

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES



PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2012 – FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Alan Harper | Director of Studies

The Trinity family can be well pleased with the results earned by our HSC boys in the 2012 examinations. Consistent hard work and good scholarship do pay off, and there will be many families celebrating with their sons. Those boys who completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme will need to wait until early in the New Year for their results.

I am often asked by both boys and parents what effect it has on our HSC boys' results that so many of their contemporaries now choose to do the IB. The answer is in two parts. For any individual boy, there is no effect whatsoever. The HSC is marked to standards, and each student receives the mark commensurate with the standard he demonstrates. However, so far as group statistics are concerned, clearly removing forty-five boys of high or at least more than average ability will have an effect on averages and on the number of high achievement bands which are gained by Trinity's candidates. As I have pointed out in many presentations to parents over recent years, the "league tables" in the press do not serve IB schools well, and the asterisk which indicates to readers that particular schools also offer the IB does not generally help the impressions gained by casual readers. In the New Year, the Head Master will give a full accounting of the 2012 results earned by all Trinity boys, which will give our parents the complete picture which is not available at this stage.

The absolute highlight of the HSC results once again is the great strength shown by average boys whose hard work has won them a place, at least in Band 5. Fully 49% of Trinity results were in the top two Bands. Even absent the IB effect, this would be a wonderful result for any completely non-selective school.

In Extension subjects, 37% of results were in the top band, and a whopping 88% in the top two bands.

One Trinity boy, **Grant Knapman**, deserves particular mention. Grant's name appears in the All Rounders list, but that only tells a fraction of the story. To qualify for the All Rounders list, a student must achieve the top band in a minimum of ten units. Grant presented 17 units for the HSC, four of them (Japanese Continuers and French Beginners) as an accelerant in 2011. In 15 of these units, he achieved the top band – and had he gained one more mark in one subject, this would have been all seventeen units! His giftedness in languages saw him present four languages for the HSC, two of them at Extension level. Grant also took out 1st place in the State for Classical Greek Extension (and 3rd for the 2 unit Classical Greek course). This young man has reached an extraordinary level of achievement however it is viewed.

HSC All-Rounders:

Owen Chou
Naeman Goetze
David Lai
Grant Knapman
Kiran Patel
Michael Yap

Congratulations to these boys on an outstanding achievement. What does not appear publicly is that three of them walked it in with 12 top band results.

Top Achievers in Course:

Grant Knapman	1st in Classical Greek Extension, 3rd in Classical Greek Continuers
Liam Garman	4th in Classical Greek Continuers
Mark Azer (Yr 11/2012)	5th in Latin Extension, 3rd in Latin Continuers
Kent Su	5th in Chinese Continuers
Evan Karagianis	5th in Information Technology Examination

We extend our congratulations to all these young men.



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INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT AREAS

ENGLISH

English is so important to all the boys, because two units of English must be included in the calculation of their ATAR. At Trinity, almost all the boys (92%) took the demanding Advanced English course, because we know that doing so will assist their ATAR. State-wide, only 46% of candidates took this course. Even including the many boys who, in another school, would be doing the Standard English course, our candidates earned a mean mark only very slightly below the state mean (0.22 marks). Well done teachers and boys.

MATHEMATICS

Once again, our Mathematics results were very strong. The 78 candidates who undertook the 2 unit Mathematics course beat the State mean by 1.68, while the 58 who did the General Mathematics course beat that mean by 8.1. Extension 1 Mathematics was 3.14 above the state mean, and Extension 2 1.3.

SCIENCES

Sciences are very popular at Trinity, and the results earned by the boys were excellent. The chemists exceeded the State mean by 4.27, the earth and environmentalists by 6.45, the biologists by 0.17, the physicists by 0.1 and the boys in Senior Science by a very creditable 3.01.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Once again, the roundness of the Trinity programme was in evidence in the results earned by students in the social science subjects. In histories, the modern historians exceeded the State mean by 6.17 marks while their ancient counterparts were similar with a 6.35 positive differential.

In Business Studies, Trinity boys exceeded the State average by 6.98, .8.14 in Legal Studies, and 3.19 in Geography.

CREATIVE ARTS

In Drama, Trinity boys beat the State mean by 3.73; in Visual Arts by 4.79; and in Music 1 by 6.51.

TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS

Once again, our computing students exceeded State means by good margins – 7.68 in Information Processes, and 7.04 in Software Design. In Design and Technology, the difference was 4.64. For the first time, we had boys doing Industrial Technology; they beat the State mean by 6.5.

LANGUAGES

Candidatures in languages tend to be small, and it is more meaningful to compare students' performance in the achievement Bands than to look at mean comparisons. In Chinese, 3 of our 5 candidates achieved Band 6. In Classical Greek, two of our three boys were in Band 6. In Latin, three of our four candidates achieved a Band 6.

Overall, of the 41 subjects offered at Trinity in 2012, thirty achieved a mean mark higher than the State mean. Most of those which were more than a couple of decimal points below the State mean were very small subjects. Of the larger subjects, the following warrant special mention:

Legal Studies	8.14 above State mean
General Mathematics	8.10
Business Studies	6.98
Industrial Technology	6.50
Ancient History	6.45
Modern History	6.17
Visual Arts	4.79
Design & Technology	4.64
Chemistry	4.27

The class of 2012 can be well pleased with this excellent set of results. Once our School's statistician has had time to report to us late in January, we shall be able to make further comment on this excellent set of results.