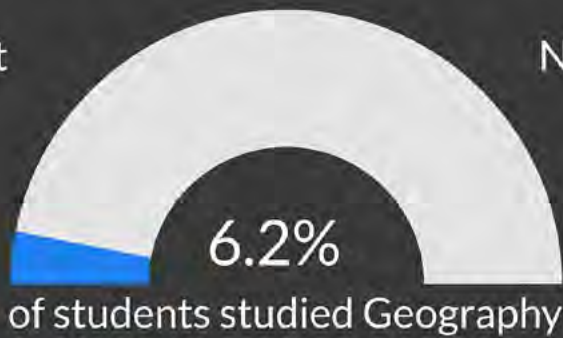


GEOGRAPHY HSC AND SCALING

2020 HSC Summary

Geography Cohort
4,396

NSW HSC Students
70,466



Average HSC Mark

75

Median HSC Mark

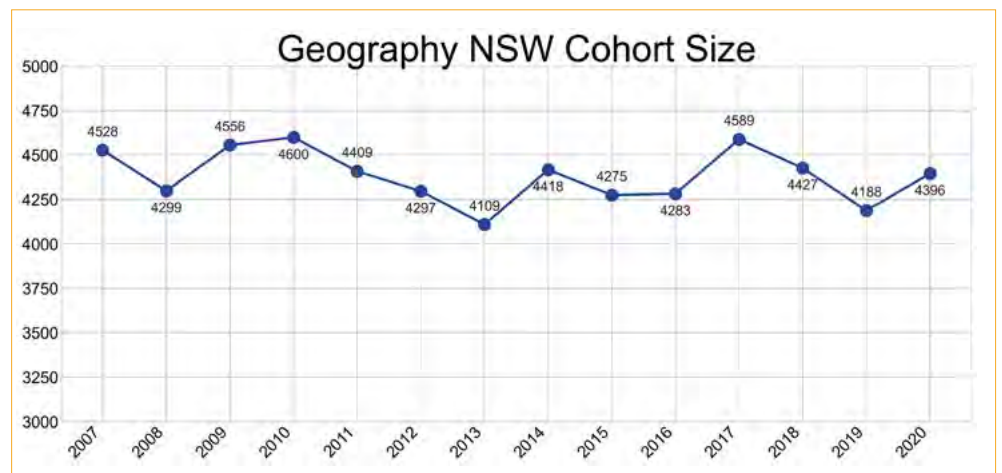
77

Maximum HSC Mark

98

Graham Wright, Education consultant

Cohorts and Averages over time



The number of students studying Geography since 2007 has remained relatively constant, as have average HSC scores over the same period.

Since 2015 the average ATAR contribution from Geography scores has had a slight upward trend despite little change to HSC score averages. Because of the way scaling works, this means that the relative performance of Geography students in all other subjects has been slightly increasing, implying that the academic performance in Geography has been slightly increasing also.

