

HSC Student Profile: Jason

Question 1

Please state your name.

Jason Ngai

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?

Fort Street 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>English Advanced</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Maths Extension 1</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>E4</i>
<i>Maths Extension 2</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>E4</i>
<i>Physics</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Chemistry</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Accounting</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>6</i>

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

99.05

Question 7

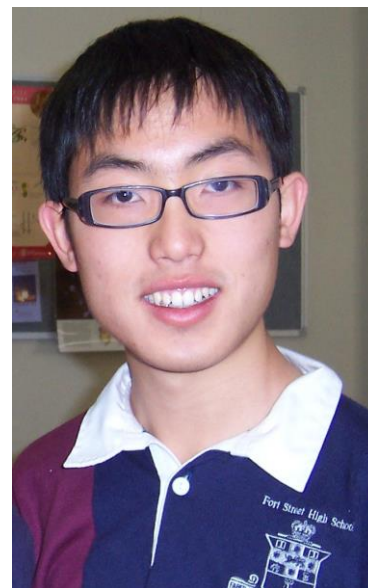
Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery

Question 8

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

University of New South Wales



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?

*Monday, 2 hours study normally
Tuesday, Thursday, no study
Wednesday, Friday Tutoring 2 hours
Saturday, 3 hours study
Sunday, 5 hours tutoring*

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

*Monday
Wake 7.00
Travel School 7.30-8.00
Casual Sport 8.00-8.45
School 8.45-3.15
Travel Home 3.15-4.00
Snack/TV 4.00-5.00
Study 5.00-7.00
Dinner 7.00-7.30
Free Time 7.30-11.30
Sleep 11.30-7.00*

*Other weekdays
Wake 7.00
Travel School 7.30-8.00
Casual Sport 8.00-8.45
School 8.45-3.15
Travel Tutoring/Home 3.15-4.00
Tutoring or Free Time 4.00-7.00
Dinner 7.00-7.30
Free Time 7.30-11.30
Sleep 11.30-7.00*

Question 11

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

Study room at home

Question 12

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

Did not study in holidays except the break before Trials (July Holidays) and the HSC exams (October Holidays) everyday two past papers (2 or 3 hours each + self-marking time, with free time equal to time of test in between) Did not take any days off.

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.

*Karate 3 hours a week until Trials (early July), full of regret have not picked it back up.
Chinese School 3 hours a week until HSC (early October)*

Question 14

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

Moved study around to suit my other commitments up until trials, then vice-versa up until HSC.

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).

Understanding the concept first for Physics & Chemistry, then writing long in-depth notes with the aid of HSC Online, Textbooks, then doing questions from textbook, schoolwork, past papers, then writing short concise notes, study those when possible, do lots of questions under exam conditions(time limit, word space limit, examination guidelines for marking) 1-2 weeks before exam.

Understanding the process of doing questions for Maths Extension 1&2 and Accounting, doing questions from textbook and past papers, do more questions, then do more questions, then do the hard ones under exam conditions(time limit, word space limit, examination guidelines for marking) 1-2 weeks before exam.

Pay attention to teacher for English and actually read the stuff he/she gives you, suck up to him/her, regurgitate what he/she says in exam, hope for the best.

Question 16

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

1-2 weeks before exams, 1-3 hours per day depending on when I was satisfactory with progress, never studied the night before an exam, did something relaxing and slept earlier than normal.

Question 17

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

For subjects other than English, do lots of questions, note the hard ones, do the hard ones under exam conditions (time limit, word space limit, examination guidelines for marking). Do this for 1-3 hours depending on progress, free time rest of the day. For English split a generic essay into sections. Rewrite a section as many times as it take to remember it by heart.

Question 18

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

Yes before Trials. No, leading up to Trials, HSC.

Question 19

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

Actually understanding what is going on for Maths Ext 1&2, Physics, Chemistry, Accounting and applying it to questions. Re-writing generic essays many times, over and over again for English.

Question 20

When did you start preparing for your TRIAL exams?

2.5 weeks beforehand

Question 21

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

2x 2-3 hour past papers each 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?

Yes, I got what I set out to achieve and got into the course that I wanted. No.

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?

Maths Ext 1&2, yes, most parts were accurate.

Chemistry, Physics, No, too much focus on certain parts of syllabus and not enough on other parts.

English, yes, all parts were generic questions wanting generic answers, except the belonging essay required only ONE related text.

