However, with determination and the right support, it is possible to make this transition successfully. Better Tuition Academy is here to help students bridge this gap effectively.

If your child is currently undertaking the 5.2 stream and is hoping to transition to Advanced Maths, please reach out to contact@thebta.au so that we can assist you with your goal.

How can we support this transition to Advanced Maths at BTA?

- Personalised Assessment
- Customised Tutoring Plans
- Recommended Increased Lesson Frequency
- Structured Study Plans and Resources





CHOOSING THE RIGHT MATHS PATHWAY

What's the difference?

HSC Standard Maths

focuses on practical life skills and everyday applications of mathematics. It is designed to provide students with the mathematical knowledge and skills necessary for a variety of careers and everyday life situations.

HSC Advanced Maths

prepares students for university-level mathematics and is essential for those pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields.

HSC Extension 1 and

Extension 2 Maths

are advanced courses designed for students with a strong interest and aptitude in mathematics. These courses provide a deeper and more rigorous understanding of mathematical concepts.

Standard	Advanced
<p>Practical Skills</p> <p>Real-world applications: money, taxes, budgeting.</p>	<p>Theoretical Understanding</p> <p>Prepares for university-level maths and STEM fields.</p>
<p>Benefits</p> <p>Applicable to everyday life and various careers.</p>	<p>Benefits</p> <p>Essential for STEM careers and higher education.</p>
<p>Curriculum Highlights</p> <p>Financial Maths, Basic Statistics, Measurement, Fundamental Algebra.</p>	<p>Curriculum Highlights</p> <p>Calculus, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Complex Statistics.</p>
<p>Limitations</p> <p>Not sufficient for university-level mathematics.</p>	<p>Limitations</p> <p>More study time required and less focus on practical applications.</p>

HSC TRIAL EXAMS

WHAT ARE THEY?

The HSC Trial Exams allow students to mimic the actual HSC exam conditions before their final exams take place in October.

They take place in the first few weeks of Term 3 and are conducted internally, meaning that schools individually write and mark them all within their own faculty and systems, unlike the HSC which is marked externally to the schools themselves.

The HSC Trial exams also represent the **last** of students internal assessments, meaning that once these exams are done they have **no more hand in assignments**, unless they are doing a major work.

It is after this point that students' **ranks** are locked in. In simple terms, students cannot do anything to further change or improve their marks outside of studying for the HSC itself.

HOW TO PREPARE

Students often stress about Trials, concerned about how much they should be studying and when. These are our best tips for how to prepare for the Trial Exams.

- Complete as many past papers under timed conditions as you can. These will allow you to hone your knowledge whilst improving your exam strategy.
- Treat the Trial Exams as seriously as the HSC itself. Many students brush the Trial exams off, saying that they aren't the 'real deal', however, effort put in here saves students so much stress and effort around the HSC itself.
- Make all of your study notes based on the rubric/syllabus. All subject rubrics clearly lay out exactly what students need to know, so once you can answer all of the rubric points, you're set!

Best of luck in your Trial Exams!

HSC SUCCESS BOT

We have been hard at work creating new assistive technologies to support our HSC students in their study. One of our most exciting projects has been the BTA HSC Success Bot, an AI program with its database full of knowledge from our own HSC Study Guides.

Find below some of the helpful ways our HSC Success Bot can assist:

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>01</p> <p>02</p> <p>03</p> <p>04</p> <p>05</p> <p>06</p> | <p>Access to Top-Ranking Study Guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our guides are highly regarded and usually priced at \$40 each. These top-ranking resources on Google are now accessible for free through the Success Bot. <p>Easy Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bot helps with vocabulary, techniques, quotes, and analysis for different English texts, ensuring your essays stand out. <p>Study & Organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It offers tips on how to organise your study schedule, memorisation techniques, and practice exam timing. <p>Burnout & Stress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive strategies to manage stress, avoid burnout, and create an effective study environment. <p>Study Plan Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bot helps in creating a personalised study plan and improving essay writing skills. <p>Practice Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It generates practice questions based on past HSC English exams, perfect for honing your skills for the upcoming tests. | <p>07</p> <p>08</p> <p>09</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> | <p>07</p> <p>08</p> <p>09</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> | <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|



HSC SUCCESS BOT



TRY IT NOW

EXEMPLAR ESSAY STRUCTURE

The key to a good essay starts with a good structure, but this is easier said than done. Just about every school teaches a different version of essay and paragraph structure, such as PEEL, PETAL, TEAL, or TEEL. Below, we will provide a basic essay structure that students can take into all exams and adapt to all of their needs!

INTRODUCTION

Should be around 4 sentences, totalling no more than 120 words.

