

# **How To Pass The STAT Test**

**Before you read anything else about the  
STAT, you NEED to know this...**

**By Steven Harris**

## **How To Pass The STAT**

### **The Agreement**

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By reading this eBook you agree to all of the statements on this page. If you cannot concur with this agreement, do not read any further and immediately delete it. If you do concur with the agreement, then read on, have fun, get ready to excel at the STAT, and enjoy.

### **A Note About This eBook**

One of the benefits of an electronic book is the ability to insert hyperlinks. These links allows us to direct you to invaluable information and resources with the click of a button. Links such as [this](#) are placed all over our material. They are all in blue and underlined. We encourage you to click on them when you are connected to the internet and make the most of the exciting resources they lead you towards.

We use the word 'pass' in reference to the STAT test very often. However, it is not accurate to say that the STAT test can be passed or failed. Rather, the STAT places people on a spectrum from about 100 to 200. We use the word 'pass' because most people find it easier to understand. With this in mind, we welcome you to move to the next section of this exciting program.

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## **How To Pass The STAT**

### **Universities Which Accept The STAT**

The below institutions encourage applicants without any formal education to perform the STAT as an alternate avenue for qualifying for admission:

- Australian Catholic University
- Australian Maritime College
- Australian National University
- Charles Stuart university
- Griffith University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Southern Cross University
- University of Canberra
- University of New England
- University of Newcastle
- University of Sydney (Pharmacy and Veterinary Science only)
- University of Technology, Sydney
- University of Western Sydney
- University of Wollongong

For the details on what is required to apply to each university, please see the latest Acer handbook on the STAT at <http://www.acer.com.au/stat>

# How To Pass The STAT

## Introduction

Welcome **My Friend**,

Thank you for having the faith and confidence in allowing me to show you these ideas, methods and strategies. They will be extremely powerful in improving your STAT result and assisting you in taking this first vital step in your new university career.

The objective of this eBook is very specific. It is to show you...

**What you need to know to have the highest probability of acing the STAT.**

This is what we want to be able to do.

So let's get started...

The last couple of years have been an interesting experience - an experience I want to share with you here.

However, before we continue, let's lay a solid foundation so that you can know the source of the information about to be shared with you comes from concrete, real world experience and not a bunch of unproven ideas, theories or hunches.

I know as you begin to read this you are doing so with a raised brow. That's fine, as well you should. This is an important stage in your life and you want *and need* to have the best advice.

Much of what is available out there comes from businesses which have no direct personal experience with the actual test.

A number of them are great sources of information, and we'll get into that later. But most have not gone through the stress, the pressure, hours of preparation, made the mistakes and taken the lessons which come with sitting the STAT, a number of times. And not just sitting it for research, but as a **hopeful university student like you**.

I have been there. I have put in the time and taken the risk as a candidate. I made getting into undergraduate university my goal and burning passion. This led me to search out people, methods and techniques which would allow me to pass the STAT with the score I dreamt of.

*And I succeeded.*

I tell you this not to boast but to show you that it is possible to succeed at the STAT. And YOU are about to discover the techniques which helped me to succeed at it.

## How To Pass The STAT

My story started when I left High School after year 10. I never really enjoyed it. I didn't see a future for myself at school and decided to leave.

Things went well for the first few years. I was making more money than my friends at school and the freedom was great! As the years passed, I changed jobs regularly. I would get bored when I mastered the skills of each job and moved onto the next. I guess I liked the excitement of new things.

However, there came a time when the excitement fizzled away and I wanted more. Some of my friends had been to university and told me of the great future they had planned for themselves. "That's what I want" I thought to myself.

I even remember the day I decided to go to university. I was packing shelves at the supermarket Coles at the time. I was up to the Cottee's Jams (smile). I don't know how I ended up at Coles but thought that there had to be more than jumping from job to job all my life.

I had long been interested in nursing. Being a doctor sounded like too much of a headache to me. But nursing was the best combination of patient contact, excitement, skillfulness and doing something to help others. After speaking to a couple relatives who were nurses, the decision was made. I was going to university to become a nurse.

There was only one problem...the STAT Test.

It took me 2 attempts to succeed at it.

The first time I read about the STAT in the Acer booklet, which didn't give much useful information away. There were just a bunch of facts on who, what, where and when. I also searched online for some information and found a couple forums where people mentioned the STAT in passing. I guess it's what most people do. None of this really helped me.

Yet, I gave it my best shot. Even though I hadn't sat an exam in years, especially not a serious one like the STAT. After performing a few of the sample questions I went into the exam feeling nervous, actually very nervous. There were so many people there. It seemed like everyone was smarter and more experienced at this stuff than me.

