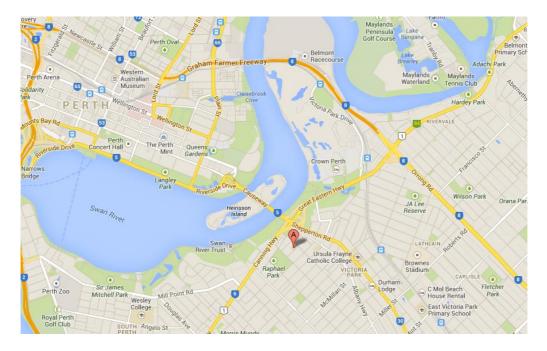


# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK 2025



### Welcome to Victoria Park Christian School

Campus Location 27 Colombo Street, Victoria Park, WA 6100



Victoria Park Christian School is a small, caring coeducation school catering for Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6. The school is open to students wishing to study and learn within a Christian environment and works with families to ensure that each child is nurtured and challenged to reach his or her full potential.

Victoria Park Christian School is a place where students, teachers and parents can develop values, character and personality based upon a love for God, an unselfish concern for others and personal self-respect. The educational activities are designed to provide opportunities for all students to achieve their maximum development – intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically.

Victoria Park Christian School is part of a worldwide Christian Education system (Adventist Christian Schools), that has over 1.6 million students worldwide and 84 000 teachers. Across Australia there are 48 schools and 13 early learning services are respected in their communities for providing authentic Christian education to nearly 17,000 students and young children from all sectors of the community.

Victoria Park Christian School is fully accredited by the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training within Western Australia and registered to accept Full Fee Overseas Students (FFOS). We welcome families of all cultural and religious backgrounds who wish to study and learn within an affordable and positive Christian environment. Facilities at Victoria Park Christian School include: Pre-Kindy / Kindy classroom; Pre-Primary classroom which also has an attached outdoor classroom; Year 1 classroom; Year 2 classroom; Year 3 classroom; Year 4 classroom; Year 5/6 classroom; library; hall; sporting field; playground. VPCS is connected to Sporting Schools, a government initiative, providing professional student coaching in selected sports.

#### Point of Contact

Mrs Felicity Drinkall (Principal) 08 9362 2626 or <u>Felicity.Drinkall@vpcs.wa.edu.au</u>

#### ESOS Framework

Use the link to access information relating to the <u>ESOS Framework</u> (Education Services for Overseas Students).

#### Living in Australia

For further information about living and studying in Australia, go to:

https://insiderguides.com.au/

https://www.internationalstudent.com/study\_aust ralia/

<u>https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/</u>

#### Facilities

#### Curriculum

Victoria Park Christian School is registered to provide an approved program of Education for primary students. The academic program that is presented by this school is fully selected and modified so as to remain in harmony with our philosophy.

The Curriculum for Pre-Primary to Year 6 is organised into the following Key Learning Areas:

**Biblical Studies – Encounter** 

English

**Mathematics** 

Science

History and Social Sciences Health & Physical Education

Technologies

The Arts

Languages (PP-Year 6 Chinese)

Curricular, resource selection and implementation of learning programs:

- are child centred and teacher guided;
- are gender inclusive;
- are focused on the whole child;
- reflect the needs of the individual child;
- are non-discriminatory.

<u>Please note: course credit is not granted</u> as students are placed in the grade that correlates with their age group.

Mode of delivery of the course is predominately face to face. The school will not deliver a course exclusively online or via distant education. Victoria Park Christian School will take all reasonable steps to ensure overseas students are not disadvantaged by additional costs, or inability to access resources. The school is well equipped to support the learning and to deliver the curriculum to all students. We have good internet access and appropriate resources for student learning and engagement.

#### Assessment

Students at VPCS are assessed using both internal and external methods. Students in Pre-Primary are assessed using the external On Entry Assessment tool during Term 1, and may be assessed again in Term 4. Year 3-6 students are assessed internally each term with class assignments and tests, and externally using NAPLAN in Term 2 as well as the ACER Online tool in Term 3. NAPLAN is a national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and assesses students' knowledge and skills in spelling, grammar & punctuation, writing, reading and numeracy.