- **Thesis Statement:** A strong, thematic answer to the question that also includes rubric terms.
- **Context Sentence:** Introduce the text, including its year of publication, author and form. This is also the appropriate place to perhaps include some of the text's context.
- **Theme Sentence:** Here, you should list your themes, and/or any other necessary information that helps shape your paragraphs, such as characters, form or features.
- **Concluding Sentence:** Here, you should reanswer the question in light of the additional information you've presented since the thesis, such as themes, author, and textual forms/features.

PARAGRAPHS 1-3

For an essay written under exam conditions, paragraphs should be around 200-250 words and take between 8-10 minutes to write.

- **Topic Sentence:** A strong, thematic sentence that outlines the broad topic for each paragraph. These should include rubric terms wherever possible and also include the language of the question.
- **Context Sentence:** Contextualise the theme of your paragraph to the text, in other words, clarifying for the reader how this theme (and the question) apply to your text.
- **Analysis, Evidence, Effect:** You should prepare 3 pieces of evidence per paragraph with analysis and effect in mind. In these sentences, you should present a piece of evidence along with techniques and analysis that highlights how this impacts the audience to better understand the topic presented for the paragraph. Additionally, this analysis should lead the reader to better understand your thesis and response to the question.
- **Concluding Sentence:** In your concluding sentence, you must reanswer the question in light of all of the evidence that you have presented, ensuring to use the language of the question and the rubric.

CONCLUSION

A conclusion should be no more than 100 words, around 3-4 sentences.

- **Summary Sentence:** Summarise your thesis in context of the question and your analysis
- **Theme Sentence:** Rephrase why your points were important and appropriate to the question
- **Concluding Sentence:** Reanswer the question in totality, reaching a final thematic conclusion

UNDERSTANDING ATARS

The ATAR is calculated by the University Admissions Centre (UAC) by combining a student's internal school assessments with their scaled HSC examination results, each weighing 50% of the student's total mark.

HSC examination results are graded from Band 1 to Band 6. For 2 unit subjects, such as Geography or Mathematics, the bands are ranked as such;

- Band 6 = 90 - 100 marks
- Band 5 = 80 - 89 marks
- Band 4 = 70 - 79 marks
- Band 3 = 60 - 69 marks
- Band 2 = 50 - 59 marks
- Band 1 = 0 - 49 marks



For 3 unit extension subjects, such as Mathematics Extension 1 or Music Extension, bands are graded from E1 to E4.

- Band E4 (highest)
- Band E3
- Band E2
- Band E1 (below minimum standard)

These bands are scaled on a bell curve. This means the raw mark that a student achieves from their HSC examination results are scaled by considering the student's rank in the subject in conjunction with their internal assessments.

The scaling algorithm estimates what student's marks would have been if all courses had been studied by all students. The scaling model assumes that a student's position in a course depends on the student's developed ability in that course and the 'strength of the competition'.

UNDERSTANDING ATARS

The scaling process is designed to encourage students to take the courses for which they are best suited and which best prepare them for their future studies.

UAC scales according to the performance of all the students that year, not whether they think courses are 'hard' or 'easy'.

No subject will guarantee you a high ATAR, and no subject will guarantee you to a low ATAR. The underlying principle is that a student should neither be advantaged or disadvantaged by choosing one HSC subject over another.



Once the raw marks have been scaled, aggregates are calculated for ATAR-eligible students. Percentiles, which indicate the ranking of students with respect to other ATAR-eligible students, are then determined on the basis of these aggregates. In most cases, the ranking or order of merit based on these aggregates is quite different from the order of merit using aggregates based on HSC marks.

For example, if a student achieves an ATAR of 80, then their HSC results have placed them in the 20th percentile of academic performance amongst NSW Year 12 students. It does not mean that the student has achieved an average score of 80 on assessments across their HSC.

UNDERSTANDING ATARS

Simply, the factors that contribute to a student's ATAR are:

- The student's internal assessment marks
- The student's raw HSC mark
- The student's rank in their subject's cohort
- The average of the school's cohort in relation to other schools in the state per subject

We often break this all down to "your ATAR is determined by your rank within the school and your school's rank within the state." This is often why you'll hear BTA tutors be mostly concerned about their student's ranks after exam results come back, the raw marks are simply a means of obtaining a rank.

FAQ: Can you game the ATAR?

It is important for students to choose subjects that they are passionate about. If a student performs well in a subject they are interested in, it is more likely that they will receive a higher ATAR than if they chose a subject that they think will scale well.

If a student undertakes higher-scaling subject combinations and performs well in the subjects, their HSC marks will scale up. However, if they perform poorly in high-scaling subjects, their HSC marks will not be scaled well.

Note that higher-scaling subjects are more competitive and therefore the average mark for a student in these subjects is higher than those in lower scaling subjects.

So, you can't game the ATAR.

