



12 August 2022

Dear St Joseph's College families

VCE GAT Exam 2022

On Wednesday September 7, 2022 all students studying a unit 3/4 subject and Senior VCAL students (Year 12) will be required to complete the VCAA General Achievement Test (GAT). Please note, all Year 11 and 12 VCE and VCAL students have no scheduled classes on this day. The GAT takes precedence over Structured Work Placement and VCAL students are asked to make appropriate arrangements for the day.

From 2023, the VCAA is transitioning VCE and VCAL to a new integrated senior secondary certificate. As part of the reform of the VCE and VCAL system, Victorian senior secondary students will this year have their literacy and numeracy skills measured against new standards in a redeveloped GAT. Further information pertaining to the GAT can be found via the following [link](#).

The GAT is split into two sections. Section A will assess literacy and numeracy skills, and section B will assess skills in Mathematics, Science, Technology, the Arts and Humanities, with an increased focus on critical and creative thinking skills. Students enrolled in Senior VCAL will sit section A only. All students enrolled in one or more VCE subjects or scored VCE VET Unit 3/4 subjects will be required to sit sections A and B. Please note the following exam times:

- Section A - 9.30am - 11.45am
- Section B - 1.15pm - 3.00pm

The GAT will commence at 9.30am and conclude at 3.00pm. All students are expected to arrive at the college and assemble in front of the library no later than 9.00am for an attendance roll and exam briefing. At the conclusion of exam A, students are welcome to use the library and common room for study. Lunch and drink will be provided following section A of the GAT exam.

Earlier this term, all eligible students have been provided a GAT Brochure which details the logistics and expectations of completing this exam. The brochure can be accessed via this [link](#).

If students would like to complete the previous year exam, a copy of the 2021 GAT will be available from the library. Once completed please submit to Mr Emmet Brown for correction. Alternatively, you can visit the [VCAA website](#) to access question books and answers.

We ask that both you and your child please read and check all of the enclosed information thoroughly prior to the GAT. Please take special notice regarding general expectations and materials permitted into the exam. All students will be expected to remain in the exam room for the entire duration of reading/writing time and cannot leave the exam room until instructed to do so by the Chief Supervisor.

We hope that you find this letter and the enclosed information useful in helping your family prepare for and navigate the upcoming GAT Exam. Please be aware there will be further correspondence specific to end of year VCAA exams and arrangements.

ENRIGHT CAMPUS
154 TWELFTH STREET
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

MERCY CAMPUS
CORNER RIVERSIDE AVENUE
& ELEVENTH STREET
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

VCAL CAMPUS
8-10 LANGTREE PARADE
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

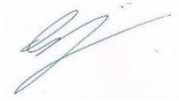
T 03 5018 8000
E reception@sjcmda.vic.edu.au

sjcmda.vic.edu.au

We wish all students the best of luck and every success in their efforts during their GAT Exam this year.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the college on 5018 8000 or mficarra@sjcnda.vic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Mr Mel Ficarra
Head of VCE/VET/VCAL

General expectations for students attending all VCE Exams including the GAT Exam

All students attending any exams must report to the designated School Support person who will mark off your names for attendance purposes.

- Full college uniform is to be worn for the duration of the GAT.
- Students will need to make their own travel arrangements to allow them to get to and from the exam venue at the appropriate times.
- **Students MUST arrive at the Sacred Heart Hall by no later than 9:00am.**
- Students are asked to check the GAT Exam seating plans displayed at school prior to the GAT and again outside the Sacred Heart Hall on the day.
- Students will be asked to assemble outside the Sacred Heart Hall in specific areas identified by large yellow letters (A to J).
- Please go to the assembly area with the letter that corresponds to the row in which you will be sitting (as shown at the top of each row on the seating plans). Here you will report to the staff member in charge of your group who will mark the attendance roll.
- You will **NOT** be able to leave any bags (including electronic devices such as mobile phones, smart watches etc.) in the Sacred Heart Hall area; all bags and other personal items not permitted into the exam room must be left secured in locked, student lockers.
- No mobile phones or any other electronic communications devices such as iPods etc. are permitted into the exam room under any circumstances. If any of the aforementioned items are found during an exam period, the VCAA can enforce significant penalties to students found in the possession of these items.

If students arrive late to the GAT, they are to meet the designated School Support person outside of the exam room and wait until they are asked to enter the exam room by the Chief Supervisor. If there is a problem, Mr Mel Ficarra can be contacted on 5018 8068.

Authorised Materials and Equipment

- As per VCAA guidelines you are only permitted to bring allocated items into your examinations.
- Water bottles must be clear, no labelling and a maximum volume of no more than 1.5 Litres. No other drink or food is permitted into the exam room (unless students have special permission to do so from the VCAA).
- All stationery items must be in a clear plastic pocket.
- Students cannot borrow equipment from other students or the supervisors in the exam room, so you must be organised and prepared with what you will need.
- All written exam responses must be in either **blue or black pen only**. Multiple choice answer sheets will require students to use **grey lead pencil** to complete them.
- Calculators are not allowed to be used in the GAT Exam.
- Dictionaries are allowed to be used in the GAT Exam, but these must be checked prior to entering the exam room. Dictionaries cannot have a Thesaurus in them and must not contain any writing or highlighting in them.

For specific details on authorised materials please see the following [link](#).

Special Exam Arrangements

If students have applied and been successful with a special provision application, they will have been provided with an exam advice slip summarising the provisions that you are entitled to. The Chief Supervisor has a copy of these advice slips and is aware of all students with a special provision.

Emergency Special Exam Arrangements

Emergency Special Exam Arrangements can be organised to accommodate any special needs that can arise. If students are in this position, our advice is that you please contact **Mr Ficarra directly at the college as soon as possible on 5018 8068**, so that an application for Emergency Special Exam Arrangements can be made.

Derived Exam Score

Students cannot apply for a Derived Exam Score for the GAT Exam however, if students attend the exam and feel they have performed very poorly due to an event that may have disrupted their ability to undertake the exam, they can apply for a Derived Exam Score. Please contact Mr Ficarra as soon as possible, after the exam for further details. These applications must be lodged with the VCAA no later than seven (7) days after a student's last exam in any examination period.