When the results were released a few weeks later, it wasn't good. A result of 127 meant I did not get a position at the university I aimed for.

The following year was completely different. My eyes were open to the STAT experience, I had a taste of what was to come and nothing could stop me. That year I achieved a score which allowed me to cruise into my first choice university. It's an amazing feeling.

## How To Pass The STAT

**SPECIAL TERTIARY ADMISSIONS TEST (STAT) – STATEMENT OF RESULTS**

STAT candidate number: 70104244 *My candidate number*

**You obtained the following results in the STAT Multiple Choice:**

Date sat: [REDACTED]

Verbal STAT score: 167	Percentile Rank: 91.0
Quantitative STAT score: 177	Percentile Rank: 96.3
Overall STAT score: <u>171</u> <i>Even better than my goal of 170!</i>	Percentile Rank: 96.2 <i>YAY!!</i>

**You obtained the following results in the STAT Written English:**

Date sat: [REDACTED]

STAT score: 156 <i>This score was more than enough!</i>	Percentile Rank: 78.2
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Over that period of time, I learnt that you need to use all the tools you can to compete with the *top minds* sitting this test. They are not stupid. This is a select population who all want to be there. They have prepared and will be doing the best they can to take one of the limited positions in one of the country's universities, from right under your nose.

How does that make you feel? So how do you compete with them? By using every little or great resource and advantage you can. This manual is my notebook on **how to do just that**. Soon it will be yours.

To give you all this, I make it a point to cut to the chase and shoot straight from the hip. All the ideas have been applied and refined so it makes sense to be frank and tell it like it is. I think you will enjoy it.

Sometimes I repeat and emphasize certain phrases throughout the text. I do this not to antagonise, but because these are **critical** points. There are a lot of confused and misrepresented ideas floating around about the STAT. So I must emphasize these critical points to make them clear. If you spot them, take note of them. Try to see through the words and grasp the principles, they are priceless when one acts on them and they are worthless when one does not. It's that straightforward.

Thank you again for your faith and confidence. Now, I know you're ready to get it going, so let's get started...

Study Smart,

*Steven Harris*

Bachelor of Nursing

## How To Pass The STAT

### **PART I – Before It Happens**

#### **3 Bombshells About The STAT**

##### **Bombshell #1: *this is not a knowledge based test.***

That's right. You are **not** being tested on your knowledge of mathematics or English. So you don't need to *know* anything before hand.

What?! Can this be true?

Yes, ACER says it themselves in the handbook. The verbal units aim to test your “interpretation and understand of ideas in language.” This means that they want to test your ability to understand what a piece of writing is about.

The quantitative units focus on “comprehension and application of information present in scientific and mathematical context.” This means that they use graphs, numbers and symbols to test your thinking ability.

They want people who can use their mind by manipulating the information given in the stimulus - not people who can remember large chunks of useless knowledge.

So if you want to pass the STAT you need to train your thinking skills as is required to answer the units. The next question is what are these thinking skills? And how do we develop them? Well I'm glad you asked because that's why we're here. All will be revealed as you go on.

##### **Bombshell #2: *People who studied humanities at school have a better oft getting into medicine than science students.***

This is due to, firstly, the sheer number of science students who do the test. They greatly out weigh the number of humanities students. And also, the basics of using science can be learned over a few months, while the language skills required for sections 1 and 2 are acquired over time.

The humanities candidates do very well in verbal units and essays, while they only need to pass with an average score in the quantitative units. However science students may kill the quantitative units but may perform dismally in the other two components.

But don't worry! We have solutions for both groups on how to master this test and use your strengths AND weaknesses to your advantage!



## How To Pass The STAT

**Bombshell #3:** *It is possible to pass the STAT without studying.*

...although we would not recommend it.

The fact that this test assesses thinking ability means that there are people who can go in there in between hiking trips and pass. They have the cognitive abilities to use language and science to answer the questions.

Those who have been out of school or other formal education for some time will need to prepare for this exam. Otherwise it will be a waste and you will have to wait until next year.

So the rest of us do need to prepare. And where do we start? From the beginning.

Let's get into the nitty gritty of the basics and ask...

### What Is The STAT?

The STAT stands for Special Tertiary Admissions Test. It is a standardised test which ranks candidates based on their performance compared to other students.

It happens between September and January each year. It allows the universities to decide whether a person has what it takes to be a student at their university.

It is put together by a company called ACER. ACER does not expect candidates to have prior knowledge. They do expect them to have developed a number of thinking skills. These skills are tested in the different units of the multiple choice exam, as well as, the written English exam.

