

Sample questions for the WACE English examination

These questions are intended to help teachers and students in their preparation for the 2007 examination. They have been modeled on the types of questions in the sample examination paper, which in turn reflects the nature of the actual 2007 examination paper.

Section One: Reading

1. Discuss how your values/attitudes influence your response to one of these passages.
2. How do the structure and use of conventions in both of these passages influence your response?
3. Discuss how the text manipulates generic conventions to position the reader to accept certain values.
4. How has the reading of other texts assisted you in making meaning in these passages?
5. Discuss how the use of language in these texts shapes the way you view the worlds described in the texts.
6. Discuss how the text positions readers to respond in particular ways.

Section Two: Writing

1. Write a response to the following statement: "Water will replace money as the currency of the future."
2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement that "the power of storytelling lies in its portrayal of interesting characters"? You must refer to your own reading/viewing experiences.
3. "We can never say or show everything. Writing, speaking, painting, and film-making all involve a process of selection." Write a response in relation to at least one work you have studied.
4. Present arguments for and against a contentious issue.
5. In a form of writing of your own choice, describe Australia in the year 2030.
6. Use the following quote in a piece of writing about a TV program you have viewed: "Television is the triumph of technology over content."

7. Write in a form that allows you to demonstrate your passion for a subject about which you feel strongly.
8. Write in a convincing way to promote your vision of a more just society.

Section Three: Viewing

1. Selecting from the images provided, explore the extent to which generic expectations influence our viewing.
2. "Images are never objective. They always involve a process of selection and omission, and come from a particular viewpoint." Discuss with reference to the images provided.
3. Is any image a 'true' record of an event? Explore with reference to one or more of the images presented.
4. "Contextual understanding will shape the way you make meaning of a text." Discuss this statement with reference to one of the images below.
5. "The same image can have different meanings in different contexts." Discuss this statement with reference to one of the images below.
6. Discuss how texts manipulate conventions for effect. Make reference to at least one of the images provided and your own viewing experience.
7. "Two people can look at the same visual image and make totally different meanings." Discuss with reference to at least one of the images provided and your own viewing experience.
8. "Visual texts are often produced to inform or entertain but they can also serve other social functions." Discuss this statement with reference to at least one of the images provided and your own viewing experience.

End of sample questions