#### Admission and Enrolment

Victoria Park Christian School aims to supplement the work of the Christian home. The parent, by enrolling the student in the school, undertakes to assure that the child concerned will be encouraged to co-operate with all the activities of the school and help maintain its standard as a Christian organisation. Victoria Park Christian School is open to students without regard for their ethnic background or religion.

#### Application for Enrolment

An Application for Enrolment form should be completed and submitted to the school along with the application processing fee of \$250.00. The following information (translated into English) is required:

- A copy of the student's passport, visa and birth certificate
- Copy of the student's most recent school report;
- A supporting statement from the Principal of the student's current school;
- Evidence of student's English Qualifications;
- Evidence of arranged Overseas Student Health Cover<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> All International Students studying on student visas must have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). OSHC is an insurance that provides cover on the costs of medical and hospital care which International students may need while in Australia. OSHC will also pay for most prescription drugs and emergency ambulance transport. OSHC provides a safety net for International students similar to that provided to Australians through Medicare and includes access to some private hospitals, day surgeries, ambulance cover and benefits for pharmaceuticals.

#### Letter of Offer

A formal Letter of Offer will be provided confirming – the Course applied for and the CRICOS Course Code; Year Level of student; Start and Finish dates of course; Estimate total of Course costs, both Tuition and non-Tuition.

#### Written Agreement

To accept Victoria Park Christian School's Letter of Offer, the applicant will be required to complete and sign a copy of the Written Agreement (available on website).

#### Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)

Upon receipt of a completed and signed Written Agreement and payment of fees, Victoria Park Christian School will issue a Confirmation of Enrolment for the student's visa application.

#### Agents

Victoria Park Christian School does not engage agents for the purpose of recruiting International students.

The school accepts international students that approach the school for possible enrolment. Sometimes agents approach the school on behalf of parents, but we have no signed agreement with them. We do not pay agents a commission.

#### Assessing Student Academic Attainment, English Proficiency and Class Placement

Upon Enrolment, parents are asked to provide reports from their previous school and an accurate indication of Academic and English experience and proficiency. If required, a student's English level may need to be assessed, such as the AEAS English assessment, before enrolment to best cater for needs within the classroom.

Students will be placed in the grade that correlates with their age group. Teachers will then assess English proficiency and academic skills. Parents are kept in touch with findings through regular reporting procedures (see Assessment and Reporting Policy). If students are assessed as requiring extra support or further challenge, the classroom teacher will endeavour to give appropriate support within the classroom. If more tutoring is required, parents will be informed. In some situations parents will be private advised that tutoring would be advantageous for the student's academic progress.

A package CoE can be arranged with <u>Phoenix English</u> <u>Language Academy</u>, who provide English Language courses.

Tutoring services available in and around Perth:

- <u>TutorFinder</u>
- Better Education Tutors in Perth
- In exceptional circumstances parents may apply for their child to be considered for a class that is just above or below the average class age group. These applications will be considered for individual merit, based on the best interest of the child.

#### Complying with Visa Conditions

Full fee overseas students are required to have a current student visa, which requires students to comply with a number of visa conditions including:

- maintaining satisfactory attendance;
- achieving satisfactory academic results;
- notifying the school of any change of your address; and
- maintaining medical cover.

Student visa holders must comply with a number of visa conditions, including Condition 8202 – Meeting Course Requirements. If you have not achieved satisfactory academic course progress or have poor attendance, VPCS must notify the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) that you have breached this visa condition. This may have serious implications for your student visa and future study options in Australia.

Please refer to our Assessment and Reporting; Attendance; Deferment, Suspension or Cancellation of an International Student's Enrolment policy documents which are available on the school's <u>website</u>.

#### Homestay Conditions

Victoria Park Christian School does not arrange Homestay accommodation, but the School Principal must be convinced that the Homestay accommodation is appropriate for the student before enrolment can be confirmed.

Where a parent is accompanying a child on a Student Guardian Visa, Victoria Park Christian School will be required to sight the Visa and take a copy to place on file.

