

2020 Exams and Assessments

COVID-19 impact survey and support
for Years 11-12 students



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Exams and Assessments: COVID-19 Impact

- It's been a tough year, but adjustments and supports are in place to make sure exams and assessments won't be tougher for the #classof2020.
- All Tasmanian schools and TASC are working together to keep exam preparations on track and to support students to be ready to do their very best.
- The voices of our senior secondary students have been critical in the approach being implemented.
- This is a summary of what they said and how we are responding; including the practical actions that TASC and schools are taking, and what students can do to feel more confident and prepared.

Student Survey

- In May 2020, TASC undertook a survey of students in Years 11, 12 and 13 to gain insight into the impact of COVID-19 on their learning and their thoughts about external assessments.
- More than 1800 students from across all school sectors participated in the survey.
- The survey results have been summarised to show:
 - What are the challenges
 - What are the rewards
 - What would help
 - In their own words (the range of student responses)

In their own words:

“End of year assessments are very stressful and COVID-19 makes them even harder”

“I fear that COVID-19 may impact my results negatively and imply that I haven't put in the amount of hard work I have throughout the year”

“Mine and everyone's mental health; the pressure to succeed after our interrupted year is too high”

“Everyone will need to make up for a lot of lost time and work ten times harder”

“I worry that I will not have had enough learning time in the classroom with my teacher to fully understand the questions”

“Although online learning couldn't have been avoided, it may have caused me to miss sections or courses or not understand sections to the extent I could”

“I'm trying my absolute hardest not to let a tough situation have an impact on my studies and I'm confident the right choices will be made concerning my assessment in 2020 to give me the best chance to achieve my goals”

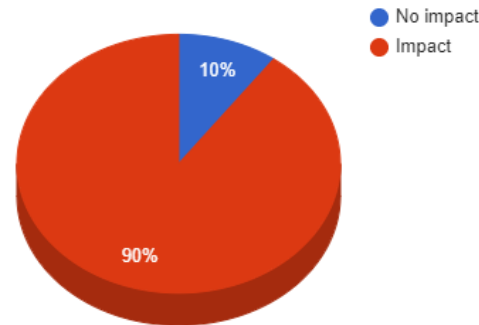
“Many people will struggle to focus in an environment where they're constantly hyper-aware and being reminded of how they must keep their distance, not touch their face, wash their hands and avoid shared surfaces”

“Exams are very intimidating; most people don't reach their desired ATAR because they crack under exam pressure”

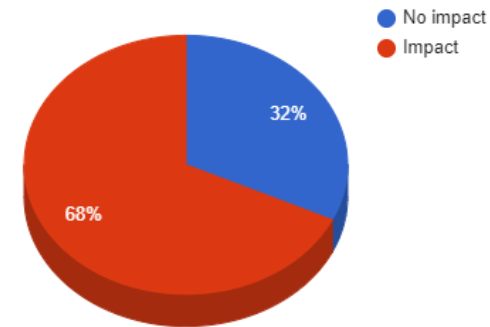
“I'd prefer less hardcore assessment of my learning”

What are the challenges?

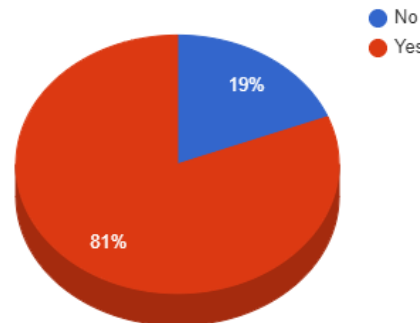
Impact of COVID-19 on learning?



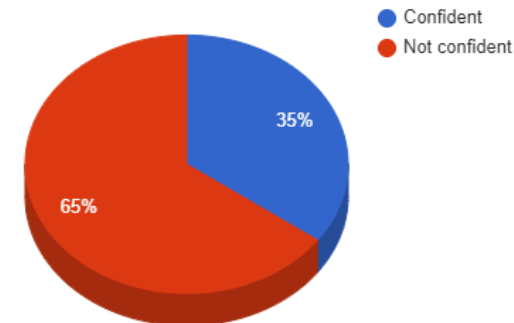
Impact of COVID-19 on wellbeing?



Concerned about end-of year assessment and impact on the future?



Confidence in achieving goals?



In their own words:

“A feeling of accomplishment, that I’ve worked really hard to make it happen and can relax afterwards”

“Finishing this year with the results I intend to get would feel very satisfying”

“Building my self-discipline and learning lessons”

“They are a reflection on all the work I have put in throughout the year”

“It helps me to strive for achieving my best knowing that it has a big impact on my future”

“Being assessed against many other students completing the same task”

“An opportunity to demonstrate one’s knowledge and hard work”

“The final pinnacle for a big year”

“An idea of where I am in relation to the rest of the country”

“I like working hard and to see if I can put the stuff I learnt into real life scenarios”

“It allows me to wrap up the course as a whole and strengthen the learning I experienced throughout the year”

“It’s good practice for life and uni doing work under pressure”

“Seeing how well and far I’ve come”

“That if I work hard and put effort in, I can succeed”

What are the rewards?

What students most value about end-of-year assessments?



