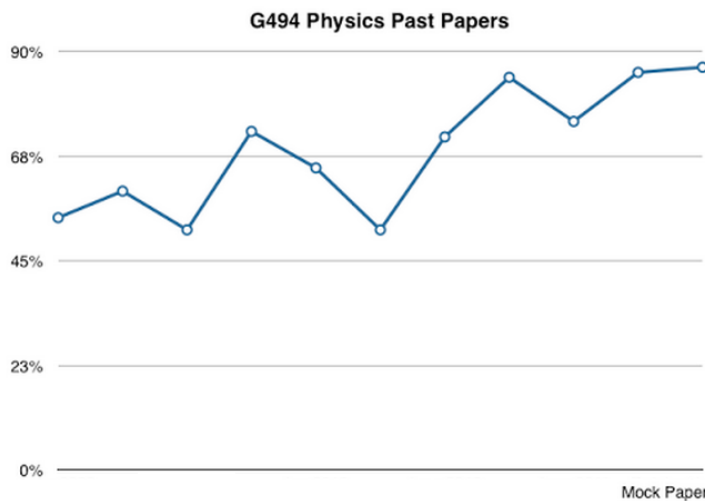




Exam/Study Tip 31: Exposure & Application

- When studying for an examination, the most effective approach is to simulate the behaviour you'll ultimately be required to perform. Therefore, always include practice exam questions and past papers in your revision sessions. This way, you can get used to the style of questioning you'll be expected to navigate, and there'll be no surprises in the exam!
- Work through as many exam papers as possible. As the graph below shows, the more exam papers you work through, the better your examination mark. Aim to complete 15 papers per subject across your VCE year.



- Become familiar with any patterns in past examination papers. Is there a recurrent theme in question styles or the topics that are being examined? If patterns do exist, use this information to determine the order in which topics should be reviewed/re-learned.
- Note what's required of you in the exam(s). Are you required to answer every question in the paper or do some sections allow you to choose between different questions?
- Don't answer questions as you would have liked them to appear, answer them as they are.

PTO

- Practice writing answers to sample essay questions. Once you believe that you've written a quality essay, ask a friend to use the exam criteria sheet and mark your paper. Make the agreed changes and then ask a different friend to mark your essay. After making the necessary corrections, hand your essay to your teacher for marking. Not only will you and your friends get the benefit of having your works assessed by your teacher, you'll see first-hand what's important when marking examinations.



- If you're aiming for the higher marks, you need to provide responses that clearly stand out above other student papers, which is a challenging task when you consider that over 45,000 students sit a VCE English examination each year! You should therefore seek exposure to as many different teachers' perspectives as possible, rather than just relying on the advice of your tutors and classroom teachers.

- Every year, hard working students don't get the marks they're capable of as they couldn't complete their exam within the available time. Other students are so worried that they'll run short of time, and speed through the paper, making avoidable mistakes or misreading questions. They finish the paper in plenty of time but in their hurry to go over their answer two more times, they miss their mistakes again!

To prevent these scenarios happening to you, sit two examination papers under examination conditions during the week before each subject exam. This will help you to determine the pace or speed at which you must work at so you can complete the paper within the available time.

- Considering that each student's ATAR depends upon how well they have performed in relation to their peers, it's important that students are exposed to as many of the resources that their subject peers are using. We therefore recommend that students acquire a copy of the most popular text books across the state, and integrate any new concepts or different applications into their learning materials.
- Read widely, and deeply. Many strong students don't get the marks they should as they weren't able to provide sufficient detail in their exam responses.
- Students often sit their examinations **unaware of marker expectations** and don't provide well-structured answers that can be awarded maximum scores. Many students also **lack sufficient knowledge** of the **common errors** made in exams, as well as the various **tricks and traps** that are used to determine which students receive the higher VCE marks. And in light of the competition in this last stage of the VCE, even the smallest mistakes in the exams can significantly reduce your ATAR results.

Therefore, work through at least 15 exam papers in each subject, and attend **quality revision lectures** that have been prepared and delivered by experienced VCE teachers and VCE exam markers.

Regards,
TSFX