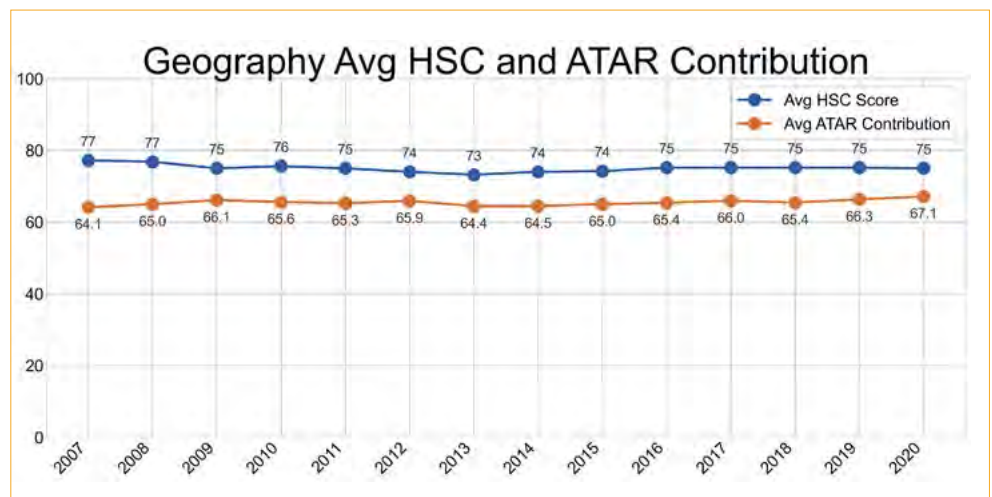
ATAR Contributions

Because every subject has its own scale for the purposes of HSC marks, comparing performance from one subject to another using HSC marks won't provide a reliable measure.

'ATAR Contributions' are an attempt to provide a fair means of comparing student performance from one subject to another. It is an attempt to answer the question 'What would a student's ATAR be if they were allowed to study only one subject in their HSC?'

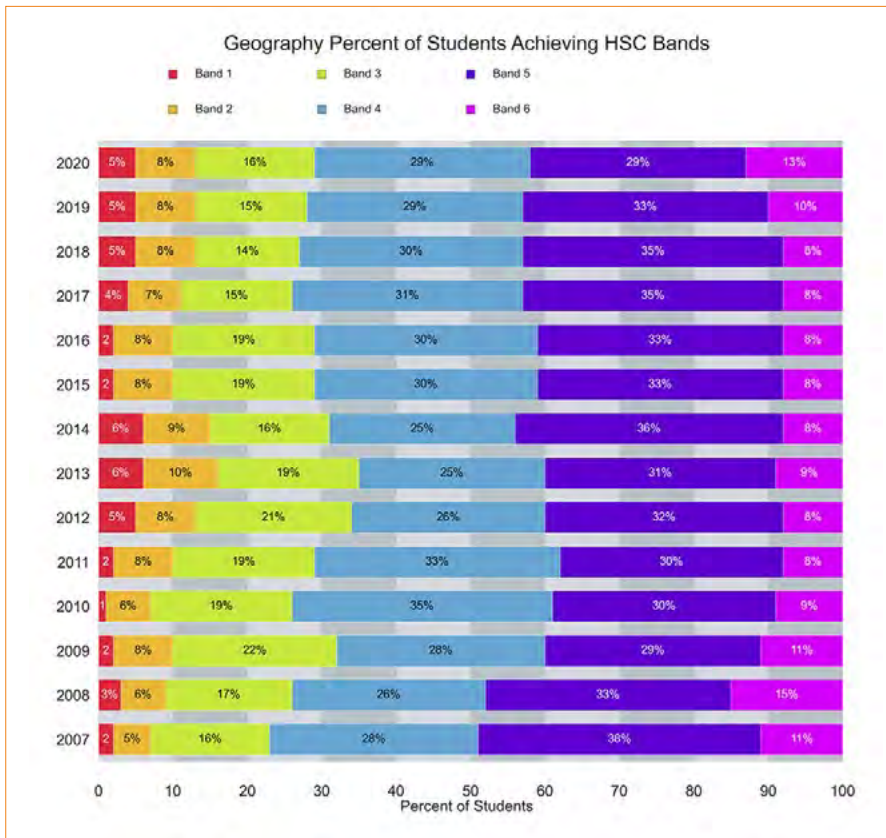
So in 2020 the average HSC mark in Geography was around 75. If a student was allowed to study just Geography and scored 75 for their HSC mark, then their ATAR would be around 67.1.

The ATAR contribution is indicative of what a student's ATAR would be if they performed at the same academic level for all of their subjects.



GEOGRAPHY HSC AND SCALING

Band Attainment and Scaling



Band Attainment

The chart on the left shows the percentage of students who have achieved different Bands 1-6 in Geography since 2007.

Although the average HSC scores achieved in Geography in the last ten years and more have remained quite constant, the same isn't always true of the percentage of students achieving at individual bands.

