

Philosophy & Reason 2019 v1.2

Unit 1 sample assessment instrument

June 2018

Examination — extended response

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers in planning and developing assessment instruments for individual school settings.

Schools develop internal assessments for each senior subject, based on the learning described in Units 1 and 2 of the subject syllabus. Each unit objective must be assessed at least once.

Assessment objectives

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

1. define and use the terminology of argumentation to communicate, with attention to accuracy and precision, terms relating to argument composition, nature and purpose in order to demonstrate an understanding of meaning
2. explain concepts, methods, principles and theories of reasoning based on the methodology of philosophical inquiry
3. interpret and analyse arguments, ideas and information relating to effective reasoning from a variety of sources and through a variety of media
4. organise and synthesise ideas and information for the purposes of constructing and evaluating arguments
5. evaluate claims and arguments inherent in a range of theories, views and ideas with reference to validity, soundness and strength of argument
6. create responses that communicate ideas and arguments relating to fundamentals of reason.

Subject	Philosophy & Reason		
Technique	Examination — extended response		
Unit	Unit 1: Fundamentals of reason		
Topic	—		
Conditions			
Time	2 hours	Perusal	15 minutes planning time
Word length	800–1000 words	Seen/unseen	Unseen question Unseen stimulus materials
Other	Stimulus material below		
Instructions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No notes allowed. • Write your response on the lined paper provided. • You may write notes during the planning time, but not commence your response. 			
Context			
<p>You have been examining inductive and deductive reasoning and identifying associated fallacies and shortcomings. In addition, you have been analysing and evaluating arguments in terms of their validity, soundness and strength.</p>			
Task			
<p>With reference to each source within the stimulus material, consider the principles of effective reasoning. Explain these principles and decide which source provides a better argument to support the conclusion that people should become vegetarians.</p> <p>Communicate your response in the form of an analytical essay.</p> <p>In your response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpret and analyse the ideas and information in each source in order to identify the form of the argument • organise the premises and the conclusion of each argument (including any hidden premises) in order to present (synthesise) it in standard form • evaluate each argument in terms of its validity, soundness and/or strength in order to justify which source best supports the conclusion that people should become vegetarians. <p>Ensure that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain any fallacies of reasoning within the arguments in each source • use terminology related to the fundamentals of argument throughout your response • adhere to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the genre conventions of an analytical essay – language conventions, including spelling, punctuation and grammar. 			

Stimulus

Source 1

It is cruel to kill animals for food. Animals are sentient beings that have emotions and social connections. Scientific studies show that cattle, pigs, chickens, and all warm-blooded animals can experience stress, pain, and fear. In the United States about 35 million cows, 115 million pigs, and 9 billion birds are killed for food each year. These animals should not have to die to satisfy an unnecessary dietary preference.

From: ProCon.org 2017, 'Top pro & con arguments: Pro 1', *Should people become vegetarian?*, <https://vegetarian.procon.org/>

Source 2

Human anatomy has evolved to support a primarily vegetarian diet. Humans do not have the large mouth or long, pointed teeth of carnivores. Human teeth are short and flat for chewing fibrous food. Carnivores have short intestines (3–6 times body length) while human intestines are long (10–11 times body length) to allow slower digestion of plant foods. The liver of a carnivore can detoxify the excess vitamin A absorbed from a meat-based diet. The human liver cannot detoxify excess vitamin A. [Humans should therefore avoid eating meat.]

From: ProCon.org 2017, 'Top pro & con arguments: Pro 2', *Should people become vegetarian?*, <https://vegetarian.procon.org/>

Feedback