The result



Demonstrates learning



Supports my future pathway



Sense of accomplishment

What are students’ positive expectations from their studies for the remainder of 2020?



To do my best



Increased support from teacher/school



To learn at school



To pass

In their own words:

"I hope everyone will understand the difficulties of learning tertiary subjects in such times"

"For teachers to try to make it normal"

"Some relaxations made to the heaviness of the course content for difficult subjects and more time to catch-up"

"Being surrounded by people that can help"

"To not rush through content"

"To be held to the same standards as usual as long as I apply the same effort and focus as usual"

"Teachers being available very often to help us catch up or to revise over work we may have learnt but may not understand"

"That I'm not ashamed to ask for help"

"Additional learning options outside of school hours, tutorials for all classes and access to teachers will be essential"

"It really helps to clearly know what is going on, as changes significantly impact students"

"More help and information about the options after Year 12"

"Continue as other years have, with leniency from universities and TAFE to allow students the pathways they deserve"

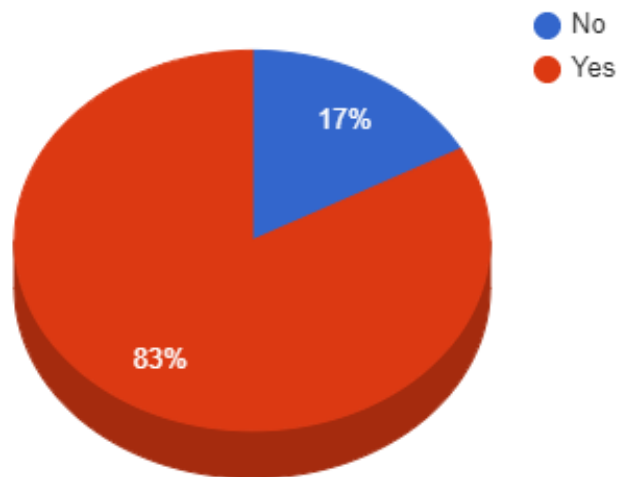
"Modifications so students get a fair chance at their future"

"Regaining a routine with my learning"





"Still having time for myself (study-free)"

What would help?

Adjustments to end of year assessments?



What supports would help students continue learning in 2020?

-  Support from teachers about subject content
-  More detail about end-of-year assessments
-  Continuing learning at school
-  Access to wellbeing supports

How we are responding

- What TASC is doing
- What schools are doing
- What Year 11-12 students can do

TASC's priorities

- We are preparing for approx. 6800 senior secondary students across Tasmania to undertake written exams and other types of external assessments across more than 52 courses.
- COVID-19 has created unique challenges and uncertainties, but we are committed to adapting and doing our utmost to get the best possible outcomes for students.
- Our priority is ensuring students are not further disadvantaged and that everyone's health and wellbeing is protected.
- We are also ensuring that your TCE in 2020 will be just as meaningful and representative of your achievements as any other year.

What TASC is doing

- Over 80 per cent of students advised that adjustments to end-of-year assessments would help. We have responded by making adjustments to 2020 external assessments for all TASC accredited Level 3 and Level 4 courses.
- The [adjustments](#) aim to reduce pressure on students, while allowing the opportunity to demonstrate the requirements of the course and continuing to ensure nationally comparable results.
- At this point in time TCE external assessments are going ahead. However, this year has shown all of us that nothing is certain. We have back-up plans ready and if things change further you will hear from us straight away.
- Exam processes are being impacted by the measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19, particularly public health advice on social distancing between adults in workplaces. We will use new ways of operating exam centres, as well as exam distribution and marking.
- There may be some short delays in the release of information about the exams compared to the usual timetable, but we will keep you up to date and provide information as quickly as possible as arrangements are confirmed. For example, the written exam timetable will now be released on 14 September.
- We are working with the University of Tasmania (in their role as the Tasmanian Tertiary Admissions Centre) to ensure that the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be issued to eligible students, as expected.

What schools are doing

- Tasmanian schools and TASC are working together to keep exam preparations on track and to support students to be ready to do their best.
- Schools have successfully transitioned from a short period of learning at home in Term 2, back to learning at school and are ensuring all students can fully develop their knowledge of senior secondary course content.
- Schools are providing time and support for students with revision of course content.
- Teachers are providing students with advice about their course assessments and the adjustments TASC has made to reduce pressure on students specific to each course.
- Your teachers can provide you with advice about these changes and ensure you know what to expect in your exams, including if anything will be different due to COVID-19 health and operational requirements.
- School staff are available to help you understand your options after Year 12 and future pathways. Talk with your teachers and remember, there is more than one way to get where you want to go.

What Years 11-12 students can do

- Keep learning, doing your assessments as advised by your school or training provider and, most importantly look after yourself.
- Develop a routine that works for you, that includes both your studies and what you most enjoy.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are people who can assist you. Reach out to family, friends and your teachers or others at your school.
- Keep up to date with the latest information, including talking with your teachers and registering to receive [TASC information via email](#) (including your results).
- Feel confident about your end-of-year assessments knowing you will have the opportunities and support needed to demonstrate your knowledge and to ultimately achieve your goals.
- Regardless of your expectations, you can feel great pride and satisfaction from your accomplishments in these unprecedented times.

Contact us

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