



These notes describe how your school marks and ATAR course examination marks are used to calculate your combined score for each course in which you sat the ATAR course examination.

Statistical moderation of ATAR course school marks

It is possible that the same level of achievement in a course at two different schools could be measured differently, i.e. the marking scales at the two schools might not be comparable.

Statistical moderation places the school marks in a course on the *same* scale as the ATAR course examination marks at the school for that course. Because the ATAR course examination marks of students at all schools for the same course *are* comparable, statistically moderated school marks for the same course are comparable in all schools.

(Note: the statistical moderation of school marks preserves the ranking of school marks for a course in a particular school.)

For a course with both a written and a practical component, statistical moderation is applied separately to both the written school marks and to the practical school marks. ATAR course written examination marks are used for the moderation of the written school marks, and ATAR course practical examination marks are used for the moderation of the practical school marks.

Calculating combined marks for an ATAR course

For an ATAR course with only a written component, a student's combined mark for the course is the average of the course examination mark and the moderated school mark.

For an ATAR course which also has a practical component, a student's combined mark for the practical component of the course is the average of the student's practical examination mark and the student's moderated school mark for the practical component.

(Note: For non-school candidates, the combined mark for a component of a course is equal to the ATAR course examination mark the student received for that component).

Calculating the combined score for an ATAR course

A student's combined score for an ATAR course with written component only is the same as the student's written combined mark for that course.

It cannot be assumed that, for courses with both a written and a practical component, the combined marks for the written component and the combined marks for the practical component of a course are on the same scale. Because of this, the combined marks for each component of a course are statistically equated (placed on the same scale).

A student's combined score for an ATAR course with both a written and a practical component is calculated as the weighted average of the statistically equated combined scores of the two components.

Figure 1 below shows the sequence of process for calculating combined marks and combined scores.

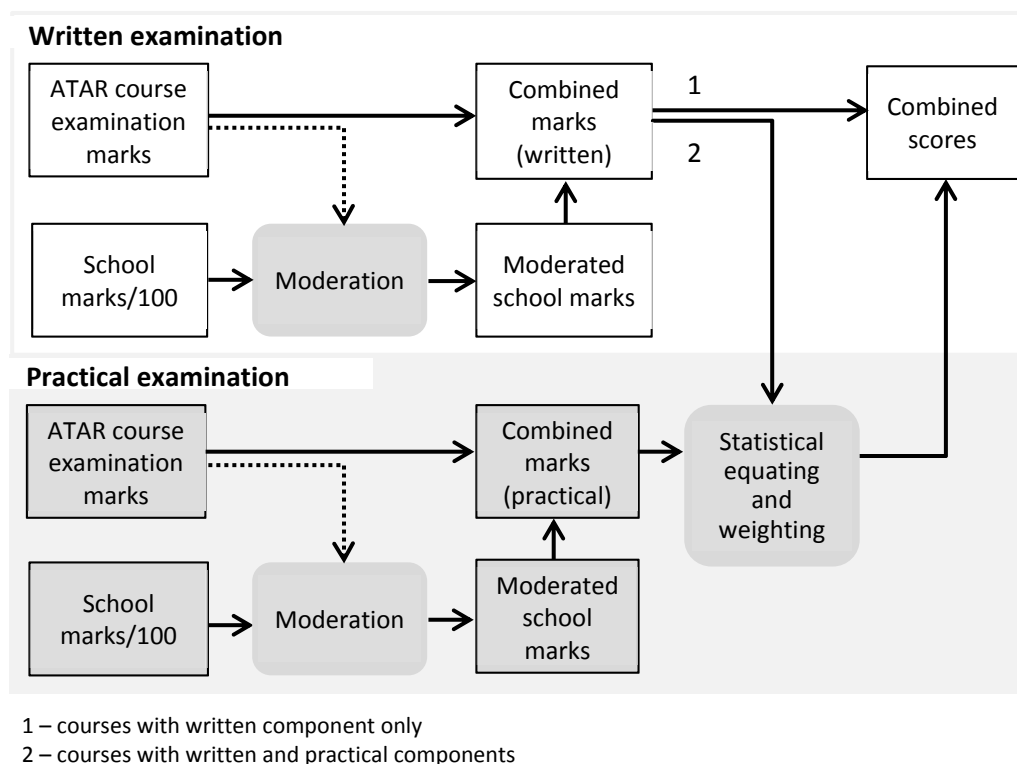


Figure 1: A schematic diagram of the Authority's post-examination procedure.

Calculating the scaled score for an ATAR course (for tertiary admission)

It cannot be assumed that the combined scores for different ATAR courses are on the same scale. Because of this, the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) applies the average marks scaling (AMS) method to the combined scores provided by the Authority and calculates 'scaled scores'.

The scaled scores from all courses are on a common scale and as such are used to calculate the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) and the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) for university admission purposes.



More detailed information about the calculation of scaled scores, the TEA and the ATAR is available on the TISC website www.tisc.edu.au.

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