Multiple Choice exam: This consists of a number of units. Each unit has a piece of stimulus material and a number of questions. The stimulus material in this section can be anything from a poem, a picture, an extract from a play, novel, song, instruction manual or a magazine article, graph, equation, table, text or data. Basically anything that involves words or symbols and thinking.

This exam contains 70 questions and you are given 10 minutes reading time followed by 2 hours to complete them.

Written English exam: It requires you to write two separate essays. Each essay is on a theme which is conveyed through a group of four quotes. So you get four quotes, write an essay on their theme, then another four quotes and write an essay on their theme. Here you get 5 minutes reading time and 1 hour to write both essays

So there you have it, the STAT in a nutshell. It may sound intimidating but it's really not. To show you how easy it can be, let's try...

## How To Pass The STAT

### Breaking It Down – Standardisation is our friend

Now that we know all this about the STAT, what use is it to us?

Well if we break down the meaning of the standardization of the test, it is quiet revealing as to what we can expect from it. The fact that it's standardised means, not only that it can be compared to tests from previous years and so can results, but that it **MUST** be comparable. This means that it has to be similar from year to year. This makes it **predictable**, thus conquerable.

It gives us a clue as to what will be in it. There have to be similar topics covered, with similar difficulty and comparable styles of questioning as in previous years.

This validates it but also makes it vulnerable.

The essay writing section is standardized through the use of a rubric and 2 markers. This means that for each essay there is a set of criteria which the candidates essay has to fulfill to earn top marks. This is **the same from year to year**. I hope you read and heard that right – criteria is the same from year to year. Also, there are two markers. This means that the rubric is applied stringently and your essays are graded fairly.

### Breaking It Down – MCQs vs. ESSAYS

Why is the test mainly in Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) form?

Frankly, it originated so that markers can work less. A machine marks the hundreds of papers and so the teachers, or in this case ACER, has a lot less work to do.

So then why is there an essay exam if they can get a machine to do all the work? The essays are there to test other aspects of your personality and thinking.

The first essay identifies your ability to organise your thoughts and ideas into an argument. It also tests your communication and language skills.

The second essay assesses your skills in listening, communication and often empathy. They need to know whether you can imagine someone else's perspective. Thus the second essay covers topics which require imaginative understanding of social themes.

This does not mean that you need to write a creative story using the imagination of a novel writing genius. It just means that you have to be able to visualise and explain how other people may be feeling and experiencing life – thus the social theme.

Whether the second essay achieved its goals is hard to know. But we need to take it seriously, because ACER does.

## How To Pass The STAT

Shameless Plug: *Practicing writing essays and having them marked is the **most effective** way to prepare for this section. If you have not purchased the essay program, start today by going to [UniReady.info](http://UniReady.info).*

### Breaking It Down – The Essay Exam

Many students struggle with this exam, especially the science and English-as-Second-Language (ESL) students. I will give you ways to develop your skills in this later.

To give you an understanding of what writing these essays involves, let's look at the two sets of quotations you are expected to write on:

Set A will share a philosophical or political theme. This assumes that by being a member of a community, you will know how to answer. You should do so in an analytical/ argumentative manner. Examples of themes can be censorship, human nature, education, progress and wealth.

Set B will have a more personal or social theme and you will relate to it through experiences - by virtue of being a human being. Some examples are humour, hatred, youth, self discovery, conformity and laughter. No argument can really be made on these topics so you're better off **exploring and reflecting** on the theme.

The criteria of assessment are firstly and most importantly 'quality of thought content' (originality of development of ideas) **and only secondly**, effectiveness of language, structure and expression.

This means that they are after **your ideas**. They want to gauge your imagination and how you write is not so important as long as they understand your ideas.

Why is this so important?

Because by knowing and using this fact an ESL candidate can do as well if not better than a native English speaker.

How?

Well if a candidate has an original, relevant, and intelligent development of ideas, and they can structure an essay and write well enough to get these ideas across – they will absolutely stomp all over another candidates who uses big words and smooth writing to express poor plain ideas.

So to sum this up, both native and ESL candidates have an equal footing if they can effectively express their great ideas on the essay theme – easy as that.

## How To Pass The STAT

### Breaking It Down – Why is the STAT such a mystery to most?

With all this knowledge, why is there so much misguided and false information out there about this test? Why is it still a bit of a mystery to most?

Well, we are given sample questions from ACER which are from the late 90s, and no one gets to keep the exams after they are done. So there is a lot of guess work out there.

