



PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS SAMPLE EXAMINATION

Section 7 of the *New WACE Manual: General Information 2006–2009* outlines the policy on WACE examinations.

Further information about the WACE Examinations policy can be accessed from the Curriculum Council website at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/pages/about_wace_manual.asp.

The purpose for providing a sample examination is to provide teachers with an example of how the course will be examined. Further finetuning will be made to this sample in 2007 by the examination panel following consultation with teachers, measurement specialists and advice from the Assessment, Review and Moderation (ARM) panel.

DRAFT (WEB VERSION ONLY)



Western Australian Certificate of Education, Sample External Examination Question/Answer Booklet

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS WRITTEN EXAM STAGE 2

Please place your student identification label in this box

Student Number: In figures

Grid for student number in figures

In words

Lines for student number in words

Time allowed for this paper

Reading/planning time before commencing work: Ten minutes
Working time for paper: Three hours

Material required/recommended for this paper

To be provided by the supervisor
Question/Answer Booklet (Section One)
Answer Booklet (Sections 2 and 3)

To be provided by the candidate

Standard items: Pens, pencil, eraser or correction fluid, highlighter and ruler.

Special items: Nil

Important note to candidates

No other items may be taken into the examination room. It is your responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised notes or other items of a non-personal nature in the examination room. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor before reading any further.

Structure of this paper

Section	Suggested working time	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be attempted	Marks available
Section One	50 minutes	16	16	30
Section Two	80 minutes	2	2	40
Section Three	50 minutes	5	1	30
[Total marks]				100

Instructions to candidates

1. The rules for the conduct of Curriculum Council examinations are detailed in the *Student Information Handbook*. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.
2. For Section One you are to answer the questions in the space provided immediately after each question in this Question/Answer Booklet
3. For Sections Two and Three write your answers in a separate Answer Booklet. A blue or black ballpoint or ink pen should be used.
4. You must be careful to confine your responses to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.
5. Spare answer pages may be found at the end of this booklet. If you need to use them, indicate in the original answer space where the answer is continued (i.e. give the page number).

SECTION ONE—REASONING AND INQUIRY SKILLS

In this section there are **SIXTEEN (16)** questions. Complete **ALL** questions and **ALL** parts.

Allow approximately 50 minutes for this section [30 marks].

Question 1

Classify each of the following passages as description, explanation or argument.

- (a) Fruit juices are loaded with sugar. Sugar has lots of calories, can affect your dental health and can raise your blood-sugar level. Therefore, fruit is unhealthy.

[1 marks]

- (b) You do not need to know the rules of physics to ride a bike. You learn it by getting on the bike, pedalling and adjusting your balance.

[1 marks]

- (c) Genghis Khan is one of the greatest mass murderers in history, even though he was admired by many in his own day.

[1 marks]

Question 2

What is the technical name for the following form of reasoning?

If you shake someone's hand, then you are extending friendship to them. Bob just shook my hand. Bob has extended his friendship to me.

[1 mark]

Question 3

Is the following inference an example of inductive reasoning or deductive reasoning?

History has provided us with many great leaders. Therefore, history will continue to provide us with many great leaders.

[1 mark]

Question 4

Is the following inference an example of inductive reasoning or deductive reasoning?

Quitting smoking will improve your health. Bill has quit smoking. Therefore, Bill's health will improve.

[1 mark]

Question 5

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If a person is a parent, then that person will be a grumpy person. Bob is grumpy and so he must be a parent.

[1 mark]

Question 6

What is the technical name for the following form of reasoning?

If a person is a lead guitarist, then that person is an extrovert. Ted is not an extrovert. Therefore, Ted is not a lead guitarist.

[1 mark]

Question 7

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If it is heavy metal, then it is real music. That is not heavy metal and so it is not real music.

[1 mark]

Question 8

Explain why this is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

It has never been proven that miracles happen, so therefore they do not happen.

[2 marks]

Question 9

Identify the premise and the conclusion in the following argument.

Sundays are lazy days. For this reason, I never change out of my pyjamas on Sundays.

The premise is:

[1 mark]

The conclusion is:

[1 mark]

Question 10

Explain why this is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

Some soccer players earn billions of dollars. Therefore, playing soccer will earn you lots of money.

