**ATAR**

**Ustashia**

OK, so the first thing we want to tell you

about the ATAR is it isn’t a score for your VCE or HSC.

**Sebastian**

Nope it isn’t a score. You don’t actually get a score for your VCE or HSC – you either get an S for satisfying the requirements

**Ustashia**

Or an N for not satisfying the requirements.

**Sebastian**

The ATAR or the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank – is a tool to help tertiary institutions give out places in their courses. Let’s get our peeps to help us explain in more detail...

**Sebastian**

The ATAR is designed so the thousands of students who complete year 12 each year, and who want to go onto further study, are assessed on an even playing field.

**Ustashia**

Part of this process is to place all the year 12 students, in each state, on a scale of how they performed against each other.

**Sebastian**

So it’s a bit like getting a place in a race...

**Ustashia**

Except instead of coming 1st, 10th or 32 432nd you’re given a percentile ranking on a scale of The middle point of this scale is 50.

**Sebastian**

Some people get confused about this. An ATAR of 50 doesn’t mean you only got half the answers right – clearly these are all A grade sack racers - An ATAR of 50 means your performance in VCE places you smack-bang in the middle of everyone else.

**Ustashia**

So if your ATAR is 60, you’re in the top 40 percent

**Sebastian**

70 places you in the top 30 percent

**Ustashia**

And an ATAR of 80 puts you in the top 20 percent

**Ustashia**

Now, you can’t actually work out your ATAR as it depends on how you and everyone else goes in year 12. But we can tell you that the first subject that goes towards calculating your ATAR is your units 3&4 English subject.

**Sebastian**

So best not to slack off there! Ustashia gives him a “good one” look.

**Ustashia**

Then your next best three subjects

**Ustashia**

And, if you do them, 10 percent of your fifth and sixth subjects

**Sebastian**

So be strategic about were you’re going to focus most of your energy – don’t set yourself goals that are going to stress you out. We want to keep stress to a minimum in Year 12, so be kind to yourself!