2020 saw the highest percentage of Geography students achieving at Band 6 level since 2008. The combined percentage of students achieving a Band 5 or 6 in 2020, however, is slightly lower than the three preceding years.

The increase in the percentage of students attaining Band 6 scores in recent years has been coupled with an increase in the percentages of students achieving at Bands 1-3.

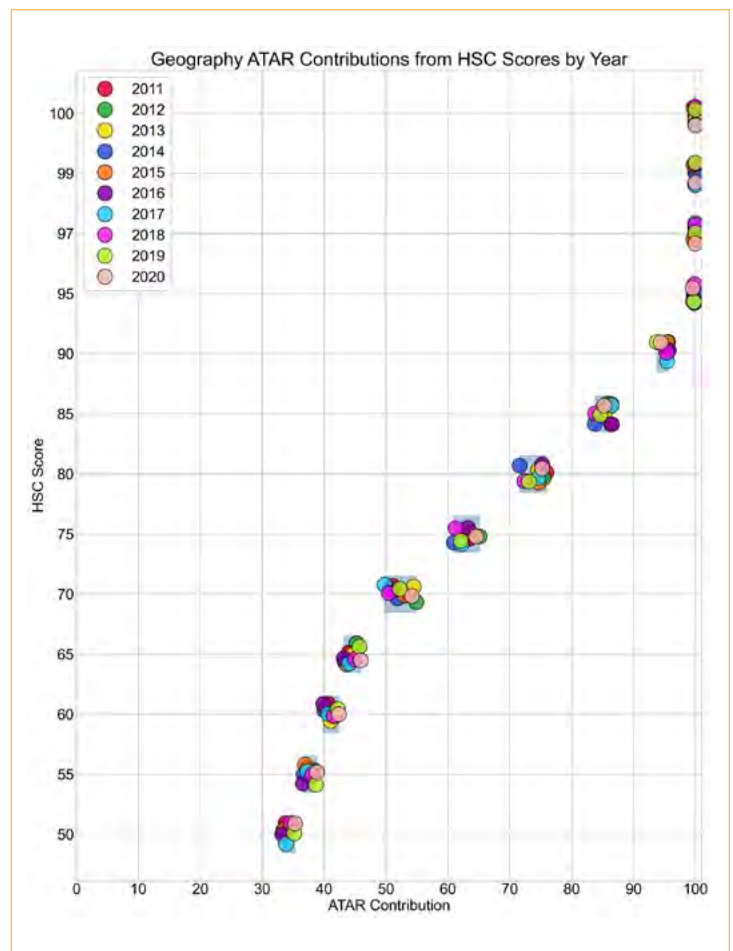
Scaling Consistency

Understanding the significance of what changes in the percentages of students achieving at different bands mean needs to be coupled with a look at the changes in scaling of certain marks in the HSC.

The chart on the right shows the ATAR contributions(x axis) of certain HSC milestone scores (y axis).

