

Dear Mr Donnellan;

I refer to your application requesting information under the *NSW Freedom of Information Act* (FOI Act) regarding information in relation to my Higher School Certificate (HSC) enrolments in 2009:

- Raw marks and weighted marks for each question in each examination, including details of optional question scaling;
- Total raw marks and total weighted marks for each examination;
- State rank in each course;
- Initial school assessment mark and initial moderated school assessment mark for each course; and
- All examination scripts.

Decision-Maker:

Name of decision-maker: Adrienna Ross, A/Manager, Records and Strategic Business Systems Branch, Office of the Board of Studies.

Date of Decision: 30 December 2009

Decision: Access granted in full

The decision-maker's determination follows:

Mr Donnellan by application dated 10 December 2009 and received in the Office on 14 December 2009 has sought the following information in relation to his Higher School Certificate (HSC) enrolments in 2009:

1. Raw marks and weighted marks for each question in each examination, including details of optional question scaling;
2. Total raw marks and total weighted marks for each examination;
3. State rank in each course;
4. Initial school assessment mark and initial moderated school assessment mark for each course; and

5. All examination scripts.

The decision-maker has determined that the Office holds information that matches the applicant's request regarding items 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the decision-maker has decided to grant access to this information in full. All of the marks stored on the Office's computer database that are used in the calculation of the final Exam Mark, Assessment Mark and HSC Mark as reported on the Higher School Certificate Record of Achievement have been extracted and provided.

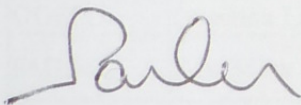
The decision-maker has advised that the Explanatory Notes should be read in conjunction with the marks listings.

The decision-maker has also determined that the Office holds documents that match your request regarding item 5 and has granted access to copies of the original documents in full.

Review and Appeal Rights

If you are dissatisfied with this decision you have 28 days from the date of this letter to lodge a request for a review by this agency. Your request would need to be in writing and accompanied by \$40.00. If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review you have 28 days from the date any internal review is taken to have been finalised in which to lodge an appeal with the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal, Level 10, 65 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. You may also request an external review by the Ombudsman (address: 3rd Floor, 580 George Street, Sydney 2000). There is no statutory time limit on an appeal to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Parkes
FOI Coordinator

30 December 2009

Explanatory Notes

The attached pages contain information regarding results in Higher School Certificate courses. The results are provided as four separate sets pages labelled:

- Question Marks,
- Question Scaling,
- Course Marks, and
- Ranking.

Each refers to different components of the final result.

“How Your HSC Works” is a section on the Board’s Website (www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au) that includes information about Marking, Optional Question Scaling, Moderation and Standard Setting. This may be of assistance in understanding how the marks that have been provided have been calculated.

Question Marks:

These pages contain the marks awarded for every question. A question in the Office’s computer database is defined as the smallest element that is discretely marked. Every mark awarded will be listed.

Label	Name	Description
STDID	Student Number	
STDNMF	Student Family Name	
STDGNM	Student Given Name	
CALYR	Calendar Year	
CRSID	Course Number	
CRSLNM	Course Name	
QUEPD	Question Label	A five character code to describe the question.
SMRMK	Raw Mark	This is mark awarded for free responses, or the score for an objective response.
SMWMK	Weighted Mark	The raw mark multiplied by the weighting factor.
QWTFC	Weighting Factor	The weighting factor. For most questions, the weighting factor is 1 and the question is marked out of the same value as indicated on the examination paper. Paper 1 in English (Standard) and (Advanced) is worth 40 marks, but each question is marked out of 15, so a weighting factor is applied to each question
QMAXRM	Maximum Mark	The maximum mark possible for the question.

Optional Question Scaling

The marks awarded to a student for each question in an examination are added up to produce the students’ raw examination mark. For those examinations that consist of some compulsory questions and some optional questions an additional step is taken before the marks are added up. A process referred to as ‘optional question scaling’ is applied. The final marks awarded to the students who have answered each optional question are statistically adjusted by taking into account the pattern of marks gained by that group of students on the compulsory questions. This ensures students are not

unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged by choosing an easier or more difficult optional question.

Label	Name	Description
STDID	Student Number	
CALYR	Calendar Year	
CRSID	Course Number	
CRSLNM	Course Name	
QSGNAM	Question Scaling Group Name	A label to describe the Scaling Group
QGWTMK	Group Weighted Mark	The sum of the weighted marks (SMWMK) of the questions defined in the group.
QGSCMK	Group scaled Mark	The mark after question scaling has been applied.
QUEPD	Question Label	Identifies which questions are in the Group.

Course Marks:

This page contains the marks held at course level. This includes the total of the raw marks, initial exam mark and final exam mark after mapping to performance bands, the school assessment, initial moderated assessment and final assessment mark after mapping to performance bands

Label	Name	Description
STDID	Student Number	
STDNMF	Student Family Name	
STDGNM	Student Given Name	
CALYR	Calendar Year	
CRSID	Course Number	
CRSLNM	Course Name	
TM	Total mark	This mark is the sum of weighted marks (SMWMK)
TWM	Total weighted mark	This is the Total mark after optional question scaling has been applied, stored as a whole number.
IEM	Initial Exam Mark	The TWM stored to 1 decimal place on a one unit basis. The maximum possible IEM is 50.
Exam	Exam Mark	The IEM after mapping to performance bands, stored to 1 decimal place on a one unit basis. The maximum possible Exam Mark is 50. The Examination Mark reported on the Record of Achievement is the (Exam Mark * Course Unit Value) rounded to a whole number
SAS	School Assessment	The assessment mark provided by the school. This is a whole number
IMAS	Initial moderated assessment mark	School Assessment moderated to the Initial Exam Mark, stored to 1 decimal place on a 1 unit basis. The maximum possible IMAS is 50.
ASS	Assessment Mark	The IMAS after mapping to performance bands, stored to 1 decimal place on a 1 unit basis. The maximum possible ASS is 50. The Assessment Mark reported on the Record of Achievement is the (Assessment Mark * Course Unit Value) rounded to a whole number
HSC	HSC Mark	The rounded average of the reported Exam Mark and Assessment Mark stored to one decimal place.
Band	Performance Band	The Performance Band as reported on the Record of Achievement.

