



## **PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS SAMPLE DRAFT SAMPLE EXAMINATION**

Section 7 of the *WACE Manual: 2008 Revised Edition* outlines the policy on WACE examinations.

Further information about the WACE Examinations policy can be accessed from the Curriculum Council website at <http://curriculum.wa.edu.au/>

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 2008 by the examination panel following consultation with teachers, measurement specialists and advice from the Assessment, Review and Moderation (ARM) panel.

Draft



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

**PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS  
WRITTEN EXAM  
STAGE 2**

Please place your student identification label in this box

Student Number: In figures

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In words

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***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, 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
<b>[Total marks]</b>				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****[30 marks]**

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

Suggested working time: 50 minutes

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**Question 1**

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

- (a) The harvest has been a poor one because there was no rain late in the season.

[1 mark]

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- (b) We should all become vegetarians because meat-eating requires the killing of conscious intelligent animals.

[1 mark]

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- (c) Unemployment levels rose sharply, after the new government came to power.

[1 mark]

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**Question 2**

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

If we really wanted to save money, we would give up going to the races every weekend. But we won't give up going to the races, so we don't really want to save money.

[1 mark]

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**Question 3**

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

Since Paul is taller than Lara, and Lara is taller than Kate, Paul is taller than Kate.

[1 mark]

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**Question 4**

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

Global temperatures have been rising slowly for a century, so they will continue to rise in the future.

[1 mark]

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**Question 5**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you grew up in the country, you will like country music. But you did not grow up in the country, so you do not like country music.

[1 mark]

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**Question 6**

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

If there is dog food in the cupboard, then the owners of this house must have had a dog. There is dog food in the cupboard. It follows that the owners did have a dog.

[1 mark]

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**Question 7**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you study hard, you will do well at school. You did do well at school, so you did study hard.

[1 mark]

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**Question 8**

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

Those people are just a bunch of losers, jerks and idiots, so you should certainly not believe anything they say.

[2 marks]

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**Question 9**

Identify the premise and the conclusion in the following argument.

If you ever go to the Stirling Ranges, make sure you climb Bluff Knoll, since the view from the top is magnificent.

The premise is:

[1 mark]

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The conclusion is:

[1 mark]

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**Question 10**

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

No one has ever proven that regular study and proper sleep are necessary for academic success, so it follows that it is quite possible to succeed academically without studying regularly and sleeping well.

[2 marks]

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**Question 11**

Identify the premise and the conclusion in the following argument.

The black cockatoo is increasingly losing its nesting sites in the southwest forests, and for that reason it is classified as an endangered species.

The premise is:

[1 mark]

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The conclusion is:

[1 mark]

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## SECTION TWO—PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

[40 marks]

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.

Suggested working time: 80 minutes

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### PART A—Community of inquiry transcript

#### Question 17

Read the following transcript. Analyse the contribution made by ONE 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]

*The following discussion is based on a 26 minute documentary called Veiled Ambition (2006). Frida, a young Australian-Lebanese woman has a dream to create a fashion empire. She opens a shop in Melbourne to sell Muslim clothes but is not successful. She then successfully imports and sells glamorous American fashion clothes despite family difficulties. Ms Graham opens the discussion by asking if it is possible for a Muslim to be a true Aussie battler.*

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SEE NEXT PAGE

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

**Question 18**

Examine closely the **THREE (3)** texts and answer the following question. Discuss the relationship between technology and ethics in **EACH** text and give reasons for your answers.

*[20 marks]*

**(i) Food for thought**

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[Adapted from: Kamien, 2007]

(ii) How to buy organic apples

# COUNTERTHINK



REMEMBER: YOU VOTE WITH YOUR DOLLARS. WHAT YOU BUY IS WHAT YOU ENCOURAGE.

**(iii) Saving Water and Energy**

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[Flannery, 2007]

**END OF SECTION TWO**

**SEE NEXT PAGE**

## SECTION THREE—EXTENDED ARGUMENT

[30 marks]

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

Suggested working time: 50 minutes

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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

A person has been defined as 'a conscious or rational being.' How useful is this definition?

OR

### Question 20

Someone says, 'He made me do it.' How adequate is this as an excuse or an explanation?

OR

### Question 21

What are the differences, if any, between dreams and illusions?

OR

### Question 22

Are actions different from behaviours?

OR

### Question 23

What would make an apple in an art gallery a work of art?

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### SECTION TWO

#### PART A

**Question 17** Geer, C. (Writer & director), & McMahon, J. (Producer). (2006). *Veiled ambition* [DVD]. Brunswick, Vic: Rebel Films.

#### PART B

**Question 18(i)** Kamien, M. (2007). *Lies, deep fries and statistics* (Food for thought). Sydney: ABC Books, pp. 180–187.

**Question 18(ii)** Cartoon from: Berger, D. (2007, September 18). *How to buy organic apples (comic)*. Retrieved February, 2008, from Natural News website:  
<http://www.naturalnews.com/022040.html>.

**Question 18(iii)** Flannery, T. (2007). *An explorer's notebook*. Melbourne: Text Publishing, p. 256.