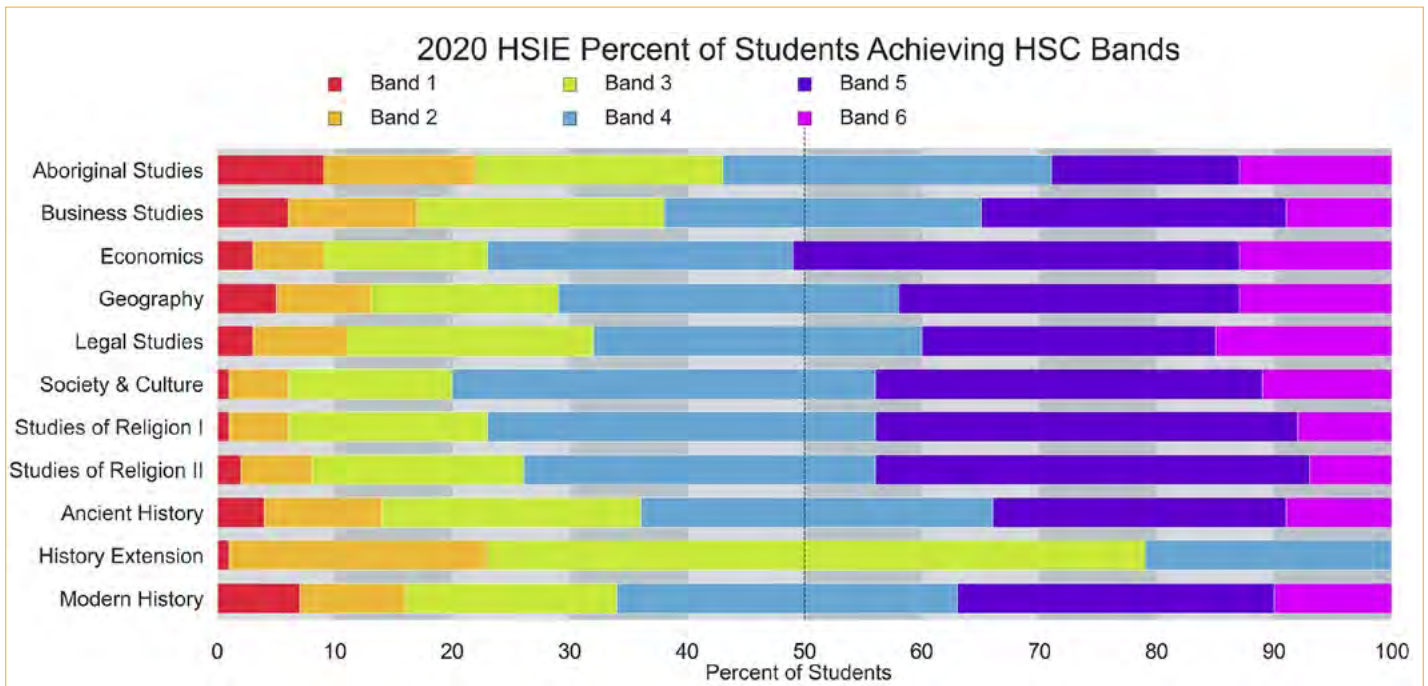
HSC scores of 95 plus have scaled very consistently and very highly over the last ten years. An HSC score of 95 or more in Geography consistently contributes toward an ATAR of 99 or more. The implications of this, in terms of scaling, are that it is expected that only the top 1,000 or so students in the entire state would be capable of achieving a score of 95 in Geography and that would be if every single student in the state was studying Geography.

It is important to note the change in scaling in 2019 and 2020 for HSC scores of 90, though. Where there has been an increase in the percentage of students achieving a Band 6 in Geography, there's also been a slight decrease in how a low Band 6 score scales. This indicates that rather than a significant number of students achieving at a higher level, the bar for Band 6 has been lowered slightly, resulting in more students jumping over it. The scaling system is designed to absorb these kinds of changes, and that's what has happened.



