

The VCE study score and the ATAR: how both are calculated

From SAC marks to a study score (VCAA, Score aggregation)

Step	What happens	What it means for the student
1. Graded assessments	Unit 3 SACs, Unit 4 SACs, the examination (two in mathematics); at least two needed, with an S in Units 3 and 4	Every graded assessment counts; missing one is fatal
2. Statistical moderation	The school's SAC score distribution is aligned to the same students' examination scores; order within the school is unchanged	A generous school's SAC marks are pulled down to its exam level; rank in the school is what the SACs decide
3. Standardise and weight	(score minus state mean) / state SD, times the weighting; up to three added	The exam is 50 to 60% of every study and sets the level of the rest
4. Rank and scale	Totals ranked; ranks normalised to mean 30, SD 7, truncated at 0 and 50	Most scores 23 to 37; about 9% at 40+, about 2% at 45+; it is a position, not a mark

Weightings (from the study designs)

Study	Unit 3 SACs	Unit 4 SACs	Examination(s)
English and EAL	25%	25%	50%, 3 hours
Biology, Chemistry, Psychology	20%	30%	50%, 2.5 hours
Physics	30%	20%	50%, 2.5 hours
Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics	20%	20%	Exam 1 (1 hour, technology-free) 20%; Exam 2 (2 hours) 40%
General Mathematics	24%	16%	Exam 1 30%, Exam 2 30% (1.5 hours each)
Foundation Mathematics	40%	20%	40%, 2 hours

Why no study score calculator exists, and what to use

[] A study score is a rank among every student in Victoria who took the study that year; it cannot be known from SAC marks

[] Use: the weighting (where the marks are), the school's history (what class rank gave a 40 last year), and past exams marked to the examination report (state mean per question)

From study scores to the ATAR (VTAC, 2025 tables)

Study	30 scales to	35 scales to	40 scales to	Study	30 scales to	35 scales to	40 scales to
Specialist Mathematics	43	48	51	Biology	31	36	41
Mathematical Methods	35	41	46	Psychology	28	34	39
Chemistry	34	39	44	English	28	33	39
Physics	32	37	42	General Mathematics	28	33	38
English Language	33	38	43	Business Management	27	32	38
Literature	31	36	41	Food Studies	23	29	35

Aggregate = best English scaled score + next three highest + 10% of the fifth and sixth. Minimum aggregate in 2025: 70.00 = 120.42; 80.00 = 135.65; 90.00 = 155.19; 95.00 = 169.85; 99.00 = 192.10; 99.95 = 211.42.

Estimate the ATAR by hand

Fill the six studies with real or target study scores, look up each scaled score on the VCE scaling table (the other printable, or the 2025 column above for the main studies), apply the rules, read the ATAR from the table. At most two English and two Mathematics studies in the primary four.

Worksheet

Study	Study score	Scaled score (table)	Counts as (primary four / increment x 0.10)	Points to aggregate
English study (required)			primary four	
			x 0.10 =	
			x 0.10 =	
Aggregate (sum)			ATAR from the table	

2025: minimum scaled aggregate for each ATAR

ATAR	Min. aggregate	ATAR	Min. aggregate
40.00	80.53	88.00	150.51
50.00	94.06	90.00	155.19
55.00	100.64	92.00	160.53
60.00	107.03	94.00	166.49
65.00	113.64	95.00	169.85
70.00	120.42	96.00	173.56
75.00	127.68	97.00	178.10
80.00	135.65	98.00	183.81
82.00	139.00	99.00	192.10
84.00	142.52	99.50	198.20
85.00	144.45	99.90	208.08
86.00	146.36	99.95	211.42

What moves the ATAR

[] Five study-score points in a primary-four study: about 2 to 3 ATAR points near 90; in a sixth study (an increment) about 0.2

[] The exam sets the moderated level of the SACs: a study is won in the exam and in the class rank, in that order

[] Scaling cannot be chosen: a 25 in Specialist (36) equals a 35 in Biology (36); rank in the study comes first

From

sciencewithshobha.com/blog/vce-study-score-explained-how-the-vcaa-calculates-it-from-sacs-and-the-exam-why-no-calculator-can-predict-it-and-an-atar-estimator-from-the-2025-vtac-tables/