

HSC Student Profile: Dana

Question 1

Please state your name.

Dana

Question 2

Which year did you complete your HSC?

2009

Question 3

Did you study any Year 12 HSC subjects (accelerated) in Year 11?
If yes, please list the subject(s).

No

Question 4

At which school did you complete Year 12?

North Sydney Girls High School

Question 5

What scores did you obtain for each of your Year 12 studies?

| <i>Subject</i> | <i>Assessment Mark</i> | <i>Examination Mark</i> | <i>HSC Mark</i> | <i>Performance Band</i> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Advanced English</i> | <i>91</i> | <i>91</i> | <i>91</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Extension 1 English</i> | <i>48</i> | <i>46</i> | <i>47</i> | <i>E4</i> |
| <i>Chemistry</i> | <i>93</i> | <i>91</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Economics</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>93</i> | <i>93</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Legal Studies</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Mathematics</i> | <i>92</i> | <i>94</i> | <i>93</i> | <i>6</i> |

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

98.40

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Laws

Question 8

Which university/tertiary institution are you enrolled in/planning to attend?

University of Sydney



The following questions relate to a typical week where there were no major examinations forthcoming:

Question 9

How many hours did you dedicate to study (outside school) across a typical week?

Usually around 1-2 hours for a weekday and 2-3 hours on Saturdays and Sundays

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

I would get up at around 7:20 and catch the train to North Sydney station before catching a bus to school. I would usually get to school at 8:45. Classes ended for me at 3:15 on most days, and I would get home by 4:30. Usually I would take a break until about 6, and then do whatever homework I had until about 7. Then I would have dinner; relax for a while before getting back to work at around 8:30. If I didn't have any assignments pending, I would usually spend most my time at home completing maths homework

Question 11

Where did you engage in the bulk of your study on a day to day basis?
(eg. bedroom, school library etc).

In my room

Question 12

How many hours did you dedicate to study across school holidays?

The Christmas holidays and term 1 holidays involved very little work, mostly just any pending homework or assignments given specifically to be done during those holidays.

Term 2 holidays mostly involved note writing, and I would typically work for 1-2 hours every second day. Term three holidays (i.e. the holiday before trials) and term 4 holidays (i.e. the holiday before HSC) involved substantially more work. Typically I would work 3-4 hours a day, every day.

Question 13

Did you engage in any extra curricular activities across Year 12? If yes, please indicate the activities and how much time was dedicated to each activity.

In year 12 I participated in various volunteer events. These were generally one-day events for charities such as selling merchandise for the National Breast Cancer foundation at the Easter Show.

Question 14

How did you balance/organise your study with other commitments like work or sport or family?

It wasn't particularly hard, considering I did not have a part-time job. As long as I organised my time, it was easy to fit everything in.

The following questions relate to a typical week where there were major examinations forthcoming:

Question 15

How did you approach the task of preparing for the exam? (For example, would you start the process by writing notes? If so, which resources did you use to compile materials etc).

I always made notes for my subjects, either handwritten or typed. This process of summarisation served as revision of the content required and also allowed me to put the whole course into perspective and identify aspects of the syllabus which I didn't completely understand. Afterwards, I would attempt practise questions from past papers.

Question 16

How many hours did you dedicate to study (outside of school) in the weeks leading up to the exams?

In the weeks leading up to exams I would normally spend 3-4 hours every day studying. For the couple of days directly prior to the exams, the time spent would typically increase to around 8 hours.

Question 17

What was your typical day to day routine when studying for the exams?

I would usually study in the afternoon, beginning at about 1pm. I would study in one hour segments with 1 hour breaks in between.

Question 18

Did you continue your extracurricular activities in the weeks leading up to the exams?

No

Question 19

Which technique(s) did you use to learn materials "off by heart"? (eg. writing notes, re-writing, reading texts etc).

I think some subjects require memorising, yet others require extensive practise such as mathematics. A combination of both is what I typically use i.e. make notes, and then do practise questions.

Question 20

When did you start preparing for your TRIAL exams?

2-3 weeks prior to trials

Question 21

How much study did you engage in between the TRIALS and the final HSC exams?

I took a few days off after trials and did around 2 hours a day until the final two weeks leading up to HSC. During those 2 weeks I studied for about 4 hours a day.

Question 22

Do you feel that you invested enough time into study between the Trials and the final HSC exams?

Would you have benefited from additional study across this period?

I think I could've always definitely done more, but the amount of study I did covered pretty much everything I needed to know. And in order to do significantly better in the HSC, I would have needed to do double my efforts in order to gain those extra few marks.

Question 23

Did your Year 12 peers at school invest in significant study in the lead up to the TRIALS?

Yes

Question 24

Did your Year 12 peers at school invest in significant study between the TRIALS and the final HSC exams?

Yes

Question 25

Were the TRIAL exams an accurate reflection of the difficulty and style of questions encountered in the final HSC exams?

Yes, they were identical in structure.

Question 26

Did you suffer from anxiety attacks or mind blocks in any of your exams? What did you do to alleviate or get through these situations?