We often see students pick certain subjects due to the misconception that the ATAR can be gamed or, more frequently, due to parental pressure. This can lead to students allocating disproportionate amounts of time and attention to these subjects as they are disinterested, ultimately pulling down their marks in other subjects.



HSC EXAM TIMETABLE

The HSC Exam timetable has officially been released, meaning that students can now appropriately plan their schedules all the way until their very last exam. The end is in sight!

The exams are scheduled to begin on the 15th of October and will run until the 8th of November. This is a crucial time for our Year 12 students, and we want to ensure they are well-prepared and confident.

We encourage all students to review the full timetable and plan their study schedules accordingly with their tutors. Our tutors are here to support you every step of the way, so please don't hesitate to reach out for any assistance.

Best of luck to all our students! Your hard work and dedication will pay off.

2024 HSC Written Exam Timetable • Week 1

	Monday 14 October	Tuesday 15 October	Wednesday 16 October	Thursday 17 October	Friday 18 October
	No exams	HSC Day 1	HSC Day 2	HSC Day 3	HSC Day 4
AM		English Advanced Paper 1 – Texts and Human Experiences 9.50 am – 11.30 am English Standard Paper 1 – Texts and Human Experiences 9.50 am – 11.30 am English Studies English EAL/D Paper 1 – Module A and Focus on Writing 9.50 am – 11.30 am	English Advanced Paper 2 – Modules 9.25 am – 11.30 am English Standard Paper 2 – Modules 9.25 am – 11.30 am English EAL/D Paper 2 – Module B and Module C 9.25 am – 10.30 am Listening Paper 10.40 am – 11.10 am*	Dance Section I Core Appreciation 9.25 am – 10.30 am Dance Section II Major Study Appreciation 10.40 am – 12 noon Engineering Studies Classical Greek Extension 9.25 am – 12.30 pm 9.30 am – 11.30 am	Community and Family Studies Latin Extension 9.25 am – 12.30 pm 9.30 am – 11.40 am
PM		Latin Continuers 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm Primary Industries (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Tourism, Travel and Events (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Chinese Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Classical Hebrew Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Korean Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm Korean and Literature 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm Armenian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Croatian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Dutch Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Filipino Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Hindi Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Hungarian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Khmer Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Macedonian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Persian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Polish Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Portuguese Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Punjabi Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Russian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Serbian Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Swedish Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Tamil Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Turkish Continuers † 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm	Music 1 Aural Skills 1.55 pm – 3.00 pm* Music 2 Musicology and Aural Skills 3.25 pm – 5.00 pm*	Agriculture 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm Korean in Context 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Vietnamese Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Earth and Environmental Science 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm Information and Digital Technology (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Chinese Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Korean Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm



HSC EXAM TIMETABLE

2024 HSC Written Exam Timetable • Week 2

	Monday 21 October	Tuesday 22 October	Wednesday 23 October	Thursday 24 October	Friday 25 October
	HSC Day 5	HSC Day 6	HSC Day 7	HSC Day 8	HSC Day 9
AM	Mathematics Advanced 9.20 am – 12.30 pm Mathematics Standard 1 9.20 am – 11.30 am Mathematics Standard 2 9.20 am – 12 noon	Ancient History 9.25 am – 12.30 pm Classical Greek Continuers 9.25 am – 12.30 pm Chinese and Literature 9.30 am – 12.30 pm Chinese in Context 9.30 am – 12.10 pm	Hospitality (VET) Kitchen Operations and Cookery Food and Beverage 9.25 am – 11.30 am Chinese Continuers 9.30 am – 12.30 pm Italian Extension 9.30 am – 11.30 am	Human Services (VET) Information Processes and Technology 9.25 am – 11.30 am French Continuers 9.30 am – 12.30 pm Japanese Continuers 9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Aboriginal Studies 9.25 am – 12.30 pm Investigating Science 9.25 am – 12.30 pm Italian Continuers 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
PM	Mathematics Extension 2 1.50 pm – 5.00 pm	Construction (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Classical Hebrew Continuers 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm Software Design and Development 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm French Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm French Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Italian Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm	Modern History 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm	Electrotechnology (VET) Textiles and Design 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm 1.55 pm – 3.30 pm	Industrial Technology 1.55 pm – 3.30 pm <i>Automotive Technologies</i> <i>Electronics Technologies</i> <i>Graphics Technologies</i> <i>Metal and Engineering Technologies</i> <i>Multimedia Technologies</i> <i>Timber and Furniture Technologies</i> Arabic Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