Now, if the ‘experts’ can’t get it right, how can you? Well there are ways to cut the fat and get to the meat of the test. Unless you want to sit through the next two or three STATs to discover it for yourself, we have the information you need.

### Our Approach to *Absolutely Thrashing* the STAT

You need a ‘wholistic’ approach to the STAT. I don’t mean you need to be a new aged psychic healers or magicians. What I mean by ‘wholistic’ is you should have a **rounded approach** and cover all you need to know in order to cruise through this test and into university.

This *does not* mean tiring yourself out just studying your text books or learning the theories - that won’t get you far. It didn’t work for me or my friends the first time I sat the test.

It includes being able to focus your mind, steady your nerves on the day, making the most of your study time, planning your study effectively, using your entire mind – conscious and sub conscious to pull you into university, motivate yourself, visualize yourself doing it all, so that on the day, you just *go along for the ride because its all second nature to you*.

Imagine you just turned up on the exam day and it was all second nature...

Wouldn’t that be an amazing feeling?

Follow a simple step-by-step process to get that feeling by going to our “Step-by Step Manual.” This was included in your package.

This exam is about ***more than just that knowledge***. If you studied every science book you have, learnt about all the literary techniques there are and learned all the words in the dictionary, you would **not pass** if you did not have the required ability to analyze, interpret and generally **think** the way you are require in this very discriminating exam.

So the number one most important thing you **MUST** know and **DO** to ensure you have the best possible chance in this test is...

## How To Pass The STAT

### **PART II – Making It Happen**

#### **Your Secret Weapon**

As a soon-to-be university student, you must approach the STAT in the best possible way and to do this you need...

**Strategy!** That is the secret to mastering the STAT. **Have a strategy.**

Multinational corporations, sports teams, media groups, and any other group or person who succeeds at what they are doing has one. So should you.

What do I mean by strategy?

Let's start by examining what I don't mean. The first thing that students do when starting to study is what they did at school. I did the same thing the first time I sat the STAT. What we do is find out the areas covered in the exam, and then study our butts off in these topics – this is not what I mean by strategy. That's rote learning and a waste of time here.

I don't mean learning everything in mathematics or any other high school text book.

I don't mean studying the topics you enjoy most.

I don't mean going to all the courses and try as hard as possible to remember everything.

I don't mean trying harder next year if you don't pass this year.

I don't mean memorizing all the equations you can.

I don't mean spending hours at the library studying about everything to do with the STAT topics.

If you do any or all of this, you have wasted your time. That's a pretty bold statement. So why would I say all this? Well because I have either done it myself or seen my friends do it and fail.

So then what do I mean by strategy?

This means having a plan of attack. To have a plan of attack you need to step back and look at the big picture. Ask yourself:

Firstly – what is really required to pass the STAT?

Secondly - where am I right now in terms of these requirements?

Thirdly - what do I have to do to get to the level required?

## How To Pass The STAT

This eBook will more than cover the first question.

The second question will have to be address using a practice test or your own honest opinion. However, if you don't know much about the STAT then I recommend getting your hands on an ACER practice paper.

To answer the third question, read this eBook. Then move onto our Step-By-Step manual, which will cover the rest.

An important part of strategy is understanding why working hard is a waste of time.

### **Why Working Hard Studying Is A WASTE OF TIME.**

How many of you have worked hard for the STAT or ...intend to do so for the up coming test? Most of you.

Now, how many have already passed the STAT or feel confident with their ability to pass the next one? Not as many.

Hmmm... Does that mean that working hard does not equal passing?

Let's put it another way - How many people have worked hard and not passed? A lot. So I ask you again, does working hard to pass this test mean that you are going to pass? No.

*Anyone with determination and time can work hard. But not everyone will pass.*

What is the secret to passing? **Work smart**.... Not hard. Strategize. Make the most of every minute you spent at your desk, or it may be on the train for some of you.

Find out where you stand right now, and what you have to do to pass. Then do it. Some may even want to work hard at working smart... but that's just too complicated for me. Write that down on a piece of paper and stick it above your desk: **WORK SMART**.

So how do you work smart? Well you make the most of every resource you have available. This means that you utilize every practice paper, every moment, every part of your mind and body, so you can get that STAT score you dream of.

Use anything and everything which will get you to where you want to go. The advice given in this book is ideal for that. And those people who have failed in the past need to read about...

## **How To Pass The STAT**

### **How to Make Sure You Never Have To Do The STAT Again**

For those of you who have done the STAT before and it didn't go as hoped, what will you do next time?

Try harder? Spend more time studying? Start studying earlier?