#### PROCEDURE:

- Parents will arrange a Homestay accommodation.
- School Principal will site "Working With Children Check" of Homestay family.
- School Principal may visit the home or interview the family to ensure suitable care and circumstances are to be provided for the international student. Care will involve both physical, emotional and educational needs.
- A Student Welfare Agreement (sent to DHA National Code, Standard 5 which states the acceptance of approving student accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements using the DHA proforma letter available through PRISMS will only be signed once the above conditions are met.
- Principal will have regular interviews (at least once in six months) with both the student and the Homestay parents to ensure that conditions continue to be appropriate. These interviews will be recorded and filed with the student's file.
- In the unlikely situation where the Homestay situation was deemed to become unsuitable by the School Principal, Parents and DHA would be contacted and the student removed from the Homestay. The student would be in the care of the School Principal until a suitable Homestay could be found.
- Welfare Services will continue to be monitored by the School Principal until such time as the student completes their course of study, or they depart permanently from Australia, or they transfer to another Provider who takes on the Welfare Agreement.

- Any change in the accommodation or Homestay must be reported to the School Principal immediately. The process of inspection and interview would need to be repeated in the new circumstances.
- <u>https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/welfare-arrangements-students-under-18</u>
- If we need to cancel or suspend enrolment, the school will continue to approve the welfare arrangement for that student until any of the following applies:
  - O the student has alternative arrangement approved by another provider
  - care of the student by a parent or nominated relative is approved by Immigration
  - O the student leaves Australia
  - O we notify Immigration that we are no longer able to approve the welfare arrangement or under Standard 5.5 that it has taken the required action after not being able to contact the student.

#### Counseling Arrangements

Our School Chaplain is available for counselling within the school. If external counselling is required a list of chaplains available can be collected from the school office.

#### **Orientation Program**

The School Principal will spend time with each family, showing them around the school and explaining

school routines and procedures. Our School Chaplain will visit new families and spend time with them to also help with settling into the new surrounds.

Classroom teachers are very mindful of the enormity of attending school for the first time in a new country. They do all they can to support the student through the initial weeks by giving extra in-class support and assistance, encouraging other students to give peer support, keeping in touch with parents regarding progress and settling in. Staff are aware of the obligations under the ESOS framework and can support families as they transition into school life in a new country.

## Student Support – Contact (08) 9362 2626 and speak to any of the following:

Principal – main point of contact

Chaplain

Deputy Principal

Office Administration

Useful Contacts - Health services

Consumer health services directory

**Medicare** 

Accommodation and Welfare Requirements for Overseas Students in Australia

**Emergency services** 

Legal Services

#### Fee Schedule

Tuition fees are set each year by Adventist Christian Schools, WA. The student or their guardian is responsible for keeping a copy of receipts of any payments of tuition fees or non-tuition fees.

Course Monies Payable: (Please note that fees can change at any time.)

Overseas Students (PP-Year 6) Tuition Fee 1 student full fee 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> students 5% discount Application Fee	\$17,00 \$16,150 \$250
Additional Fees – non-Tuition Fees Learning Resources Maintenance Levy	\$415 \$130

Withdrawal of Students: Should you need to withdraw a student, a full term's notice must be given or a Term's Tuition Fee will be charged.

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Fee accounts are forwarded to families at the beginning of each school year, along with a Fee Payment Options form and a Fee Payment Commitment Form.

Fees are due in accordance with the option that best suits you, and must be paid in full before a student can be re-enrolled for a new year:

For further information on the ESOS Framework click International Student Fact Sheet and select the PDF option.

PAYMENT OPTIONS				
	Description	Amount		
A	- prompt payment is made in full by the due date			
Annual		\$17,545.00		
B Term	- payments are made four times per year and due at the beginning of each term.	4 x \$4386.25		
C Monthly	- 10 payments are made over each month from February to November. Payments are due on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month	10 x \$1754.50		
D Fortnightly	- 20 payments are made each fortnight from February to November. Payments are due on the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> of each month.	20 x \$877.25		

#### Refund Policy

The aim of the Refund Policy is to ensure that parents are aware of fees and charges payable in the event their child is unable to commence at the School, or withdraws from the School and to provide information to parents that enables them to make informed decisions about their child's education.

