**WHAT IS THE GAT?**

The General Achievement Test is a test of general knowledge and skills in:

- written communication
- mathematics, science and technology
- humanities, the arts and social sciences.

These areas are very broad.

Each represents a body of general knowledge and skills that students are likely to have built up through their school years.

Because it is a general test, no special study is required for the GAT. Students will already have done preparation for the GAT in past study of subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and History, where they have built up general knowledge and skills in writing, numeracy and reasoning. These are the knowledge and skills that will be tested.

**Why do Students have to do the GAT?**

The GAT is an essential part of the VCE assessment procedures.

All students enrolled in one or more VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT. This includes students whose only enrolment at Unit 3 and 4 level is in a VCE VET study.

Although GAT results do not count directly towards a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school assessments and examinations have been accurately assessed, and in determining Derived Examination Scores. So it is important to sit the GAT and do as well as possible on all parts of it.

The GAT is used in these ways because achievement on the GAT is a good predictor of achievement on other assessments. If students have done well on the GAT, then their achievements are likely to be high on their school assessments and examinations.

Clearly, some GAT questions relate more closely to achievement in particular studies. The VCAA takes this into account when it calculates students' expected achievements in each study for each school. For example, GAT results in mathematics, science and technology play only a minor part in calculating students’ expected achievements in humanities studies.

**What happens if I can't attend the GAT?**

While it is important for ALL students enrolled in a Unit 3 and 4 sequence to attempt the GAT, there may be circumstances that exempt a student from sitting the GAT. These include those who are:
• Vision impaired, or has an impairment in which arrangements cannot be reasonably made, given the format of the GAT - note that applications for Special exam arrangements also do apply for the GAT
• Prevented by accident, illness or other serious cause relating to their personal environment *medical certificate must be supplied if absence is from illness or injury
• Employed and cannot be absent from work- a notice is required from the employee

All documentation is passed onto the VCAA who make the final decision as to whether the student’s case warrants an exemption.

If you think you may be eligible to apply for an exemption please contact Lee-Anne D’Agostino on 8480 0211 or ldagosti@distance.vic.edu.au

If you do not attend without an approved exemption, you will have the statement ‘Unauthorized absence from the GAT’ listed on your statement of results.

How is the GAT used?

The VCAA will use students’ GAT scores as a basis for:
• contributing to statistical moderation of School-assessed Coursework
• reviewing school assessments in School-assessed Tasks
• checking the accuracy of examination marking
• Calculating the Derived Examination Scores.

Where do I sit the GAT?

If you are a school based student then you will be sitting for your GAT at your school.

If you are a DECV student then you should have already confirmed where you will be sitting the GAT with Kate Gilmartin our exam co coordinator. As a DECV student you do have 2 options:

Sitting for the SAC at DECV or at a close by secondary school.

If you do have any further questions regarding the venue for the GAT please contact Kate on 8480 0005.

I am a year 11 student at DECV but I am also doing a year 12 subject-do I need to sit for the GAT?

Yes you must sit for the GAT each year that you do study one or more year 12 subjects/units of work.
I have been granted interrupted studies and completing only unit 4 this year, do I still have to sit it?

Yes you must sit for the GAT each year that you do study one or more year 12 subjects/units of work.

I am not wanting an ATAR score as I just want to pass my VCE, so do I need to sit for the SAC?

No, the GAT is there in case there are exam concerns or other issues regarding your study scores.

How can I study for the GAT?

Do not panic. You don’t have to actually sit and study for the GAT, but you can familiarize yourself

If you would like further information on any of the following:

What is the General Achievement Test?
Information for students and parents about what the GAT involves.

How GAT relates to your coursework and examinations
Explains how the GAT is used in coursework and assessment.

Step-by-Step instructions for completing GAT
Outlines the instructions students will receive when sitting the exam, and provides tips.

Obtaining GAT Results
Explains when and how GAT results will be provided to students.

GAT Archive - Question and Answer booklets
Copies of past GAT question booklets and answers.

Then go to the following link