2024 HSC Written Exam Timetable • Week 3

	Monday 28 October	Tuesday 29 October	Wednesday 30 October	Thursday 31 October	Friday 1 November
	HSC Day 10	HSC Day 11	HSC Day 12	HSC Day 13	HSC Day 14
AM	Mathematics Extension 1 10.20 am – 12.30 pm	Business Studies 9.25 am – 12.30 pm Indonesian Extension 9.30 am – 11.30 am	Studies of Religion I 9.25 am – 11.00 am Studies of Religion II 9.25 am – 12.30 pm	Legal Studies 9.25 am – 12.30 pm Modern Hebrew Continuers 9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Biology 9.25 am – 12.30 pm
PM	Visual Arts Art Criticism and Art History 1.55 pm – 3.30 pm Indonesian and Literature 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	History Extension 1.50 pm – 4.00 pm Japanese Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Japanese Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Japanese in Context 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Spanish Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm	Science Extension 1.50 pm – 4.00 pm Financial Services (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Arabic Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm German Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Modern Greek Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Modern Greek Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Drama 1.55 pm – 3.30 pm German Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Indonesian Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm Spanish Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Economics 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm Indonesian Beginners 2.00 pm – 4.40 pm Modern Greek Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

2024 HSC Written Exam Timetable • Week 4

	Monday 4 November	Tuesday 5 November	Wednesday 6 November	Thursday 7 November	Friday 8 November
	HSC Day 15	HSC Day 16	HSC Day 17	HSC Day 18	HSC Day 19
AM	Chemistry 9.25 am – 12.30 pm	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education 9.25 am – 12.30 pm	Society and Culture 10.25 am – 12.30 pm	Physics 9.25 am – 12.30 pm	Geography 9.25 am – 12.30 pm
PM	English Extension 1 1.50 pm – 4.00 pm Retail Services (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Spanish Extension 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Design and Technology 1.55 pm – 3.30 pm German Continuers 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Automotive (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Business Services (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm Entertainment Industry (VET) 1.55 pm – 4.00 pm	Food Technology 1.55 pm – 5.00 pm	

UNDERSTANDING AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a significant part of modern education, transforming how students learn and teachers teach. One notable advancement is the development of AI detectors. These tools are designed to identify various patterns and behaviours using sophisticated algorithms. In the context of education, AI detectors are essential for maintaining academic integrity, particularly in detecting when students have used AI for their school or university work.

What are Artificial Intelligence Detectors?

Artificial intelligence detectors are systems that use machine learning algorithms to analyse data and detect specific patterns or anomalies. In the educational sector, these detectors are increasingly used to identify instances where students might have used AI tools to complete their assignments. By leveraging vast amounts of data, AI detectors can provide insights and feedback that would be challenging for humans to achieve manually.

BENEFITS OF AI DETECTORS



- **Upholding Integrity:** Ensures students submit original work & teaches the importance of originality and proper citation.
- **Efficiency:** Quick and accurate scanning of large volumes of text.

CHALLENGES

- **False Positives:** Incorrectly flagging original work as AI-generated.
- **Accuracy:** Varies with the quality of algorithms and data.



UNDERSTANDING AI



FUTURE TRENDS

- **Advancements:** Increasing sophistication of AI detectors.
- **Impact:** Greater integration in education, enhancing learning environments.

Emerging Trends and Advancements

The field of AI is rapidly evolving, with new advancements emerging regularly. Future AI detectors may become even more sophisticated, offering deeper insights and more accurate detections.

Potential Impact on Teaching and Learning

As AI detectors become more integrated into education, they have the potential to significantly impact teaching and learning methods. By providing real-time feedback and insights, these tools can help create more adaptive and responsive educational environments.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence detectors are transforming the educational landscape by enhancing academic integrity and streamlining the detection of AI-generated content. While challenges such as false positives, privacy concerns, and the need for human oversight exist, the benefits of these tools are undeniable. As AI technology continues to advance, the role of AI detectors in education is set to become even more significant, paving the way for a more efficient and effective learning experience.

BTA ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Don't forget to check us out on **Tik Tok and Instagram** for more educational content! We're sharing all of our best tips and tricks for new Year 12 Students, as well as information on texts, memes, and discussions about school and the education system.

We love getting to share all of our knowledge online, and it'd be great to see more of the BTA community there! Drop a comment saying hi if you see us on your For You Page, or follow the QR links on the right to go straight to our pages.

With Trials and the HSC growing closer, we are helping all of the new Year 12 students get prepared for their last term by sharing all of our online resources, advice, and experiences over on the BTA TikTok.

Engaging with students from all over NSW, and even all over Australia, during the HSC over the past few years has been amazing - we are creating a community where students can come together to share their frustrations, questions, and successes, and seeing that flourish has been incredibly fulfilling.

If you have any questions about the HSC, English Texts, or school in general, head over to our TikTok and shoot us a message!

Follow the QR Codes below to see what's happening!





CONTACT US

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Have any questions, suggestions, or feedback about the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!

Send an email to contact@thebta.au with any thoughts or queries.



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