For further information see: <u>Refunds for International</u> <u>Students</u>.

# Written Agreement with International Students

#### Course of study: Primary Studies [029040J]

Please read carefully all information contained in the Written Agreement. No payments will be accepted until this agreement has been read and accepted. Parents who are overseas may agree by filling in the agreement, scanning and emailing to admin@vpcs.wa.edu.au; parents who are able to sign the agreement must do so in writing. We will keep retain records of the written agreement as well as receipts of payments under the written agreement for at least 2 years.

#### Conditions on enrolment:

- This written agreement must be read and signed before enrolment may take place;
- Information given in enrolment forms must be true and accurate;
- You must maintain your Overseas Student Health Cover for the period of your stay;
- You must inform Victoria Park Christian School if you change address;
- You must maintain satisfactory progress in your school studies;
- You must attend School regularly, with a minimum attendance of 80%;
- You must provide written notice of all absences;
- You must adhere to the School Rules.

#### **Course Progress**

Victoria Park Christian School monitors and records the course progress of each student using our SEQTA database and marksbook. If an international student is not achieving satisfactory course progress, the teacher will meet with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. Should the student not achieve satisfactory course progress in the next school term, even though all steps have been taken to assist the student, including advising parents/guardians, the school has the right to inform the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) which may result in the cancellation of their student visa.

#### **Personal Information:**

Information is collected on this form, and during your enrolment, in order to meet our obligations under

ESOS Act and the National Code 2018; to ensure student compliance with the conditions of their visas and their obligations under Australian immigration laws generally. The authority to collect this information is contained in the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2019 and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018. Information collected about you on this form and during your enrolment can be provided, in certain circumstances, to the Australian Government and designated authorities and, if relevant, the Tuition Protection Service and the ESOS Assurance Fund Manager. In other instances, information collected on this form or during your enrolment can be disclosed, without your consent, where authorised or required by law.

#### Values

Values are often described as the glue, which holds a society together. In Adventist Schools, Values are also seen as a reflection of God's character, and a way of learning to know God. Values are taught intentionally and incidentally across the Curriculum and at all stages of education. There are 9 Values Clusters, each cluster being represented by a core Value. Values for Adventist Schools reflect a loving God, and are taken from 1 Corinthians 13. These values are motivated by the overarching value of love, and seen in acts of service.

Adventist Education: Christ-centred, Bible based, Service oriented and Kingdom directed.



#### Uniform

Correct school uniform is to be worn at all times and in the appropriate way. Following is a brief description of the school uniform. All items, other than shoes and socks are available from the School Office, during Office Hours.

Sports Uniform is worn one day per week. Formal Uniform is required on other school days. Please note that Pre-Kindy, Kindy and Pre-Primary Students wear Sports Uniform each day, due to the very active nature of their learning.

Formal	Summer Uniform – Terms 1 & 4
<u>Boys</u> Blue short sleeved shirt Grey shorts Black leather school shoes Grey socks	<u>Girls</u> Blue tartan skirt White short sleeved shirt Black leather school shoes White socks Bike shorts Please note that hair needs to be tied back with navy blue or white hair ties.
Formal	Winter Uniform – Terms 2 & 3
<ul> <li><u>Boys</u></li> <li>Blue short sleeved shirt</li> <li>School Tie</li> <li>Grey long pants</li> <li>School jumper with logo</li> <li>Black leather school shoes</li> <li>Grey socks</li> <li>Navy scarf</li> </ul>	<u>Girls</u> Blue tartan skirt – Years 1-6 White short sleeved shirt School jumper with logo Black leather school shoes White socks OR Black or Navy blue tights Navy scarf Please note that hair needs to be tied back with navy blue or white hair ties.
Spr	orts Uniform: Boys & Girls
Sports T-shirt with school logo Navy blue shorts Appropriate sport shoes White socks	<u>Winter</u> • Track top – Navy, Grey & White • Track Pants – Navy • Appropriate sport shoes • White socks • Navy scarf
Kin	dy & Pre-Primary Students
Students in Kindy and Pre-Primary wea	r the sports uniform every day – please see above.