No

Questions Relating to the Subject You Have Been Asked to Write About

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

Legal Studies

Question 2

Based on your results and performance throughout the year, were you confident that you would obtain a Band 6 result? If not, what Band or overall mark were you anticipating/hoping to receive?

Yes, I expected a band six

Question 3

Which section/topic of the syllabus did you find most challenging?

Optional focus group: Family

Question 4

How much time did you spend preparing/working on school assessments?

For every school assessment I would spend around 15 hours completing.

Question 5

What was the best source of help/information for your assessments? (Text book, teacher, friends, lectures, tutorial programs, private tutors, internet, own research etc).

Text The textbook, my teacher and internet research were the most common and helpful sources I used.

Question 6

Did you regularly use a private tutor in this subject? If so, did you find this assistance beneficial?

No

Question 7

Did you attend a tuition college/tutorial classes/lectures to assist in this subject? Did you find this assistance beneficial?

No

Question 8

If applicable, do you feel that you would have obtained the same score if you did not use tutors/coaches/lectures/tuition programs?

N/A

Question 9

What was your best source of help across the year (teacher, tutor, lecture program etc)?

The textbook

Question 10

Did you do anything differently study wise in comparison to your peers at school?

As far as I am aware - not significantly

Question 11

Do you feel that you had an advantage over other students in this subject? If so, what was this advantage?

No

Question 12

Compare the subjects for which you obtained your lowest and highest HSC Marks/Bands.

Detail what you did differently between the two subjects and if applicable, provide your opinion on why you obtained such different scores.

I scored extremely similar marks in all my subjects (i.e. the range for overall HSC marks was 91-93 and I scored 92 in legal studies). My study patterns were also very similar for most subjects (with the exception of maths) and involved note-making and practise questions)

Question 13

As part of your HSC/TRIAL exam preparation for this subject, did you spend time writing up a comprehensive set of notes from which to learn? If yes, how many hours do you believe you invested into this task?

No I did not. I had notes for topics 1 and 2 from previous terms and after considering the amount of content involved in the course, I decided that it would be more time-efficient for me to download notes from boredofstudies.com and attempt past papers.

Question 14

Did you purchase/acquire quality notes to assist in your examination preparation? If yes, did you find this acquisition beneficial? Why/why/not?

I used notes from boredofstudies.com they were relatively good.

Question 15

How many examination papers did you work through as part of your exam preparation?

I looked through/did 8-10 past papers.

Question 16

Which exam papers did you work through?

(List the names of the entities/organisations that produced the exam papers).

Past HSC exam papers

Past North Sydney Girls high school trial papers

Question 17

Did you work through any exam papers under exam conditions? If yes, how many?

No

Question 18

How much time was invested into preparing for the TRIAL examination?
How much time was invested into preparing for the final HSC examination?
Which examination did you find more difficult and why?

For both Trials and HSC exams I worked 3-4 hours a day.

The most difficult exams for me, in terms of being the most stressful were probably advanced English and mathematics. English due to the time constraint and maths because I generally find it a more difficult subject.

Question 19

Had you previously covered all the questions/concepts that appeared in the exams or did the exam paper contain materials that you had never seen before? If so, did this make you panic in the exams?

I think I covered everything that came up. At least, similar things.

Question 20

Did you complete every question in the TRIAL exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes

Question 21

Did you complete every question in the final HSC exam? If no, please estimate how much of the paper you did address.

Yes

Question 22

Did you use any special exam techniques when working through the actual exams?

I just go through the exam, doing the questions I'm most confident in first, and then going back to complete the remaining questions

Question 23

If applicable, what mistakes did you make when preparing for the TRIAL exams?
Did you do anything differently when preparing for the final HSC examinations?

I prepared the same way.

Question 24

Which resources did you find most helpful when preparing for the exams?

Past papers

Question 25

What advice would you provide to those students aiming for a Band 6 in this subject?

Legal studies is not a hard subject, but there is definitely a lot of content. In order to do well, you really must allocate enough time to read and digest the information. Otherwise, much of it is just common sense. Just read through your notes thoroughly for revision and do a few practise papers.

General Advice

Question 1

What was the most difficult aspect of completing your HSC studies and how did you overcome this?

Motivation throughout the year was probably the most difficult thing. By having friends who are also working and having a goal in mind really helps in keeping motivated.

Question 2

If you had your time over again, would you do anything differently across Year 11 and/or 12?
Why/Why Not?

I would probably just manage my time a little better and do a few more practise papers. Basically, just do what I did but a bit more, since I found my study methods to be relatively effective.

Question 3

Is there anything that you wish you had known about before entering the HSC?

I think I was pretty well-informed going into the HSC. There weren't many surprises.

Question 4

Are there any resources/services/products that would have assisted you in your studies had they been available?

Not really

Question 5

If you had one piece of advice to give future students, what would it be?

Organise your time and start early. Cramming for 8 hours a day will never be as effective as working 2-3 hours a day for a few more days.

Additional Comments

HSC seems like the most important thing you'll ever do in your life, and it may be the most important up to that point. But there'll definitely be more challenging and important things to come; it's just that none of them will probably be as stressful.