

## CHEMISTRY

### **BRYCE ROBINSON RECEIVED A PERFECT VCE CHEMISTRY SCORE IN 2013.**

#### **My name is...**

Bryce Robinson

#### **I went to...**

Catholic Regional College Melton

#### **In VCE Chemistry, I received a score of...**

50

#### **The thing I liked best about doing this subject was...**

the diversity of content. VCE Chemistry offers an extremely comprehensive introduction to chemical principles across a wide range of areas – there really is something to suit everyone, and this also places you in very good stead for further study at university, no matter where your interests lie. Whilst it may be a challenge, the Chemistry curriculum provides quite a captivating account of many parts of our everyday life.

#### **This year (2014) I am doing...**

a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Science (Chemistry major, Biology minor) at the Australian National University in Canberra.

#### **The best advice I can give VCE students about this exam is...**

never underestimate the power of practice exams! Do every one that you can get your hands on.

Devise a time management plan before the day of the exam. Everyone works differently, figure out what suits you best.

Group study is a fantastic tool for Chemistry. In small groups, work through questions together, argue about how best to approach them, quiz each other on fundamental principles and concepts, and share any strategies/mnemonics/etc. that you have found useful.

#### **The best advice I got from my teacher about this exam was...**

no study is ever wasted. No matter how effective you think a particular study

method is, or how much time you spend on it, every exposure to the course content will put you one step ahead. Be varied in your revision strategies.

#### **In the month before this VCE exam, I...**

studied every day, dividing my time evenly between all of my subjects, ensuring frequent study breaks, and also including exercise and time with friends (even if group study) at least a few times per week. For Chemistry, I prepared various types of content summaries and did targeted practice questions for every topic, before transitioning into full practice exams, and eventually timed practice exams, as many as I could get my hands on.

#### **In the week before this VCE exam I...**

completed practice exams under timed VCAA exam conditions, about two per day. I liked to think of the week before each exam as the 'dress rehearsal', with revision done, and really perfecting exam strategy, time management, and the structure of written responses. I also forced myself to adhere to a minimum quota of exercise, sleep, and study breaks – wellbeing during this week is just as important as study!

#### **On exam day, I prepared myself by...**

actively calming myself and keeping a clear head. The day of the exam is not the time for study, the hard work has already been done. I had a long and relaxing breakfast, did some light re-reading of notes (nothing rigorous), and pictured the euphoric feeling I would have at the end of the exam if I emerged from the exam hall knowing I had done everything I possibly could.

#### **After the exam, I...**

relaxed! Chemistry was my last exam, so I didn't have to do any further study afterwards. I discussed the exam with my teacher as she was very keen to know how I found it, but refrained from going into too much depth with my friends – instead, we went out and shared a meal together, and talked about everything



but the VCE. No amount of stress or comparison after the exam will change the responses written on your paper, so the important thing is to be proud of the fact that you gave it your best effort, and to move on to the next thing, be that your next exam or the beginning of your post-exam relaxation and celebration.

#### **The best exam advice I received from my parents, siblings or friends was...**

to keep things in perspective. This exam is something you have been working towards the entire year, not just in the final rush in October/November. If you're finding it challenging, chances are most other kids in the state are too, so just keep working away and ensure you stay vigilant to your own state of wellbeing.

#### **I did/didn't work a part-time job during year 12 because...**

For the first half of the year I worked on weekends in a real estate office, which I found to be extremely beneficial. It was helpful to have an engagement completely separate from VCE in terms of maintaining a balanced lifestyle, but they were also very understanding and supported me in my studies. In the second half of the year, I instead worked as a tutor for secondary school maths and science students, as I found the hours to be more flexible, and the work – whilst still separate from Year 12 – also served the dual purpose of reinforcing my learning.