

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST (GAT) 2022

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

The General Achievement Test (GAT) assesses skills in mathematics, science, technology, the arts and humanities.

The GAT will also assess your skills against new literacy and numeracy standards introduced this year.

Sitting the GAT is an opportunity to demonstrate your literacy and numeracy skills – essential skills that show you're ready to move on to further study, training or employment. It will give you confidence that your skills are at the right level to support you, whatever you choose to do after school.

GAT results are also important for checking that VCE external assessments and school-based assessments have been accurately and fairly assessed and can be used if you have a Derived Examination Score (DES) approved.

The GAT will take place on **Wednesday 7 September** in two parts:

- **Section A** assesses skills in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy.
- **Section B** assesses general knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, technology, the arts and humanities.

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

Task	Description	Suggested time
Writing task (30 minutes)	You're given a stimulus (for example, an image or paragraph of text) and asked to respond in two parts. <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)	These questions are based on situations you may encounter in daily life.	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

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

Who is required to sit the GAT?

- 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 VCAL, 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.
- If you're an International Baccalaureate student in your final year of studies and you want a notional Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) calculated, you will need to complete Section A and B.

What to bring

You may take an English and/or bilingual printed dictionary into both sections of the GAT, but not a thesaurus or a combined thesaurus-dictionary. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted.

A scientific calculator is permitted in both sections of the GAT.

You will need pens, pencils and an eraser to complete the GAT.

Do I need to study for the GAT?

You don't need to do any special study for the GAT. Questions are based on things you will have already learnt throughout school and things you may have experienced in life. For example, a writing question might ask you to draft a letter to an employer; and a numeracy question might assess your ability to understand your hourly pay rate.

You can view sample questions and past GAT papers online at vcaa.vic.edu.au/gat

Support and Special Examination Arrangements

If you have an illness, injury or disability you can apply for Special Examination Arrangements such as rest breaks or extra working time to help you do the GAT. Talk to your school who can apply to the VCAA on your behalf.

If reasonable or appropriate arrangements can't be made or you miss the GAT because of an unexpected injury, illness, personal trauma or other serious event, the VCAA may give you an exemption. Your school can ask for an exemption on your behalf.

Getting your results

In December you'll receive a GAT Statement of Results as part of your overall results package which will indicate whether you have met the literacy and numeracy standards.

If you don't meet the literacy and numeracy standards in 2022, you can resit the GAT in 2023.

Tips for completing the GAT

Read all information carefully.

Follow the rules for sitting the GAT. You can read the rules in this document or online at vcaa.vic.edu.au/GAT

Complete the tasks in the order they appear in the question book.

It is important you attempt all sections of the GAT. Even if you do not complete a section in the time allocated, you should move onto the next section when indicated during the test.

Try to pick out the key ideas and information in each question.

For multiple-choice questions, try to quickly reject choices that appear to be wrong, then read the question again, and select the answer most likely to be right. You won't lose marks for incorrect answers.