[2 marks]

Question 11

Identify the premise and the conclusion in the following argument.

The safety of students is of great concern in our school. Too many students are running down the corridors. Consequently, as of today, running is prohibited.

The premise is:

[1 mark]

The conclusion is:

[1 mark]

Question 12

Identify the premises and the conclusion in the following argument.

I went out and bought a burger because my mother was busy with her university assignment and I was hungry.

The premise is:

[1 mark]

The conclusion is:

[1 mark]

Question 13

Explain why this is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

He says that greenhouse gases cause climate change but he is a failed politician. Therefore, we should take no notice of what he says.

[2 marks]

Question 14

Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. Justify your answer.

Some teenagers can educate themselves at home using the internet. Therefore, high schools should be abolished.

[3 marks]

Question 15

Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. Justify your answer.

Driving a bright coloured car will mean that you are easily seen by other motorists. Therefore, driving a brightly coloured car will reduce greatly your chances of being in an accident.

[3 marks]

Question 16

What is a thought-experiment? Give an example and discuss its use.

[3 marks]

END OF SECTION ONE

SEE NEXT PAGE

SECTION TWO—PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

This section contains **TWO (2)** parts. Each part has **ONE (1)** question. Answer **ALL** questions and address **ALL** texts. Write your response in the separate answer booklet.

Allow approximately 80 minutes for this section [40 marks].

PART A—Community of inquiry transcript**Question 17**

Read the following transcript. Analyse the contribution made by each participant in the following community of inquiry. In your evaluation consider the following:

- relevance
- respect for persons and ideas
- clarity of thought
- cogency of argument.

[20 marks]

ABBIE: I'm fed up with these garden sprinkler restrictions every year. Our lawn is dying, and Dad's had to dig up all the roses.

DAN: Well, don't be so selfish! No intelligent person would expect to grow European gardens here. Stop wasting water on exotic flowers and unnatural lawns.

ABBIE: My planting roses is not going to make that much difference. It's my right to plant what I like in my garden.

EDWARD: You have to think of everyone else's needs. It's more serious than your garden. They're predicting that unless we have two minute showers and stop using drinking water to flush the toilets we'll not have enough water to grow food or provide for industry needs. It's not fair to waste it on a pretty garden.

ABBIE: There's no need to worry. There's a big underground reserve of water in the South-West which holds enough water to supply Perth for three to four thousand years. All we need to do is pipe that up to Perth.

CLARA: If you do that you are threatening precious biodiversity across the South-West, the preservation of threatened ecological communities and rare and endangered flora and fauna.

BEN: It's probably under threat anyway. The scientists are predicting a decline of rainfall in the South-West. We need a water supply that isn't dependent on climate and rainfall.

ABBIE: I think all this fuss about climate change is ridiculous. I think it's just a fear tactic used by the government so that they can increase water charges. I don't believe we will be short of water in the next five years.

CLARA: You don't have to believe the scientists or politicians. Just look at the rivers and dams. They're already polluted and drying up. If you drain that water reserve you'll interrupt groundwater flows into the rivers in summer and make the rivers dry up even sooner.

