



4 May 2023

Dear St Joseph's College Families

VCE GAT Exam 2023

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All students studying a VCE and VCE VM subject will be required to complete the VCAA General Achievement Test (GAT) on Thursday June 15. Please note there are no scheduled classes for Year 11 and 12 VCE or VCE VM students on this day.

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. Please note the following exam times:

- Section A - 9.00am to 11.15am - **All VCE & VCE VM students (including accelerated and scored VET)**
- Section B - 1.15pm to 3.00pm - **VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3 – 4 sequence (VM Students not required)**
- A detailed timetable can be accessed via the attached [link](#)

VCE students will commence the GAT at 9.00am and conclude at 3.00pm. VCE VM students will commence the GAT at 9.00am and conclude at 11.15am. All students are expected to arrive at the college and assemble in front of the library no later than 8.30am for an exam briefing and attendance roll mark. At the conclusion of Exam A, students are welcome to utilise the library and common room for study. Lunch will be provided following Section A of the GAT exam.

When available, all eligible students will be provided a GAT brochure which details the logistics and expectations of completing this exam.

If students would like to complete the previous year exam, a copy of the 2022 GAT will be available from the library. Once completed please submit this to Mr Brown for correction. Alternatively, you can visit the [VCAA website](#) to access question books and answers.

During the GAT, 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 at the end of writing time by the Chief Supervisor. We ask that both you and your child please read and check all the enclosed information thoroughly prior to the GAT. Please take special notice of the general expectations and materials permitted for the exam.

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 later in the year specific to end of year VCAA exams.

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 contact me at the college on 5018 8000 or email mficarra@sjcmda.vic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mel Ficarra
Head of Senior Pathways

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 your name off the roll for attendance purposes.

- Full college uniform is to be worn for the duration of the GAT.
- Students must arrive at the Sacred Heart Hall no later than 8.30am.
- Students are asked to check the GAT exam seating plans displayed at the college 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 letters.
- 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.
- Bags are not permitted 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 smart watches, air pods 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 go to Mr Ficarra's office and wait until they are asked to enter by the Chief Supervisor.

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 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 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 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 their exams but then feel that they have performed very poorly because of an event that may have disrupted their ability to undertake that exam, they can apply for a Derived Exam Score. Details of how to go about this can be obtained from Mr Ficarra, as soon as possible after the exam. These applications must be lodged with the VCAA no later than seven (7) days after a student's last exam in any examination period.