



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

GENERAL COURSE

SAMPLE Externally set task

Note: This SAMPLE Externally set task is based on the following content from Unit 3 of the General Year 12 syllabus.

- Analysing, clarifying and evaluating concepts
- Communities and cultures
- Self and others

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Philosophy and Ethics

Externally set task

Total time for the task:	50 minutes
Total marks:	32 marks
Weighting:	15% of the school mark

Read the following dialogue which is an excerpt from a classroom community of inquiry and answer the questions that follow.

- Georgia: Moral choice involves reason. For example, we can know from reason that ‘murder is wrong’.
- Ellie: I disagree. Moral choice is simply about people’s likes and dislikes. We can see that in our friends. Bruce dislikes killing animals and concludes that it is murder.
- Georgia: Bruce’s moral choice involves some emotion, but I do not think his moral choice is simply about likes and dislikes. He is reasoning too. Bruce needs to be clearer about the difference between killing and murdering.
- Ellie: If choices are based on likes and dislikes, then choices are based on care. Moral choices are based on care. Therefore, moral choice is about what you like or dislike. Your example doesn’t show anything about choice and reason.
- Georgia: Doesn’t it? How could I act on a dislike if I did not have reasons for that dislike?
- Ellie: You can’t prove that choice involves reason, so moral choice is not about reason.
- Georgia: You said earlier that if you did not like someone, then you would not care about them. I suppose you would do them no good?
- Ellie: Right. I would treat someone well only if I liked them.
- Georgia: So you would do someone harm because you didn’t like them?
- Ellie: That doesn’t follow. Not treating someone well doesn’t mean harming them. It just means ignoring them.
- Georgia: So moral choice is about more than likes and dislikes?
- Ellie: That doesn’t follow either. It’s obvious you can’t prove that moral choice isn’t about likes and dislikes.

Question 1**(6 marks)**

Summarise the topic of the dialogue and outline the main position of each participant.

- (i) Topic of the dialogue (2 marks)

- (ii) Georgia's position (2 marks)

- (iii) Ellie's position (2 marks)

Question 2**(4 marks)**

Clarify **one** of the main philosophical concepts employed by each participant in the dialogue.

- (i) Georgia's philosophical concept (2 marks)

- (ii) Ellie's philosophical concept (2 marks)

Question 3**(4 marks)**

Outline **two** of the main assumptions of each participant in the dialogue.

(i) Georgia's assumptions

(2 marks)

One: _____

Two: _____

(ii) Ellie's assumptions

(2 marks)

One: _____

Two: _____

Question 4

(18 marks)

Assess the contributions to the dialogue of each participant.

In your response you must:

- discuss the acceptability of the participants' position (4 marks)
- outline the relevance and effectiveness of the example/s used (4 marks)
- identify formal and/or informal fallacies in the dialogue (2 marks)
- explain the strength of the participant's inferential moves (4 marks)
- summarise the overall persuasiveness of their argument. (4 marks)