One of the definitions of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and hoping for a different result. This is what you are doing if you just try harder next time. Insanity is not one of the university prerequisites, if it was I would have been in there a long time ago. (joke)

Take this for example - if a person is trying to get to the other side of a wall, it is no use trying to punch through it, or push through it harder next time. It is easier and more effective to try a new approach. Step back and see if there is a door or window to go through.

What you NEED to do next time to get a different result is to do something different. Have a different approach, different angle.

If you studied from the text book last time, get some practice questions and do them this time. If you didn't do much for the verbal units, read some novels this time. If you did practice questions last time, get better ones this time. If you went to one course, go to another one. Study with someone different (hopefully someone better than you so you can learn from them), write more essays this time, or write them using a different [structure](#). Whatever you do, make sure it's different from last time.

Many people complicate things for themselves but there is...

### **A Really Simple Way To View This Test**

The multiple choice section of the STAT is about two things –

- 1 - Understanding the stimulus and,
- 2 - Answering the questions according to the stimulus.

That's it.

Get these two things right and you have succeeded at the Multiple choice exam. It sounds obvious but you will be surprised at how people can complicate it for themselves.

Let's focus on this for a second: 'understand' means you know what is going on in the stimulus. The questions are all based on the stimulus. So if you understand the stimulus you can answer the questions.

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‘According’ means that the answers come out of, and are relate to, the stimulus. Not from pre-existing knowledge but **only** from the stimulus material.

Putting this all together - you need to learn to take in what is happening, break it down to an understandable level and use this information to get the answers. Many people tend to complicate it for themselves by either expecting more or using prior knowledge to answer the questions. This is not what you are required to do.

A wonderful way to train your mind to approach the questions correctly is through [logic problems](#). These are exercises of the mind which derive their answers only from the given clues. No prior knowledge is helpful or needed, only the ability to think.

You can buy a book of them [HERE](#)

I am not saying that just by doing logic problems you will pass the STAT. But by doing these challenges, you will train yourself to think in a way that is required in the STAT. You will find your answers within the stimulus. It will align you to approach the questions correctly and in a simple way.

This is what I did the second time I was studying for the test and the results were phenomenal. After doing these logic problems, doing STAT questions seemed more *straight-forward* because I was not complicating them with outside knowledge but just sticking to the material at hand. So get yourself a book of them [now by clicking here](#).

### A Golden Nugget for English Second Language Students

For those not great at English and wanting to do the STAT in a year or two, do an English literature, poetry or writing course now.

The verbal units and the essay exam are where you will struggle with the most. The skills you need for them are acquired over the long term. You can not cram for these sections. This may not sound appealing right now, but believe me when I say that the verbal units do not require any specific knowledge of English, but the *skill* of it. And skills are learnt over time.

You can start right now, today, by going out and buying or borrowing a classic English novel. I know it sounds boring but it’s what you have to do to get into university in Australia. Think of it as part of your journey to becoming a professional.

Start with something relatively simple like ‘The Great Gatsby’ by F. Scot Fitzgerald or ‘[1984](#)’ by [George Orwell](#). Read it twice. First time go through it fast just to get a hang of the plot and the second time more slowly.



## How To Pass The STAT

The second time read ‘between the lines.’ This means, try to find the deeper meaning in the plot, characters and imagery. Ask yourself, why is the author writing this? What message is he trying to send across? Do this ASAP, [NOW, TODAY](#). It will get the ball rolling on your language skills and give you a head start.

I started reading ‘The great Gatsby’ 5 months before the STAT and worked through 3 or 4 such books, each one a little more complicated than the last. Just go to the classic books section in the store – or [online](#) if you want it to be *cheaper*. You need to find the section of the bookstore that’s got the books you thought no one would ever read. The ones with the boring covers. The classic literature section.

A MUST for beginners and those who want extra help with any book are ‘Cliff’s Notes’. These are guide books which explain what the book is about. They analyse it and teach you how to understand the characters, themes, subjects and many other parts of these often complicated books. (Please see our recommended reading list at the end.)

### The Two Secrets That Will Turbo Charge Your Results!

Here are two simple but effective methods that will get you closer to the results you want:

1 - Do **STAT style** practice questions, over and over and over again, as many as possible. Even do the same ones a few times but remember to focus on why you got the answer.

There is no point studying mathematics and all the other science and literature topics unless you put that knowledge to use. You need to be able to think and reason in the sciences and humanities, not recall information. So do STAT-style practice questions religiously.

2 – Anyone can do the STAT questions, anyone, but not everyone can do them **within the time restrictions**. So the second tip is to practice doing the STAT style questions **within the given time**. That is 1.7 minutes per question in the multiple choice exam, and 2 essays within one hour for the written English test.

