

# Design briefs



## Economics Stage 2

### WACE examination design brief

Assessment/item type	Supporting information
<b>Section One: Multiple-choice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A total of 30 compulsory questions</li><li>• 45 minutes</li><li>• 30 marks</li></ul>	This section to comprise of a broad range of objective questions covering the full scope of Stage 2 micro and macroeconomics. The questions will be pitched at varying degrees of difficulty to ensure that the section is an effective discriminator of candidates' knowledge and understanding of the course content.
<b>Section Two: Data interpretation/short answer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3–5 compulsory, sectionalised, short response questions</li><li>• 90 minutes</li><li>• 50 marks</li></ul>	This section will allow candidates to respond to questions in a range of contexts and formats including simple calculations, data analysis, dot points, diagrams and short descriptive answers as well as more detailed written answers. The questions will be scaffolded to include some parts which require general recall of fundamental knowledge and the annotation of economic models and others which require extended explanations, application and analysis.
<b>Section Three: Sectionalised long answer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 long answer question to be selected from a choice of 2</li><li>• 45 minutes</li><li>• 20 marks</li></ul>	<p>In this section candidates will be able to develop detailed answers to demonstrate the depth of their understanding of key areas of the course. Two questions will be provided and students will be required to answer one of them. The questions will be scaffolded into three or more parts to support students in constructing their answers.</p> <p>Candidates will be encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of economic ideas and principles in context and to apply appropriate economic models to support their answers.</p>

#### Other considerations

The WACE examination will address all three outcomes. An appropriate degree of scaffolding will be provided for questions in the two written sections.

#### Examination length

The total examination length is 3 hours and 10 minutes. This comprises a written paper of 3 hours working time and 10 minutes reading time.

#### Permissible materials

Standard items permissible in WACE exams are pens, pencils eraser or correction fluid, ruler and highlighter. A non-programmable calculator is permitted in the Economics exam.

## Economics Stage 3

### WACE examination design brief

Assessment/item type	Supporting information
<p><b>Section One:</b> <b>Multiple-choice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 24 compulsory questions</li> <li>• 30 minutes</li> <li>• 24 marks</li> </ul>	<p>This section will comprise of a broad range of objective questions covering the full scope of Stage 3 micro and macroeconomics. The questions will be pitched at varying degrees of difficulty to ensure that the section is an effective discriminator of candidates' knowledge and understanding of the course content.</p>
<p><b>Section Two:</b> <b>Data interpretation/short answer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 compulsory, sectionalised, data response questions</li> <li>• 70 minutes</li> <li>• 36 marks (3x12 marks)</li> </ul>	<p>Each of the three compulsory questions is comprised of an item of data or stimulus material e.g. a graph, table, text or cartoon and three levels of questions. Part (a) will require candidates to define a term or perform a simple calculation. Part (b) will be more difficult, for example asking candidates to interpret the stimulus material such as trends in data or to provide a list of causes or effects relating to the item. Part (c) will be a higher order question requiring candidates to demonstrate a greater level of understanding of economic concepts, for example requiring candidates to examine the relationships between two or more economic variables.</p>
<p><b>Section Three:</b> <b>Extended writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 extended response questions selected from a choice of 4</li> <li>• 80 minutes</li> <li>• 40 marks (2 x 20 marks)</li> </ul>	<p>This section contains four questions of which candidates are required to answer two only. The questions will be set in a variety of formats including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an extended answer based on analysing data from tables or graphs</li> <li>• a sectionalised extended answer question</li> <li>• a question requiring a response to a quote or a published short article</li> <li>• an essay style question.</li> </ul> <p>Candidates will be encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of economic ideas and principles in contexts and to apply appropriate economic models to support their answers.</p>

#### Other considerations

The WACE examination will address all three outcomes.

#### Examination length

The total examination length is 3 hours and 10 minutes. This comprises a written paper of 3 hours working time and 10 minutes reading time.

#### Permissible materials

Standard items permissible in WACE exams are pens, pencils eraser or correction fluid, ruler and highlighter. A non-programmable calculator is permitted in the Economics exam.