- BEN:** I agree. To drain that large water reserve will affect all the farmers and even the mining industries in the South-West. They'll suffer just to keep Perth lawns green. Anyway, it will cost a huge amount to put in pipes and pumps to carry the water up to Perth. It's almost as stupid as piping the water down from the North-West. Why should rural areas suffer to support the city people? It's fairer to put in a desalination plant closer to the metropolitan area where the demand is heaviest and make the users pay.
- CLARA:** But think of the drop in real estate values where it's built. Anyway, a desalination plant would increase greenhouse gases. The plant is going to be roughly equivalent to about one year's worth of new car registrations. The effects of a desalination plant on the ocean would be devastating. You'd be pumping all that salt back into the ocean and you'd kill all the fish!
- EDWARD:** The environmental impact of draining underwater reserves in the South-West would be just as bad. There is a very rich and fragile biodiversity there. It's not just local damage, but damage to Australia's national heritage!
- CLARA:** The experts say there's very little effect on groundwater from draining these deep water reserves. So the farmers, industries and even the wildlife in the South-West needn't suffer. They can all share their water resources with everybody.
- BEN:** But as I said, it will be very expensive to build those pipes all the way up to Perth. The cost of water will increase for everybody.
- DAN:** Less expensive than providing electricity for those desalination plants.
- EDWARD:** Perhaps you could use wind farms or solar electricity for the power to decrease both the costs and long term effects on climate change.
- BEN:** I think we should share the available water reserves with the city people who need it. But we should monitor its use and be very careful and cautious. Try to supplement Perth water for 20 years and then assess what the consequences are. We should monitor it very carefully and not be afraid to change our minds if we find benefits or risks.
- CLARA:** The government was meant to be keeping an eye on the use of the underground water supply up in Perth, but it failed to do so. Levels of city water are lower than predicted because city people were greedy.
- DAN:** Huh! The government says that's because there has been less rain. But that's just an excuse. It has cut costs by decreasing the number of gauging stations and weather stations over the last ten years. I don't think we can trust it to spend more money monitoring water use. It doesn't care about long term effects.
- CLARA:** I think politicians are doing their best. But they need to be more imaginative instead of just searching for more water deeper underground and further and further away from the main populations. Instead of concentrating on increasing the water supply, they should rethink ways of using existing resources more efficiently.
- EDWARD:** Perhaps we shouldn't depend on government control of water resources. We as a community ought to be more responsible for our own use of water and use recycling, rainwater tanks and sensible gardens. We have to learn to value water more and not rely on governments spending our tax dollars to rescue us.

PART B—Analysing, clarifying and evaluating concepts**Question 18**

Examine closely the **THREE (3)** texts and answer the following question. Is un-Australian an ugly idea? Discuss the concept of what un-Australian means in relation to **EACH** text and give reasons for your answers.

[20 marks]

(i) *Just who is un-Australian?*

'It's the new term of chastisement, but what exactly does it mean?' asks Hugh Mackay.

'It's un-Australian,' Dick Smith asserted last week as he railed against the seven-year detention of Peter Qasim, the Kashmiri asylum seeker recently transferred from the Baxter detention centre to an Adelaide psychiatric ward. "We drove him mad," Smith said on ABC radio, and then repeated his charge: "It's un-Australian."

Sorry, Dick, but it's actually not un-Australian at all. It might be unjust, unkind, unfair, unreasonable and inhumane but, unhappily, it's not un-Australian. Yes, seven years is a long time to lock someone up without charge or conviction, reducing them to such a state of despair that they lose their mind. It might not sound like the kind of thing Australians would do, but we do it.

Here's another thing we've been doing: locking up children whose only crime is to be the offspring of asylum seekers. Some of their parents might turn out not to be genuine asylum seekers (though still refugees, of course) but we've been treating them and their children as if they are criminals of the worst kind rather than people so desperate to leave their homelands that they were prepared to undertake almost unbelievably perilous journeys to start a new life here.

I'm in total sympathy with Dick Smith's sentiments; I only wish there were grounds for saying we Australians would never tolerate such appalling treatment of refugees being carried out in our name. I wish we didn't have to own up to a policy deliberately designed to inflict suffering on people who have already been traumatised in the countries from which they've fled.

The melancholy truth is that it has, indeed, been Australian to persist with a policy of indefinite and even brutal mandatory detention of asylum seekers. Our Government has been doing it for years with broad community support, so we might as well accept that it is a characteristically Australian act. In fact, it's so characteristic of us that some other countries, including Britain, are now examining ways of adopting the Australian model of mandatory detention.

But this is not a column about asylum seekers; it's about the implications of this gruesome newcomer to our vocabulary: un-Australian.

Surely it's Australian to do whatever Australians do. It's Australian to smuggle drugs in and out of the country. It's Australian to minimise your income tax payments to the point where you're not actually pulling your weight as a taxpayer. It's Australian to cheat if you can get away with it - at work.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers¹ reports 47 per cent of companies have suffered some form of corporate crime (mostly committed by employees), on the sporting field (the professional foul, for instance), or in personal relationships (where, these days, cheating on your partner scarcely counts as cheating at all).