Do them briskly, carefully and intelligently. Follow these two tips and you will see results. The second time I did the STAT I came across these secrets and applied them immediately. The results speak for themselves. And when you do these questions follow the three-peat process.

## How To Pass The STAT

**The Powerful *Three-peat Process*** – How to use your valuable practice papers and questions as effectively as possible.

Doing practice papers and questions is the most powerful thing you can do to increase your STAT score. Practicing the thinking techniques by doing STAT style questions will put you in good step with the top students.

But there is a right way and a wrong way to do this.

The wrong way is to do the questions, mark them and go onto the next. Do I here you say “But that sounds like the way I always do it”

Well, if you are going to pay for the questions, spend the time doing them and get the most out of them, you may as well do it properly. To get the best results is to do every paper and every question **THREE** times.

Three times.

That might sound excessive and tedious. However, this will help you to make the most of your study time instead of wasting the next two or three months of study. Not to mention the money you spend on the questions.

Here is the reasoning behind it. The first time you do a paper, do it under exam conditions. Get together with friends and do the whole paper in one hit. This will give you practice in timing, which is **CRITICAL**. It will put you under pressure to perform, which will be even greater on the day of the test. And it will teach you to sit there and think for the whole time.

That’s the first go through.

The second time is after you mark it. Go through the paper and do each question again. If you got it right, make sure you got it right for the right reasons. Be honest with yourself. Make sure you understand it all. And for the questions you got wrong, find out how you can get them right. **This is the only way we learn from these questions.** It’s no use doing them, marking and going on because you don’t get anything out of doing the questions. It’s more about knowing why you got something right rather than just getting it right.

Now the third time you do it is a week or two afterwards. This will be a lot quicker because you now understand what is involved. Do the paper again, timing it, to make sure you really understand the questions and see if you get them correct. You will remember some of the answers, but try to go through the working out and thinking processes you need to get the answer. This is a very revealing process because it shows exactly whether you understood the questions and answers.

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You will find that you still get some questions wrong and get stuck on others – now that shouldn't happen if you really understood what the question was about – which shows you have some study left. This is WORKING SMART.

Now if you ever see a similar question, you will know exactly what to do. And believe me, some questions and topics are repeated on the STAT *every year*. Follow this process for the humanities and science questions. It is THE BEST way to make the most of your study.

### **Are There Really Some Of The Same Questions In The STAT From Year To Year?**

YES.

There are usually about 10 -15 questions *repeated* from the previous years STAT. I was shocked when I saw it for myself but it's true. There are the same questions with different numbers used.

To make sure you are covered for most topics, do all the questions and the papers which ACER offer at the time you register for the STAT.

In 2008, there were questions in the papers which were almost photo copies out of the questions provided in the ACER booklets!

### **A Method Which Gives You Extra Time In The Exam**

To get this extra time you will QUE your questions in the reading time of the multiple choice exam.

Q.U.E. stands for the Question Utilization Exercise.

This is the process of establishing an order in which you will go through the units. The order is based on which units have the *highest amount of questions*. Rank them so that the highest come first. So first do the unit with 7 questions, then the one with 5, followed by the unit with 4, etc.

This is due to the amount of stimulus material there is in each unit. Imagine half a page of stimulus with 8 questions as opposed to half a page of stimulus with 2 questions. After reading that half page you are knocking off more questions per second spent reading if you do the 8 question unit first. Thus making better use of the time spent reading. (As you can only read anyway so why not read the units with the most questions now.)

After 20 minutes of the exam you would have completed more questions, which means that you get through the paper faster and have more time! So do the units with the most amount of questions first using QUE.

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### **PART III – Doing The Exam**

Once all the preparation is complete, the time has passed and the big day has arrived, what can you expect...?

To tell you the truth, the day of the exam can be quite stressful. Of course it is perfectly fine to be relaxed, calm and focused. All the preparation and anticipation has come down to this one day and it's time to perform. So you need to be able to handle the pressure.

This is important because many people have experienced a situation at the start of the multiple choice exam where the excitement of the day gets so much that they can't think straight. The pressure is too much and their skills falter.

There are techniques and methods to avoid this.

Firstly, there's just your natural cool calm and collected composure, for those who have it. For the rest of us there is a whole menu of techniques including meditation, prayer, medication, just letting go of all concern about the outcome, and, my favorite, breathing techniques, affirmations and EFT. Details on this can be found in the Step-By-Step manual.

