

No GAT in 2008

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The Curriculum Council will not run the general achievement test (GAT) in 2008, or the foreseeable future.

The GAT was introduced to provide support for consensus moderation of the new WACE courses. This was necessary because initially school assessments were not going to be statistically moderated in the calculation of combined scores and, ultimately, the tertiary entrance rank.

Since that time

- Council has reintroduced traditional marking out of 100 for school assessments, and statistical moderation of these assessments when using them in the generation of tertiary entrance rank – effectively removing the necessity of the GAT information
- feedback from schools has shown that the effectiveness of the GAT as a moderation tool has been mixed, with many schools indicating little relationship between student performance on the GAT and their school assessments.
- an independent researcher from the University of Western Australia, Dr Stephen Humphry, was engaged to investigate the effectiveness of the GAT as a moderation tool. His findings reflected the anecdotal reports of schools.