

HSC (ATAR or Non-ATAR)

PATHWAY:

- Flexible approach to attaining the Higher School Certificate.
- Students have the option to choose from a variety of course combinations.
- Requirement to study a minimum of three Board Developed Courses (BDCs).
- Opportunities are available to complete a School-Based Apprenticeship and Training (SBAT).
- Students may enrol in Certificate III level courses, which can contribute to an ATAR equivalent achievement.
- Subject packaging advice is provided to support students in their course selections.
- Participation in Elevate Study Skills workshops.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).
- Maintain a strong attendance record.
- Successfully manage external commitments, such as sports and work.
- Commitment to regular home study routine.
- Complete all work placements and competencies required for VET courses.

BASE SUBJECTS:

- 2 Units of English

Plus:

- 10 Units of:
 - At minimum 2 x 2 Board Developed Courses
 - Remainder of units can be made up of BDC / BEC
- At least 4 different subjects

SCENARIO:

Anna is a Year 10 student who enjoys a variety of subjects but hasn't yet decided what she wants to do after leaving school. She values keeping her options open and knows she wants to complete the HSC. However, Anna is unsure if she wants to aim for an ATAR, as she's not certain about attending university immediately after school. Anna is considering taking a gap year, pursuing vocational training, or entering the workforce directly.

HSC Subject Selection:

Given her uncertainty about the future, Anna decides to select a mix of subjects that will allow her to develop a broad range of skills, while still giving her the flexibility to pursue different pathways after the HSC. She chooses subjects that she enjoys and is good at, ensuring that she stays engaged and motivated throughout her studies.

1. English Standard: Why? English is a compulsory subject, and English Standard offers Anna the chance to develop essential communication and analytical skills without the additional workload of the advanced course.
2. Mathematics Studies with Exam
3. Business Studies
4. Biology
5. Community and Family Studies (CAFS)
6. VET (Vocational Education and Training) Certificate III in Business Services: Why? A VET course allows Anna to gain practical skills and a qualification that can lead directly to employment or an alternative entry to further education. It also provides her with hands-on experience in a field that interests her.

Considerations for ATAR

Anna is keeping her options open regarding the ATAR. By selecting a mix of BDC - ATAR and BEC non-ATAR subjects, she can decide later whether she wants to aim for an ATAR, depending on how her interests evolve during her senior years. If she decides not to pursue an ATAR, she can still complete the HSC with a strong set of subjects that suit her interests and strengths.