The day before the exam go to the venue if you have never been there. Just to check it out. Familiarise yourself with it. This also gives you practice on how to get there, how long it takes and where it actually is, as well as the best parking spots or public transport options. See, feel, hear, and smell how it is there so you feel comfortable the next day. Sit down, have a sandwich, read a book and just take it all in.

When you get home remember to go through your...

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### Essential STAT Day Checklist.

*Print this page-* Go through it the night before and check it off on the morning of the exam.

This is the stuff you **MUST** have:

1. ☐ Identification
2. ☐ Confirmation letter
3. ☐ A watch – the ones provided may be hard to see or too far away.
4. ☐ Layers of clothes - be prepared for hot/ no air con temperatures as well as cold ones. So have cool clothes underneath and a warmer layer if it gets cold. The attending staff is notorious for being unhelpful with the temperature situation in the exam hall.
5. ☐ Pain killers - incase you get a head ache from the tension or whatever.
6. ☐ 3 of your own B pencils – because there is no borrowing and you don't want to waste time asking the attendants for spares.
7. ☐ 2 pens
8. ☐ An eraser
9. ☐ Sharpener
10. ☐ Short ruler – for measuring distances etc in the multiple choice questions
11. ☐ Lunch and lots of it – If you are doing the written English exam on the same day, it's a long day and you will get hungry, plus there may not be anything to buy in the area. If there is it may be junk. A high salt meal like a kebab will put your blood pressure through the roof during the science section making you feel stressed, anxious and it's hard to think – believe me I've been there and learnt the hard way!!
12. ☐ Money for parking, train etc
13. ☐ A newspaper to get your mind thinking beforehand.
14. ☐ Water bottle – because it's a long exam, you will get thirsty and you want to have a supply with you so that you don't waste time getting up to go to the water cooler.
15. ☐ Ear-plugs – it can get noisy in some venues with the hundreds of candidates flipping pages, as well as possible outside noise or large fans used on hot days
16. ☐ Plus anything else you may require to get you through.

Note: If you forget the essential three – pencil, eraser or water, they have those there in limited supply.

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### What Happens On STAT Day? Tips On How To Make The Most Of It?

You will be required to get there by 8.45am. Aim to be there by the latest at 8.20am to be safe.

You will need to register. This begins from about 8.30am. This requires your confirmation letter, and a form of ID (driver's license or passport). You will line up in a long line, present your letter and ID, get your name checked off and receive a seat number. These are random and you will not be able to choose who you are next to or where you sit.

Once you have registered you have to go into the exam hall and can not leave. You will not be able to talk to friends once inside. Remember to go to the toilet before entering.

Once inside, you will need to place your bag in the bag area and take to your desk only what you need for the exam.

The exam will probably start at 9am. This depends on how things go in your particular exam hall and how quickly people get in.

If you have a phone with you it will need to be switched off and placed under your seat.

### What Will Happen On The Day While Doing The STAT?

**Multiple Choice Exam:** On your desk you should have your two pencils, eraser, and sharper, watch, id and confirmation letter. Have your pencil case under your table in case you need anything else – have your panadol, medication, whatever, in there.

You get 10 minutes reading time in which you cannot write anything. Then 120 minutes to write. All together that's 2 hours of thinking. You can leave to go to the toilet at anytime. You can also leave the exam at anytime, except for in the last 10 minutes.

The brain needs glucose and air to work. So when you feel yourself starting to slow and your brain is not picking things up as well, this should be after about 1-1.5 hours in, then have a couple of sweets, a drink and take a few deep breaths. This will take 30 seconds so you won't miss much time but the beneficial effects will be HUGE.

Note: It would be safe to assume that all the test centers have this same schedule in order to give everyone the same conditions.

If you are staying around to do the Written English Exam, eat a healthy lunch. Choose one that is low in sugar, salt and GI so there is a steady release of energy. For example, brown rice or wholemeal bread sandwich. Don't drink too much. Actually

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don't take big gulps of liquid any time during the day because it will go straight through you and you will be wasting time in the exam going to the toilet

**Written English Exam:** Once you have presented your confirmation letter and ID, you will be seated in an allocated position. The exam booklet will be handed out. Inside the one booklet are the essay prompts and room to write your response.

You get 5 minutes reading time, in which you cannot write anything. Then you get 1 hour to write.

### Tips For Maximizing Each Exam Results On The Day

For the multiple choice exam – **in reading time**, there are a number of things you can do to make the most of the ten minutes.

Some people like to do the pictures and units with which they feel most comfortable. This makes sense because the pictures are usually 1 or 2 questions which you can get out of the way quickly and the units which you feel good about are easy marks for you.

