

# COMPLETING A STUDENT SWOT ANALYSIS

## SAMPLE ANSWERS

### WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?

#### (INTERNAL ORIGIN – THINGS YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER)

Please note that these suggested answers are not exhaustive and that the answers provided by students will differ greatly. Use these suggested answers as examples to help formulate your own responses.

- **What study related tasks am I very strong at?**

I apply things I learn  
Research  
Writing  
Maths  
Organising and planning  
Easily absorb information in class

- **What do I do better than most other VCE students?**

I'm a quick learner  
Better application/analytical skills  
Critical thinking ability  
Public speaking  
Maths

- **What other advantages do I have that other students don't?**

A parent who teaches one of my subjects  
An excellent tutor  
Minimal extra-curricular activities  
Financial resources  
Highly supportive family  
Excellent notes  
Teachers who really like me  
I have specific goals

- **What do my friends/parents/teachers see as my strengths?**

Resilience  
Commitment  
Quality  
Determination  
Compassion  
Intelligence  
Speed and accuracy



- **What resources/tools do I have or can draw from?**

Text books and study guides  
 Exam papers  
 Excellent summary notes  
 Lecture programs  
 Study skills programs  
 Weekly tuition classes  
 Online lectures/classes  
 Private tutors  
 Study groups  
 Teachers  
 Parents  
 Older sibling who's been through the VCE  
 ATAR Central – A+ Resources database  
 Sample A+ SACs



- **What beneficial resources/tools/knowledge do I have access to that other students don't?**

Excellent summary notes  
 Weekly tuition classes

- **What skills do I have that will help me achieve my ATAR goal?**

Strong leadership skills  
 Excellent time management skills  
 Excellent communicator  
 Problem solver  
 Fast reader and typist  
 Passion and determination

- **What skills/attributes do I have that others don't and that I could use to my advantage?**

Problem solver  
 Passion and determination

- **What personal qualities/character traits do I have that will help me with my studies?**

Completely committed  
 Hard worker  
 Don't give up easily  
 Am very thorough  
 Optimistic  
 Generous  
 Positive attitude  
 Focused  
 Intelligent  
 Good listener  
 Like working with people



# WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES?

## (INTERNAL ORIGIN – THINGS YOU CAN WORK ON)

- **What don't I do well that could greatly improve my marks?**

Chemistry  
Spread tasks over a longer period  
Rush through my work and make stupid mistakes  
Organisation  
Not great at writing  
Don't plan  
Easily get bored with routine work  
I give up when tasks are too difficult  
I don't like working long hours  
Always running short on time  
Can become obsessed over certain things and neglect other work/tasks  
Reading takes me a long time as I have to reread materials, so it sinks into my brain  
I often jump to the final answer without showing development  
Easily distracted  
I procrastinate a lot  
Don't read through questions properly so I sometimes miss crucial parts  
In order to get things right in my head I have to talk it through out loud

Once the momentum for study is lost, it is so hard to get back into the rhythm (especially across school holidays)

Noisy/distracting environment  
Don't have goals and objectives  
Health problems  
Non-supportive environment

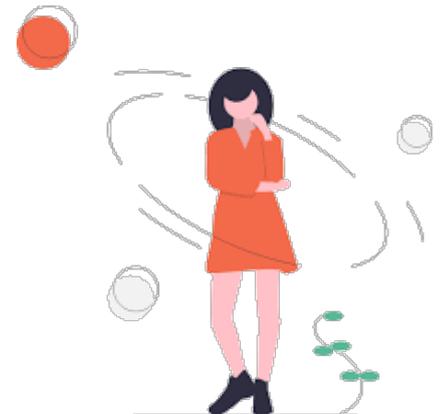
I have a strong, compulsive need to do things quickly and remove them from my "to do" list, and sometimes the quality of my work suffers as a result.

- **What should I avoid?**

Long study sessions – so start earlier  
Technology during study hours

- **What personal traits do I have that may hinder my success?**

I criticise myself  
I need instant gratification  
Arrogant  
Pessimistic  
I stress easily  
Lazy  
Inconsistent  
Not always confident  
Struggle to make fast decisions  
Impulsive



- **What personal qualities do I lack that could improve my marks?**

Stronger communication skills  
Ability to stick to a routine  
Patience  
Ability to remain calm  
Determination  
Passion

- **What things/areas can I improve on? What should I hone and practice?**

Concentrating for longer periods of time.  
Following a routine.  
Listening skills

- **What do my friends/parents/teachers see as my weaknesses?**

Easily influenced  
Can't say no  
Inconsistent  
Easily distracted

- **What tasks/activities do I dislike or avoid doing and why?**

Large tasks  
Tasks that involve a lot of research upfront  
Maths  
Essay writing  
Homework  
Things that don't contribute directly to my marks  
Writing up notes along the way  
Revising throughout the year  
Working ahead



- **What are the reasons behind any failures I've experienced in the past?**

Leave things to the last minute  
Don't always fully understand the requirements of the task

- **What are my negative study habits?**

Procrastination  
Poor time management  
No routine  
Leave things to the last minute

- **Do I have any fears that may be holding me back?**

Fear of not reaching my goal  
Fear that people will think I'm stupid if I don't get an ATAR above 90  
Fear that my parents will lose it

- **What resources/tools don't I have but could be used to create an advantage?**

