

HSC Student Profile: Lauren

Question 1

Please state your name.

Lauren

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?

Kinross Wolaroi 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>5</i>
<i>English Ext 1</i>				<i>4</i>
<i>General Maths</i>				<i>6</i>
<i>PDHPE</i>				<i>6</i>
<i>Music 2</i>				<i>5</i>
<i>Modern History</i>				<i>5</i>
<i>History Extension</i>				<i>E3</i>

Question 6

What was your final ATAR?

94.20

Question 7

Which tertiary course did you enrol into?

Bachelor of Law/Biomedical Science

Question 8

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

Bond University



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?

I would study between two or three hours every school night (so Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday). I would typically take Saturday off and use Sunday during the day if I needed to.

Question 10

What was your typical weekday routine?

I would wake up about 6.30-7am and be out of the house by 7.45 as I had a 60 kilometre drive to get to school (so about 45 minutes). I would finish school but was involved in extracurricular activities most days of the week, so would get home between about 5-6pm every night. I would be asleep by midnight most nights unless I had a LOT of study to get through.

Question 11

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

I did most of my study in my bedroom as I found using the school library was too distracting.

Question 12

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

I would probably do about 2 hours of study a day in school holidays. This included working on major works (for music and extension history). Depending on where I was up to, on some days I might spend more time, and some days I might spend less time. I would take evenings off to spend with the family and also take the weekends off unless I was desperate to spend more time on work.

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.

Yes, I did engage in extra curricular activities. These were mainly playing in my school's symphonic winds band (as I was leader). This took up about 2 hours a week. I also played soccer over winter on my school's 2nds team. This involved two hours of training twice a week and a game every week which took three hours. I also played other musical instruments including the piano, saxophone, trombone and guitar which took up my time with practice. I also did my mental health certificate which took about 12 hours to complete. I also did 10 hours of community service with the RSPCA.

Question 14

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

I balanced all my commitments by ensuring I had not signed up for too much. I thought through everything before I signed up for it. I was meticulous with organization and ensured that I spent enough time on study and family. If this wasn't happening, I reassessed my priorities.

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 started my exam preparation by writing notes. To structure the notes, I would use the syllabus for the course, which can be found online. I would just work on the dot points, and write headings under the dot points. Following this, I would try to condense the notes down and ultimately memorise the dot points.

Question 16

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

I only spent about 2 hours a day in holidays leading up to exams. I figured that if I did this consistently, it would be better than not working during the term and then doing 8 hours a day. I took weekends off as well.

Question 17

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

My day to day activities were the same as normal when studying for exams. I would engage in the same activities (whether that be school, or school holidays), ensuring that I spent enough time studying for exams.

Question 18

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

I stopped them in exam week, but other than that, continued them in the weeks leading up to exams.

Question 19

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

I would put the major points in the syllabus into a song, to ensure I knew the broader concepts that I would be examined on. I re read my dot point summaries and did practice questions to ensure I could apply them in a practical setting.

Question 20

When did you start preparing for your TRIAL exams?

Over the entire year-I did dot point notes as I learnt the dot points, so that I would be prepared when the time came.

Question 21

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

The same two hours a day I always did. I feel that this was important for me as it kept stress levels down, and I still got all the work I needed to do done.

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 believe additional study would have stressed me out. I was able to grasp the concepts that I needed to with the time I spent, but consistency was undeniably the key. I was glad I was able to consistently spend the two hours a day early on as it made life easier in that crucial period.

Question 23

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

No, they did not study so much earlier on.

Question 24

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

Yes, they spent a lot of time studying later on-up to eight hours a day!

Question 25

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

Our trial exams were slightly harder than the HSC exams I felt, but had the same stylistic features as the HSC. There were no surprises in the HSC exams as we were prepared quite well.

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, anxiety wasn't a problem. I just ensured that I was well prepared and focussed on the bigger picture. One exam is not the be all and end all.

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

Question 1

Which subject does this report relate to?

General Maths

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?

I was not 100% confident that I was going to get a band 6 mark. I thought I might get a band 5 mark.

Question 3

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

I found that the financial maths was the most challenging thing to learn as you couldn't simply take the formulae and merely use them-you had to know what they meant and what they did. It took a lot of memorising and yelling at my calculator to truly get a grasp on this area.

Question 4

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

It depended on what it was. Nonetheless, I rarely deviated from the 2 hours of study a day rule.

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).

My best sources of help were the syllabus and also my teacher. If I had questions AFTER reading the syllabus and trying to work out the concept for myself, I would go to my teacher.

Question 6

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

I did not get any tutoring for this subject.

Question 7

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

Yes, I went to the TSFX summer school and winter schools. They were very beneficial.

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?

I probably would have obtained the same score, but stressed a lot more doing it.

Question 9

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

My best source of help over the year was definitely my teacher.

Question 10

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

I consulted the syllabus a lot more and attempted different practice examinations to my peers.

Question 11

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

I feel that by simply knowing the content I was being examined on, I had an advantage. I considered it 'studying smart' instead of 'studying hard'.

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.

My highest mark was PDHPE with 94, and my lowest was English Extension 1 with 72. This was partially because I had quite a bad day when attempting my English Extension exam, and that the course is not as structured as PDHPE. Not knowing the dot points was something I found quite difficult.

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 write a comprehensive set of notes, but ensured I had a good grasp of the methodology. Following this, I implemented these skills in a practical setting-by attempting lots of questions until I was sure I had the skill mastered.

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?

No

Question 15

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

A lot-probably about 20

Question 16

Which exam papers did you work through?

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

Board of Studies past HSC papers, Kinross Wolaroi School past Trial Exam and half yearly papers, Catholic Schools Organisations past papers.

Question 17

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

Yes. About two or three.

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?

Probably 3 or 4 hours a week in the weeks leading up to trials

This was the same for the final HSC examination

I found the trial examination more difficult as it had more difficult concepts and questions in it.

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?

Yes, I did cover all concepts in the exams. There were no surprises at all.

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?

No, I just took my time and worked through the paper calmly. If there was a multiple choice question that I wasn't completely sure of, then I would use a process of elimination.

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 didn't make too many mistakes. I got a little bit stressed before the trials and rushed the exam a little. In the HSC exam, I used all the time available to me and went through the paper and each of the questions as many times as I could

Question 24

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

Past exam papers and the textbook for concepts that I needed to go over.

Question 25

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

DON'T STRESS, WORK THROUGH PLENTY OF PRACTICE QUESTIONS, CHECK THE SYLLABUS TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE CONCEPTS THAT YOU MIGHT BE EXAMINED ON AND TRY TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN TO PRACTICAL SETTINGS.