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, do hard questions under exam conditions and learn to focus for 2-3 hours, which is what is required for Trial/HSC exams.

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

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

Mathematics Extension 1

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

Question 3

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

Binomial Theorem

Question 4

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

Average 12 hours a week for BOTH Mathematics Extension 1&2 studying at home, time at tutoring and working during school hours.

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).

Private Tutors, Past papers with solutions

Question 6

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

Yes, 2 hours per week, definitely helped with learning and providing additional questions (especially weird and hard ones)

Question 7

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

Yes, only when Tuition College hadn't taught subject examined in next test. Yes, definitely the best way to learn.

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?

No, I don't think so.

Question 9

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

A tie between tutor and extensive list of past papers with solutions.

Really doing Maths Ext 2 was the biggest help for Maths Ext 1 which seemed really easy and paled in comparison.

Question 10

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

Did questions under exam conditions, always showed full, clear and concise working, confirmed that alternate methods to the one taught by textbook or school teacher were acceptable.

Question 11

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

Yes, having experience of doing an extensive range/list of questions enabled me to 'see' the links and next step required in questions. Doing questions under exam conditions meant that my working was always shown at the level required and I did not freak out when I saw a hard question because I had tackled so many hard ones before. I made less silly mistakes because I was used to concentrating for the full 2 hours.

(Biggest reason again was doing Maths Ext 2, but not all people want or can to do this)

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 enjoyed and understood Maths Ext 1. I understood the marking guidelines. I knew what could be tested in exams. The process of answering questions was clear. There were abundant resources available from the internet, school, friends & tutors. Teachers & tutors were helpful and consistent in their marking.

I did not dislike English Advanced but I disliked the way it was examined. I had no idea what was required and the marking guidelines made no sense. I wrote generically and that was what they expected at my school examinations but not at the HSC examination. There were no resources for Area of Study and limited resources for the rest of the modules. I am also hopeless at creative writing, probably the main reason why I did not achieve Band 6. Teachers were unhelpful and inconsistent in their marking.

Also, I felt that I could do better in Maths Ext 1 so I probably spent more time on it rather than what I thought I would do worst in (English Advanced)

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 didn't think that notes would work for maths. Repeatedly doing questions was more effective for me.

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 purchased Success One solutions to past HSC exams and acquired past papers from various school Trials from the internet/friends/tutors/teachers.

Question 15

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

Pre-Trials – around 10. Between Trials and HSC examination – around 30.

Question 16

Which exam papers did you work through?

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

Success One (Past HSC)

Sydney Boys, Sydney Grammar, James Ruse, North Sydney Boys, Sydney Technical, Scots, Barker and various other schools past paper Trials. (In order of most helpful)

Question 17

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

All of them.

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?

Pre-trials, ~10 past papers + marking and checking mistakes = ~30 hours

Pre-HSC, ~30 past papers + marking checking mistakes = ~90 hours

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?

Pre-trials, I hadn't covered some material which was to be taught after trials (Permutations & Combinations, Binomial Theorem) I skipped these questions because they were not going to be tested in trials.

Pre-HSC, no all of the material had been covered.

Question 20

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

Yes, all of it.

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, but 'fudged' 3 marks worth of questions. (wrote something down even though it might not be correct or make sense)

Question 22

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

Always show full working, quote formulas to get part marks in case of silly mistakes. If there is time, 'fudge' the questions you can't do (write something down even though it might not be correct or make sense)

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?

Focused too much on Maths Ext 2 questions and did not pay as much attention as I should have to the genuine Maths Ext 1 questions e.g. Tide motion for simple harmonic motion, auxiliary angle method, parametric

Question 24

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

Past papers with solutions

Question 25

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

Do as many questions as you can, take the hard ones and make an exam and do it under exam conditions. Do not cram the night before an exam, start 1-2 weeks beforehand

General Advice

Question 1

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

Spending too much time organising loose sheets of paper. Use spiral note books, pull out sheet you don't need, keep the ones you do in a chronologically order.

Question 2

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

Less study in year 11, it doesn't count and good results may give you a false sense of security.

Question 3

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

By the time of the HSC, if you want to get a Band 6 you will need to know just as much if not more than what your teachers know (quote from physics teacher)

Question 4

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

*More past papers on Forensic option topic for Chemistry
More model answers for modules in English Advanced*

Question 5

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

Relax in the period between exams, cram 1-2 weeks before exam, sleep earlier and do not study the night before the exam.