GEOGRAPHY HSC AND SCALING

Geography and Other HSIE Subjects



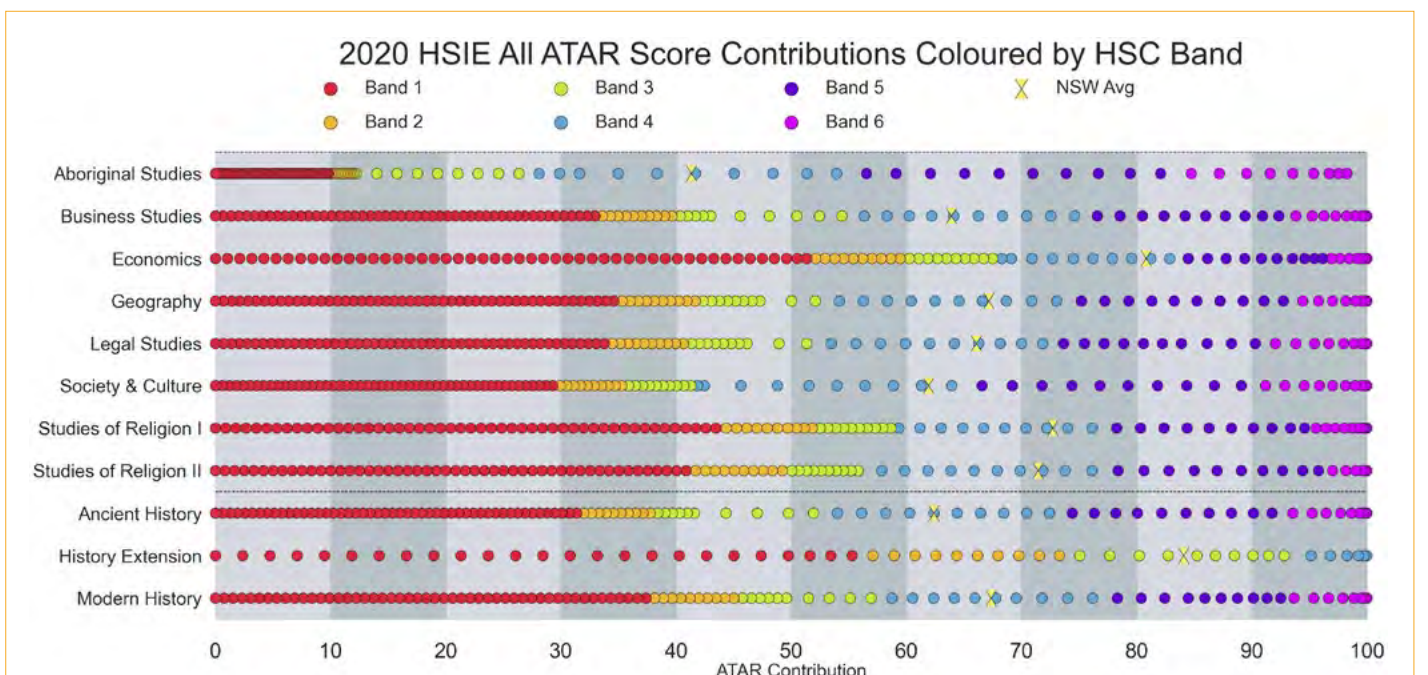
Band achievement in Geography is not particularly remarkable compared to other subjects in HSIE.

Scaling patterns in Geography (see chart below) are most similar to those in Legal Studies.

The chart below shows my estimations of scaling for all HSC scores in all HSIE subjects. Each dot is a possible HSC score, coloured by band. Band 1 scores are red, Band 6 scores are purple and all the other bands in between. In all HSC subjects, Aboriginal Studies has the lowest average ATAR contribution and corresponding HSC marks in Aboriginal Studies tend to scale significantly lower than all other HSIE subjects. Economics is the highest scaling 2 Unit subject in HSIE and, apart from History Extension, has the highest average ATAR contribution.

Geography is a subject which affords students the opportunity to excel in their HSC. The maximum scaled mark in Geography in 2020 was 50, which is the maximum mark that can be awarded in any subject. At least 15% of students in Geography (possibly up to 20%) achieved an ATAR contribution of 90 or more.

For students with high aspirations when it comes to their HSC studies, Geography is a good option for students with an interest in its content.