A navy blue school slouch hat is to be worn for outdoor activities all year round.

UNIFORM NOTES - GENERAL INFORMATION

- Sports uniform must be worn only on the specified sports day (except Pre-Kindy, Kindy and Pre-Primary students)
- Students are encouraged to maintain a high standard of cleanliness. Uniforms must be worn in a neat and tidy manner at all times. Students are expected to keep their shoes clean and socks, tights or stockings tidy.
- In the interests of hygiene, we expect that girls have their hair tied up neatly when it is longer than shoulder length and that fringes not hang down over their eyes.
- Clothing not of stated uniform, when worn in cold weather for extra warmth, must not be visible. Jackets may be worn to and from school, but can be taken off in the classroom as they are heated.
- If it is necessary for a child to attend school with part of the uniform absent, a note of explanation is required giving reason and expected time when the correct item will be worn.
- Necklaces, rings and bracelets are not to be worn. Only one set of inconspicuous ear studs may be worn if necessary. The school will not accept responsibility for loss of any jewellery-type item that is brought to school, or injury caused by the wearing of ear studs.
- The use of make-up, including nail polish other than clear polish, is not permitted.

#### SAFETY AND CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Victoria Park Christian School is a child safe and child friendly environment. We have zero tolerance for child abuse and are committed to acting in the student's best interests and keeping them safe from harm. If you are worried or concerned about your safety or wellbeing, please approach our front office or contact the Principal. The Principal, Mrs Felicity Drinkall can be contacted on (+61) 08 9362 2626 during school hours or via email: felicity.drinkall@vpcs.wa.edu.au

When outside of school hours and you fear for your safety or being assaulted or abused, call 000 immediately. Please also inform Mrs Felicity Drinkall as soon as possible once you are safe.

While Australia is generally a safe place to live and study, it is still important that you take care and keep yourself safe. Please refer to the following website for information on personal security and safety when going out, using public transport, taxis or the internet:

#### https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/health-and-safety/personal

Critical Incidents will be managed and processed based on Victoria Park Christian Schools Critical Incident Policy (see website for further details). The school will maintain a written record of any critical and remedial action taken for at least two years after the overseas student ceases to be an accepted student.

#### Calendar

#### **TERM DATES FOR 2025**

Term One	Uniform shop opens	Thursday	23 January
	Students commence	Tuesday	28 January
	Students conclude	Friday	11 April
Term Two	Students commence	Monday	28 April
	Students conclude	Friday	27 June
Term Three	Students commence	Monday	21 July
	Students conclude	Friday	26 September
Term Four	Students commence	Monday	13 October
	Students conclude	Friday	05 December

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

Classes Operate: 8:50am to 3:10pm Student Supervision: 8:20am to 3:30pm

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2025

Monday	27 January	Australia Day
Monday	03 March	Labour Day
Friday	18 April	Good Friday
Monday	21 April	Easter Monday Holiday
Friday	25 April	ANZAC Day Holiday
Monday	02 June	Western Australia Day
Monday	29 September	King's Birthday
Thursday	25 December	Christmas Day
Friday	26 December	Boxing Day Holiday

## **Policy: Assessment and Reporting**

At Victoria Park Christian School we believe assessment for learning, of learning and as learning is integral to the achievement of high quality learning outcomes.

#### DEFINITION OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the process of gathering, analysing and interpreting quality information about student learning. Assessment is the purposeful, systematic and ongoing collection of information appropriate to the age and development for the students. Assessment is also demonstrably fair, valid, comprehensive, explicit and educative.

The PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT is to:

- □ Facilitate student learning; Inform the planning process;
- Provide data on the achievements of individual students/groups according to the Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Policy.