¹ A famous market research company

It's Australian to drink and drive, get hopelessly into debt, lie to secure an advantage - whether political, commercial or personal - and engage in merciless and slanderous gossip. It's Australian to give vent to our xenophobia² through outbreaks of racism, to reserve our nastiest prejudices for indigenous people, and to worship celebrity.

Sound a bit negative? Not at all. It's Australian to do such things because, however uncivilised they may seem, it's human to do them. The Dutch do them; so do South Africans, Turks, Indonesians, British, Italians, Brazilians etc. Like everyone else on the planet, Australians are a mixture of good and bad, noble and shameful, exemplary and slippery.

So, to balance the ledger, I ought to acknowledge that it's entirely Australian (but also entirely French, Korean etc) to help neighbours in distress, to bake cakes for fundraising stalls, to give our children clear moral guidance and to respond to the needs of strangers. It's Australian to befriend the lonely, comfort the sick, pay the taxes we should pay, charge fair prices for our goods and services, make donations to charity without seeking recognition or acknowledgement, cheerfully obey the rule of law, behave with integrity—at work, on the sporting field, in love—and even to celebrate the joys of honest toil.

We're human, OK? So let's not get carried away by hubris³: Australians are no better than anyone else when it comes to occupation of the moral high ground. After all, this is the country where many people who opened their hearts and wallets to the tsunami relief appeal then grumbled about the ungrateful Indonesians who dared to convict Schapelle Corby of being a drug courier, as if our charity was part of some implicit trade-off i.e. we'll help your tsunami victims; you let our drug traffickers off lightly.

Let's not assume that if it's praiseworthy or beautiful, it's Australian, and if it's blameworthy or ugly, it's un-Australian. Can you imagine Italians criticising each other for being un-Italian? Have you ever heard of un-Scottish or un-Irish activity? What would un-Swedish behaviour look like?

There was a brief period, it's true, when un-American was in vogue. That was during the hysterical early days of the Cold War when the US anti-communist crusade was in full swing. There was even a congressional committee commissioned to investigate un-American activities. The whole thing fell apart when the neurotic and obsessive ringleader, Joe McCarthy, was both discredited and disgraced, though not before the trashing of countless citizens' reputations.

We should be warned: un-Australian is an ugly word and a signpost to an ugly trend.

[Mackay, 2005]

² A hatred and fear of foreigners

³ Having unreasonable pride and an inflated ego

(ii) Proud to be un-Australian, Fiona Katauskas - New Matilda 21 December 2005



(iii) Artist Azlan McClennan opposes state censorship in 2006 by exhibiting the following work on the Trocadero Gallery art space, which is a public billboard in Footscray. The work was soon removed by police.

For copyright reasons these images cannot be reproduced in the online version of this document, but may be viewed at http://www.azlanmcclennan.org/press5_trocadero.html.

END OF SECTION TWO

SEE NEXT PAGE

SECTION THREE—EXTENDED ARGUMENT

This section contains **FIVE** questions. Answer **ONE** question only. Write your response in the separate answer booklet.

Allow approximately 50 minutes for this section [30 marks].

Choose **ONE (1)** question from the following **FIVE (5)** questions. Argue FOR or AGAINST the question with clear definitions, examples and reasons.

[30 marks]

Question 19

Can you be friends with someone who is not friends with you?

OR

Question 20

Would people do wrong willingly if they thought they could get away with it?

OR

Question 21

Is beauty the same as looking good?

OR

Question 22

What would life be like without our emotions?

OR

Question 23

What is it for one thing to be the cause of another thing?

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Section Two B(i):** Mckay, H. (2005). Just who is un-Australian? Retrieved July, 2007, from <http://www.theage.com.au/news/hugh-mackay/just-who-is-unaustralian/2005/06/19/119119722702.html>
- Section Two B(ii):** Katauskas, F. (2005, December). Proud to be un-Australian. *New Matilda*. Retrieved July, 2007, from http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/past_exhibitions/behind_the_lines_2006_the_years_best_cartoons/battle_for_cronulla/slideshow_1_3.html
- Section Two B(iii):** McClennan, A. (2006). Burnt Australian Flag. Retrieved July, 2007, from http://www.azlanmclennan.org/press5_trocadero.html

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