

DESIGN BRIEFS

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

WACE Examination Design Brief—Stage 2

Exam sections	Supporting information
<p>Section One—Written exam Reasoning and inquiry skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 30% • Between 15–20 items 	<p>There will be 15–20 items in this section. Items will be structured to test specific skills in critical reasoning and methods of inquiry.</p> <p>Items will be a mixture of sentences and short passages in natural language. Items will be short.</p>
<p>Section 2—Written exam Philosophical analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 minutes • 40% • Compulsory question on Community of inquiry • Compulsory question on three texts • Combination of print and non-print texts • Extended response 	<p>This section of the examination tests the candidate’s ability to identify, clarify and evaluate ideas, concepts and/or assumptions</p> <p>Part A will contain a compulsory passage and question which asks candidates to evaluate an extract of philosophical dialogue in light of criteria drawn from the Community of inquiry.</p> <p>Part B requires candidates to respond to THREE texts. These texts will have a common theme, and will typically be a combination of print and non-print items.</p> <p>Stage 2 candidates can expect dialogues and text in natural language from a variety of genres suitable to philosophy.</p>
<p>Section Three— Written exam Extended argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 30% • Choice of one open-ended question from four • Essay 	<p>This section of the examination tests the candidate’s ability to structure an argument. Candidates will be required to respond to ONE question from a choice of five questions. Candidates are encouraged to use their school-based learning experiences in the Community of inquiry as evidence.</p> <p>Candidates are required to define their terms or concepts, put forward a premise or thesis, employ examples and counter-examples, justify the development of the argument, avoid contradiction, synthesise contrary claims and establish a conclusion that follows from the premise and the examples.</p> <p>Questions will come from the ‘What is real?’ and ‘How should we live?’ sections of the unit content. More specifically, questions will sample sections of the unit content in order to test the candidate’s understanding of philosophical context.</p> <p>Some questions may be accompanied by visual stimuli.</p>

Written examination length

The duration of the written examination is 3 hours plus 10 minutes reading time.

Permissible materials

The general materials permitted for use in the WACE Philosophy and Ethics examination are stationery comprising of pens, eraser, correction fluid and a ruler.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

WACE Examination Design Brief—Stage 3

Exam sections	Supporting information
<p>Written exam—section 1, reasoning and inquiry skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 30% • Between 8–10 items 	<p>There will be 8–10 items in this section. Items will be structured to test specific skills in critical reasoning and methods of inquiry.</p> <p>Items will be a mixture of argument diagramming and short passages in natural language. Short passages are limited to 5 sentences, and this includes the passages for argument diagramming.</p>
<p>Written exam—section 2, philosophical analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 minutes • 40% • Compulsory question on Community of inquiry • Three passages • Compulsory to engage with ONE passage • Extended response 	<p>This section of the examination tests the candidate’s ability to identify, clarify and evaluate arguments and assumptions</p> <p>Part A will contain a compulsory passage and question which asks candidates to evaluate an extract of philosophical dialogue in light of criteria drawn from the Community of inquiry.</p> <p>Part B requires candidates to respond to ONE of three passages. One passage will deal with an ethical issue, one passage with an epistemological issue and one passage will deal with a metaphysical issue.</p> <p>Stage 3 candidates will be expected to deal mainly with dialogues and passages drawn from philosophical texts, but should also be prepared to engage with conceptually challenging texts from a variety of genres suitable to philosophy.</p>
<p>Written exam—section 3, extended argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes • 30% • Choice of one open-ended question from five • essay 	<p>This section of the examination tests the candidate’s ability to structure an argument. Candidates will be required to respond to ONE question from a choice of five questions. Candidates are encouraged to use their school-based learning experiences in the Community of inquiry as evidence.</p> <p>Candidates are required to define their terms or concepts, put forward a premise or thesis, employ examples and counter-examples, justify the development of the argument, avoid contradiction, synthesise contrary claims and establish a conclusion that follows from the premise and the examples.</p> <p>Questions will come from the ‘What is real?’ and ‘How should we live?’ sections of the unit content. More specifically, questions will sample sections of the unit content in order to test the candidate’s understanding of philosophical context.</p> <p>Some questions may be accompanied by visual stimuli.</p>

Written examination length

The duration of the written examination is 3 hours plus 10 minutes reading time.

Permissible materials

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