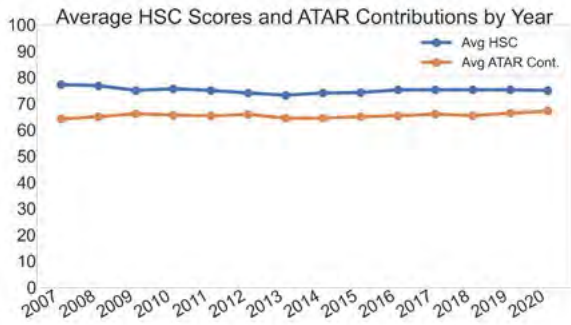


GEOGRAPHY HSC AND SCALING

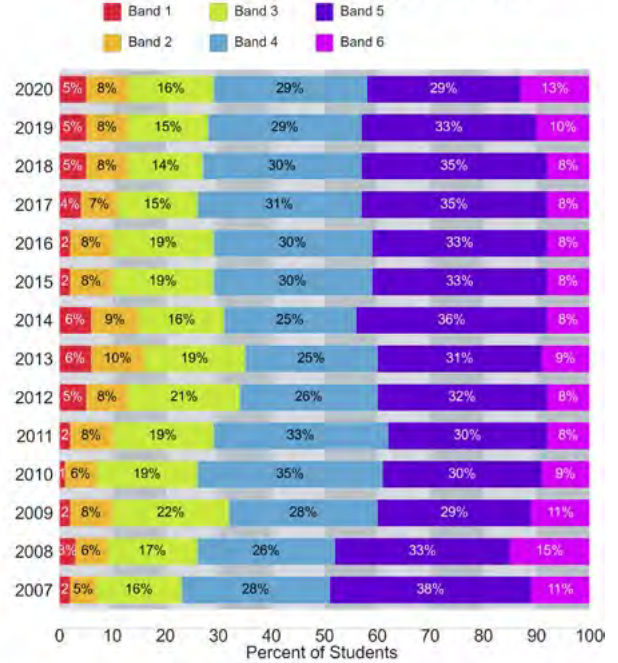
Geography ATAR Summary

Average		Maximum	
HSC	ATAR	HSC	ATAR
75.0	67.14	98.0	99.95

NSW Candidature:
4396

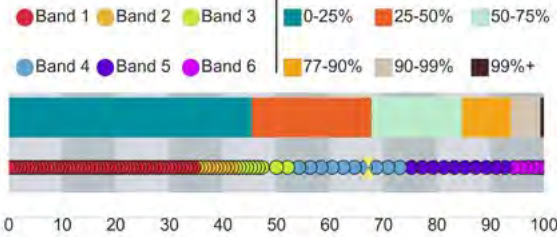


Percent of Students Achieving HSC Bands

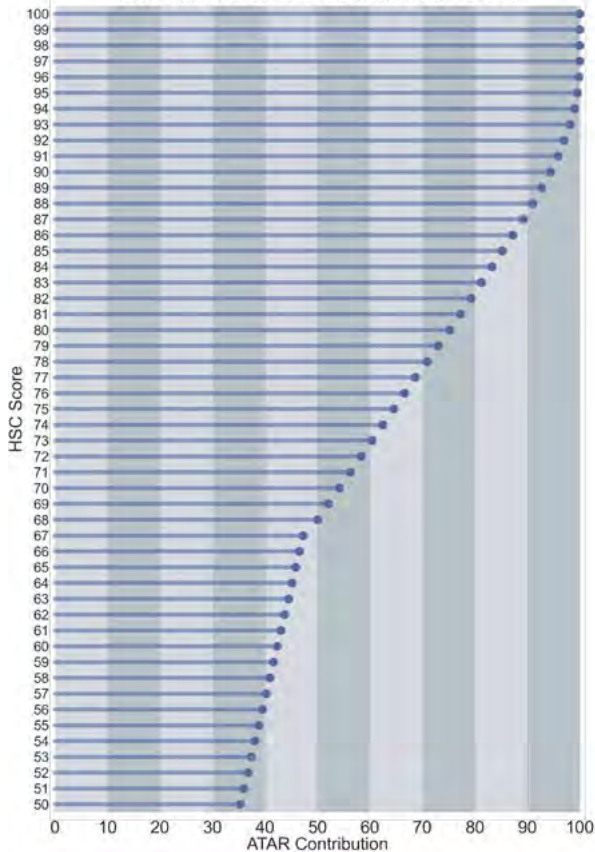


HSC Bands

Percentile Bands



2020 ATAR Contributions from HSC Scores



ATAR Contributions from HSC Scores by Year