Text books and study guides  
Exam papers  
Excellent summary notes  
Lecture programs  
Study skills programs  
Weekly tuition classes  
Online lectures/classes  
Private tutors  
Study groups  
Teachers  
Parents  
Older sibling who's been through the VCE  
ATAR Central – A+ Resources database

- **What skills and information do I lack that will help me achieve higher marks?**

Time management skills  
Analytical skills  
Listening skills  
Shorthand

# THE WEAKNESS OF STRENGTH

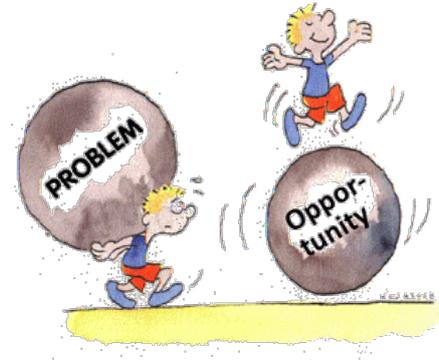


# WHAT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR YOU?

## (EXTERNAL ORIGIN – THINGS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL)

- **What opportunities are available for me to pursue?**

Text books and study guides  
Exam papers  
A+ summary notes  
Lecture programs  
Study skills programs  
Weekly tuition classes  
Online lectures/classes  
Private tutors  
Study groups  
Teachers  
Parents  
Older sibling who's been through the VCE  
ATAR Central – A+ Resources database



- **Are there any annual trends in student behaviour that I could use to my advantage?**

Refer to the next bullet point

- **Are any of my competitors failing to do something important?**

Not studying during the school holidays  
Not studying consistently  
Leaving SAC and exam preparations to the last minute  
Leaving exam papers to the last minute  
Not revising along the way  
Writing notes just before SACs  
Not taking advantage of all the resources available to them

- **If so, can I take advantage of their mistakes?**

Start SAC and exam preparations earlier  
Study during the school holidays  
Invest in 16-24 hours of personal study each week  
Work through Checkpoints as each topic is covered at school  
Use the school holidays to revise what was covered in the previous term  
Purchase a good set of notes eg. Exam Essentials by TSFX  
Attend lectures and tuition classes  
Form study groups and share the workload

- **What support/help is available to me that I'm not benefiting from?**

Study groups  
Teachers  
Parents  
Older sibling who's been through the VCE  
Work with students from other schools – gain further perspectives

- **What resources are available to me that I'm not currently using and that could improve my VCE marks?**

Text books and study guides  
 Exam papers  
 A+ summary notes  
 Lecture programs  
 Study skills programs  
 Weekly tuition classes  
 Online lectures/classes  
 Private tutors  
 Study groups  
 Teachers  
 Parents  
 Older sibling who's been through the VCE  
 ATAR Central – A+ Resources database

- **How can I turn my strengths into opportunities?**

As an example, if your strength is “I apply things I learn” you could use that skill to work through exam questions throughout the year rather than leaving this crucial task to the weeks before the exams. You will develop strong application skills that can be used in other assessments and cut down on the amount of time needed to prepare for the final exams.

- **How can I turn my weaknesses into opportunities?**

As an example, if your weakness is Chemistry, then an opportunity could be that you're going to use the subject to make a point to teachers and prove them wrong by working hard and greatly improve marks.

- **How can I use my opportunities to improve or eliminate my weaknesses?**

For example, you could attend weekly tuition classes to improve Chemistry marks.

- **What could I do today that isn't being done?**

Study  
 Write up course notes  
 Work through exam questions  
 Revise previously learned topics  
 Work through exam questions  
 Get ahead



## WHAT ARE THE THREATS TO YOUR SUCCESS?

### (EXTERNAL ORIGIN – THINGS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL)

- **What threats could harm me?**

Competition from stronger students  
Lack of time  
Illness  
Procrastination  
Family and relationship difficulties  
Fear of failure  
Work/study imbalance  
Bad environment  
Disruptive, uncommitted friends  
Getting disheartened if marks fall below expectations



- **What obstacles are in my way to success?**

Motivation  
Procrastination  
Limited financial resources  
Health problems  
Oral and/or written language difficulties  
Excessive travel times to/from school  
Family pressure or problems

- **Are there any weaknesses that pose a serious threat to my goal?**

Becoming too complacent/overconfident  
Losing motivation  
Not using other resources will limit my exposure to different perspectives  
Not using other resources will limit my exposure to VCAA assessors

- **Do any of my strengths hold me back or prevent me from reaching my goal??**

I tend to spend more time on the subjects I am good at or enjoy  
I am a perfectionist  
I find it hard to stop studying once I'm on a roll  
I am a candidate for burnout  
My quest for excellence means that I avoid tasks/subjects I'm not good at

- **What restrictions are there on me?**

Time  
Money

- **What's changing in my life that could close options for me?**

I have a new boyfriend/girlfriend  
I'm moving to a new school/house



- **What threats can my weaknesses expose me to?**

Competitors getting an advantage over me  
Not studying enough  
Not studying consistently  
Leaving things to the last minute  
Burnout

- **Do I have any obligations that may limit my chances of success?**

Personal relationships  
Extracurricular activities

- **Who are my competitors and what are they doing?**

Student X

- **Where are there gaps in my resources or sources of help?**

Text books and study guides  
Exam papers  
A+ summary notes  
Lecture programs  
Study skills programs  
Weekly tuition classes  
Online lectures/classes  
Private tutors  
Study groups  
Teachers  
Parents  
Older sibling who's been through the VCE  
ATAR Central – A+ Resources database