Assessment at Victoria Park Christian School aims to:

- □ Identify students' achievements and the extent of their progress;
- □ Assist with identification of students at education risk;
- □ Improve students' learning;
- □ Allow students to set goals for their learning;
- □ Improve the effectiveness of teachers' planning, teaching, monitoring and reporting to parents;
- Allow planning for improvement by determining with the School Council realistic priorities;
- Broaden home/school links that will enable parents to further assist with their children's learning.

Assessment of student's work assists teachers and the school by:

- □ Monitoring the progress of students and diagnosing learning difficulties;
- Providing feedback to students on how they may improve their achievement;
- Adjusting programs to ensure students have the opportunity to achieve the intended outcomes
- Developing subsequent learning programs;
- □ Reporting student achievement to parents;
- and Whole school and system planning, reporting and accountability procedures.

#### MEASURING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Assessment will be in accordance with the Principles of Teaching Learning and Assessment, within the WA Curriculum Framework and Australian Curriculum Documents

Teachers are not expected to grade or level each piece of student work but are expected to provide feedback to students on assessments so that students know how to improve and teachers know what to plan for in their teaching.

Teachers may use a variety of assessment tools including; NAPLAN, PAT-R First Steps, Dianna Rigg checklists, anecdotal comments, observations or checklists profiles.

It is a requirement of teacher accountability that they maintain ongoing classroom based records showing each student's achievement.

#### NATIONAL AND STATE ASSESSMENT

NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy assessment in Year 3 and 5

Standardised Testing (PAT-R - online testing)

September/October for Years 1-6

- □ PAT-R Comprehension
- PAT-R Vocab
- □ PAT-R Grammar and Punctuation
- □ SAST Spelling
- □ PAT-R Mathematics

#### MODERATION

To support consistency of teacher judgments, teachers are encouraged to create opportunities to engage in forms of in school moderation between other Adventist Christian Schools (WA) and other similar schools during Professional Learning Meetings.

#### BELIEFS ABOUT ASSESSMENT

Assessment is fair, valid, comprehensive, explicit and educative.

At Victoria Park Christian School we believe assessment should;

- Facilitate learning;
- Refer to criteria that are explicit;
- Identify strengths and achievements;
- Include a variety of strategies and sources of evidence;
- Be appropriate for each phase of schooling;
- Include self evaluation and reflection;
- Involve teacher judgment;
- Provide opportunities for students to work together; and
- Be sensitive to students with special needs.

#### ASSESSMENT PRACTICE

- Formative assessments monitor progress during a learning task
- Summative assessments to establish level of achievement at the end of a unit of study.
- Identify and record extent of progress in relation to the Curriculum outcomes and standards
- Assist with identification of students at educational risk.
- Encourage students to set goals for their learning.

By using a range of assessment strategies teachers will be able to make accurate on balance judgments about their student performances. These may include;

- Observation
- Lexile Quizzes and Placement tests
- Open ended tasks
- Standardised tests eg PAT-R (onlinetests)
- NAPLAN
- Individual Education Plans
- Teacher journals, Student journals
- Self assessments
- Student teacher conferences

- Negotiated evaluation
- Checklists and matrices
- Peer assessment, Individual and group reflection
- Teacher constructed tests

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES STUDENTS

- Give opportunities to students to contribute to discussions about assessment criteria at appropriate developmental levels.
- $\hfill\square$  Make constructive and honest assessments of their own and other's learning.
- □ Reflect and respond for future improvements.

#### TEACHERS

- Develop valid and reliable assessment practices that inform future planning.
- Ensure that students understand and are involved in the assessment process.
- Provide valid feedback to enhance future learning.
- Participate in professional collaboration to ensure consistency of judgment.
- Maintain records according to school policy.

#### PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS

• Communicate relevant information and feedback that may affect their child's ongoing learning.

#### YEAR OUTLINE – Reporting to Parents

#### Term 1

- □ Parent information session with explanation about curriculum priorities, ethos and routines.
- □ Parent/teacher conferences
- □ IEP meetings with parents as required

#### Term 2

- □ Semester One report.
- $\Box$  Invitation for parents to make an interview with the class teacher as required.

#### Term 3

- □ Parent/ Teacher conferences
- □ Follow-up IEP meetings as required

#### Term 4

Semester Two Report