

DESIGN BRIEFS

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INTEGRATED SCIENCE STAGE 2 (2AISC AND 2BISC) WACE Examination Design Brief

Exam Section	Supporting Information
<p><i>Section One: Multiple Choice</i> 20 questions (20%) 30 minutes</p>	<p>Questions will be structured with a stem and four alternatives from which students choose the correct answer. Questions will sample student understanding of scientific method and scientific concepts. It is intended that there be minimal reading requirements for this section of the paper.</p>
<p><i>Section Two: Short Answer</i> 4-6 questions (60%) 110 minutes</p>	<p>Questions will be structured as a sequence of items linked to a variety of scenarios. These should provide opportunities for students to apply learned concepts, principles and strategies to solve problems set in unfamiliar scenarios. Items may involve descriptions, diagrams, tables or graphs. At least one question in Section B will sample student understanding of experimental design in an unfamiliar investigation. Other questions will sample student understanding of scientific concepts.</p>
<p><i>Section Three: Extended Answer</i> 2 questions (20%) 40 minutes</p>	<p>Questions will be of a more holistic nature and with less scaffolding. Students will interpret and respond to questions that may include stimulus materials e.g. diagrams, second hand data, excerpts from publications and recent research findings. The stimulus material should not exceed one page in length.</p>

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Stage 2 examination will place greater emphasis on practical scenarios and short answer items;

The examination will be presented in a combined question/answer booklet. Each question involves a scenario where information is given in discrete parts, with spaces for answers. Linked items should be sequenced in order of increasing complexity.

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/planning time.

PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

The general materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are: pens, pencils, eraser or correction fluid, ruler and a highlighter.

The special materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are non-programmable calculators, MATHOMAT and/or Mathaid, drawing compass, a protractor and a data insert sheet if required (A4 booklet size).

INTEGRATED SCIENCE STAGE 3 (3AISC AND 3BISC) WACE Examination Design Brief

Exam Section	Supporting Information
<p><i>Section One: Multiple Choice</i> 20 questions (20%) 30 minutes</p>	<p>Questions will be structured with a stem and four alternatives from which students choose the correct answer. Questions will sample student understanding of scientific method and scientific concepts. It is intended that there be minimal reading requirements for this section of the paper.</p>
<p><i>Section Two: Short Answer and Problem Solving</i> 4-6 questions (50%) 90 minutes</p>	<p>Questions will be structured as a sequence of items linked to a variety of scenarios. These should provide opportunities for students to apply learned concepts, principles and strategies to solve problems set in unfamiliar scenarios. Items may involve descriptions, diagrams, tables or graphs. At least one question in Section B will sample student understanding of experimental design in an unfamiliar investigation. Other questions will sample student understanding of scientific concepts.</p>
<p><i>Section Three: Extended Answer</i> 2 questions (30%) 60 minutes</p>	<p>Questions will be of a more holistic nature and with less scaffolding. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to synthesise key concepts across scientific disciplines and use these to evaluate a range of perspectives. They will interpret and respond to questions that may include stimulus materials e.g. diagrams, second hand data, excerpts from publications and recent research findings. The stimulus material should not exceed one page in length. Questions will sample student understanding of scientific concepts and the impact of science.</p>

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Stage 3 examination will place an emphasis on open-ended, extended answer questions.

The examination will be presented in a combined question/answer booklet. Each question involves a scenario where information is given in discrete parts, with spaces for answers. Linked items should be sequenced in order of increasing complexity.

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/planning time.

PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

The general materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are: pens, pencils, eraser or correction fluid, ruler and a highlighter.

The special materials permitted for use in the WACE examination are non-programmable calculators, MATHOMAT and/or Mathaid, drawing compass, a protractor and a data insert sheet if required (A4 booklet size).