What I prefer to do is first find the relatively 'simple' social science questions to do with newspaper articles, graphs and data. These are easy marks which you need to make sure you get.

Then Q.U.E. the next 5 or so units. Start doing the first unit in your QUE in the reading time and continue to do as many as possible. Remember your answers so that once the reading time is over, you can write them in. Once the reading time is finished, you would have already done 7 or more questions.

There is no better feeling during such a timed exam than looking at your answer sheet 15 mins into the exam and already having down a quarter of the paper using this technique. You realize that, yes I can do this! Ensure that you use the time fully. Use the whole 2 hours to answer the questions.

To save valuable time, **circle your answer** on the *question* sheet. Write the answer onto the answer sheet only once you finish each unit. This will reduce the time you use going back and forth between question and answer sheets. Instead of doing that 4 or 5 times per unit, do it once at the end of each unit.

### How Guessing Can Give You The Right Answer.

If you have to guess between four options, chose c. The writers of MCQs love to make the answer c. You have a 33% chance on average of getting the right answer if you chose c compared to either a, b, or d.

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Also what you can do is cancel out the answer which is the most unusual or different from the others. Now you have a 1 in three chance. Next cancel the one that uses the same words as in the stimulus (this is for the humanities questions). This is a trick used to pick out the people who skimmed over the stimulus and did not understand it. Then you have a 50% chance. Now guess out of the remaining two.

### Conclusion

There you have it ladies and gentlemen, or should I say future university students.

You have now discovered that the STAT is not a knowledge based test, that humanities and science students have an equal chance of getting in and that some of you can pass without studying.

You know that because it is standardized it is conquerable, that English Second Language candidates need not be disadvantaged, and that developing a preparation strategy is your secret weapon.

You have two amazing techniques that will turbo charge your results, and you know to study smart not hard.

**Yet, the key to success here is NOT study, but practice and preparation. The key is the building of thinking skills and exam skills. As well as making the most of every resource that will get you to your goal STAT score.**

And most importantly of all, you now know what will happen on the day, the mystery has been taken out of it and you know what to expect. Thus you can plan for every foreseeable and some unexpected events so that you do the best job possible.

You need to do the best you can because this is an important test where you will be discriminated against based on your ability to think in the exam. ACER puts thousand of dollars into it with the aim of discriminating the best from the rest according to your ability to think in the given fields and, for the verbal units and essays, to use the English language to explain it. That's how it is - you just have to accept it.

What you do about that is up to you. By reading this eBook you now have an advantage because you know what is going on and what needs to be done. I have laid the ground work for you to take the next step and move forward into your new career.

### What is YOUR next step?

Well that is up to you. If it's your first time then you have to guess. And if you have done it before and failed, then you have to wonder what went wrong.

You can the guidance of someone who has been there before. Help from someone who has combined the experience of many people to put together a **step by step**



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program to guide you, **by the hand**, so that you are as ready as possible for the STAT.

This plan would incorporate everything in this eBook into a practical process and part of a coherent plan. It would use all the resources that I have found to be helpful in giving candidates the results they want. It would use your entire mind, conscious and sub-conscious, as well as your body to pull you towards your goal STAT result and beyond.

Most importantly, this prepared plan will ***take out all the guess work***. No more wondering “Am I doing enough preparation? Am I doing the right thing? Have I focused on the right areas?”

All bases are covered!

If you are ready for such a plan then get started by going to your Step-By-Step manual

Take the NEXT STEP and move forward toward your ideal STAT result! This is your opportunity to have the guidance of someone who has been there before and SUCCEEDED! So open your step by step plan and be

***Good Luck and Study Smart,***

***Steven and the UniReady Team***

P.S. For many people, getting into university can be a 2-3 year task. It doesn't have to be for YOU. Cut out all the guess work and shorten that time starting on the Step-By-Step plan to today

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### Recommended Reading List

To prepare for the verbal units and essays, it is to your strong advantage to have strong skills in Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Drama. All the below have been used in the STAT before and are a great place to start reading:

- **Top Pick Fiction**  
Heller, Joseph [Catch-22](#)
  - For help see it's [Cliff's Notes](#)
- **Top Pick Non-fiction**  
Baldwin, James [Notes of a Native Son](#)
- **Top Pick Poetry**  
Eliot, T.S. [Selected Poems](#)
  - For help see the [Brodie's Notes](#)
- **Top Pick Drama**  
Shakespeare, William [Macbeth](#)
  - For help see the [York Notes](#)
- [Harder Logic Problems](#)
- [More Logic Problems](#)