Course Rank:

This page contains the rank for each course. The file containing the ranks is generated for the sole purpose of identifying students for the published merit lists. It is generated once and not updated. Some students have result changes after the initial release of results. The ranks are not changed in these cases.

Label	Name	Description
STDID	Student Number	
STDNMF	Student Family Name	
STDGNM	Student Given Name	
CALYR	Calendar Year	
CRSID	Course Number	
CRSLNM	Course Name	
FNLRNK	Final Rank	The Final Rank is determined by the average of the Assessment Mark and HSC Mark – without rounding.
RNKCND	Total candidates	The number of candidates that have a rank

Question Marks

STDDID	STDNMF	STDGNM	CALYR	CRSID	CRSLNM	QUEPD	SMRMK	SMWMK	QWTFC	QMAXRM
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Q1a	2	1.77	0.8888	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Q1b	2	1.77	0.8888	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Q1c	2.5	2.22	0.8888	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Q1d	2	1.77	0.8888	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Q1e	2	1.77	0.8888	5
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Q2	7.5	6.66	0.8888	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Poet	8.5	7.55	0.8888	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Lola	14	14	1	20
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Dog	10	10	1	20
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	Rita	14	14	1	20
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	1	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	2	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	3	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	4	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	5	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	6	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	7	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	8	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	9	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	10	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	11	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	12	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	13	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	14	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	15	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q16a	3	3	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q16b	6	6	1	6
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q17a	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q17b	5.5	5.5	1	6
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q17c	6	6	1	7
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q17d	7	7	1	10
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q19a	18.5	18.5	1	25
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q25b	19	19	1	25
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q1	12	12	1	12
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q2	12	12	1	12

Question Marks

STDID	STDNMF	STDGNM	CALYR	CRSID	CRSLNM	QUEPD	SMRMK	SMWMK	QWTFC	QMAXRM
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q3	10	10	1	12
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q4	9	9	1	12
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q5	8	8	1	12
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q6	4	4	1	12
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	Q7	2	2	1	12
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q1	10	10	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q2	10	10	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q3	11	11	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q4	6	6	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q5	2	2	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q6	6	6	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q7	5	5	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	Q8	4	4	1	15
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	1	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	2	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	3	0	0	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	4	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	5	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	6	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	7	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	8	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	9	0	0	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	10	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	11	0	0	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	12	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	13	0	0	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	14	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	15	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	16a	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	16b	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	17a	1	1	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	17b	1	1	1	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	18a	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	18b	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	19a	3	3	1	3

Question Marks

STDID	STDNMF	STDGNM	CALYR	CRSID	CRSLNM	QUEPD	SMRMK	SMWMK	QWTFC	QMAXRM
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	19b	3	3	1	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	20	4	4	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	21a	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	21b	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	21c	1	1	1	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	22	2	2	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	23a	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	23b	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	23c	2	2	1	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	24a	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	24b	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	25a	0	0	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	25b	3	3	1	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	26	2	2	1	6
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	27a	0	0	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	27b	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	27c	1	1	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29ai	2	2	1	2
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29aii	3	3	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29bi	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29bii	1	1	1	1
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29b3	1	1	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29ci	4	4	1	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29cii	1	1	1	3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	29d	3	3	1	6

Optional Question Scaling

STDID	CALYR	CRSID	CRSLNM	QSGNAM	QGWTMK	QGSCMK	QUEPD
16222119	2009	15130	English (Standard)	P2Q2	14	12	Lola
16222119	2009	15130	English (Standard)	P2Q3	10	10.9	Dog
16222119	2009	15130	English (Standard)	P2Q9	14	13.8	Rita
16222119	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q19a	18.5	17.3	Q19a
16222119	2009	15220	Legal Studies	Q25b	19	19.7	Q25b
16222119	2009	15330	Physics	Q29	16	16	29ai, 29aai, 29bi, 29bii, 29b3, 29ci, 29cii, 29c3, 29d

Course Marks

STDID	STDNMF	STDGNM	CALYR	CRSID	CRSLNM	TWM	TWMS	IEM	Exam	SAS	IMAS	Ass	HSC	Band
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	61.51	60	30.0	37.4	73	31.0	37.9	38.0	4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	82.00	82	41.0	45.3	89	41.0	45.3	45.5	6
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	57.00	57	33.9	45.2	76	33.9	45.2	45.0	E4
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	54.00	54	22.5	39.1	57	22.5	39.1	39.0	E3
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	68.00	68	34.0	41.6	90	38.0	43.7	42.5	5

Course Rank

STDID	STDNMF	STDGNM	CALYR	CRSID	CRSLNM	FNLRNK	RNKCND
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15130	English (Standard)	4275	32452
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15220	Legal Studies	749	8202
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15250	Mathematics Extension 1	2586	8630
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15260	Mathematics Extension 2	2322	3170
16222119	Donnellan	Andrew	2009	15330	Physics	2088	9023