



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



ATAR course examination, 2024

RELIGION AND LIFE

SOURCE BOOKLET

Question 1 Sources

Read Sources 1A and 1B and then answer Question 1 in the Question/Answer booklet.

Source 1A

The Refugee Council of Australia has shared stories of freedom as part of its Refugee Week 2023 photography. The four individuals have shared below what freedom means to each of them.

Ackim Mulumba

Ackim Mulumba is a member of the Congolese community. This is what freedom means to him:

For me, freedom is not just the absence of violence. It has a much deeper meaning. Freedom is belonging. Australia is my home and I 'belong' here now.

Freedom is the agency I have to do whatever I want to do, to practise my culture and religion, to express my opinion without fear of persecution.

Andrea Rico

Andrea Rico is from Colombia. This is what freedom means to her:

I like having financial freedom in Australia. I could not believe that I could have my own bank account here. When I was a refugee, I was not allowed to have a bank account and my salary was transferred to someone else's account. Now my salary goes into my own account, so I do not take my legal status and full rights for granted.

Hanan

Hanan is from Jordan/Bosnia. This is what freedom means to her:

I am free to wear my traditional dress here and I can speak my own language. Compared to the Middle East, where I lived as a refugee, I enjoy equal rights as a woman in Australia.

I find freedom in diversity when I mingle with women from different backgrounds. We dance and we celebrate together, and I feel welcomed and accepted.

Elite

Elite is a former refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is what freedom means to her:

Freedom is the feeling that I am safe. I feel safe in Australia.

I can be myself and express myself without facing any consequences from authorities, society, or any individual. I have freedom of speech without fear of repression.

Congolese are famous for their love for music, and I love being free to participate in community events and enjoy our music because music connects us.

Source 1B

A significant amount of debate between libertarian¹ and non-libertarian political thinkers has to do with the distinction between negative and positive liberty.

If we want to start very simple, keeping our definitions to just two words each, negative liberty means 'freedom from,' while positive liberty means 'capacity to'.

Let's look at an example. Jack is living in New York. He would like to go to California to visit family. Under a negative conception of liberty, Jack is free to go to California if nobody is actively preventing him from doing so. Thus, his negative freedom would be violated if his neighbour locked Jack in the basement, or if someone stole his car.

But what if Jack is so poor that he cannot afford a car or a plane ticket? In this instance, no person prevents Jack from going to California, so Jack's negative liberty remains intact. Yet he lacks the capacity to fulfil his desire and so, from a positive liberty standpoint, he is unfree.

Typically, libertarians believe the state² should only concern itself with negative liberty and should never undertake to actively promote positive liberty. In part this is because we recognise that, in order to give some people the resources they need to get what they want, it must take those resources from others.

¹ a follower of a political philosophy or party that advocates individual liberty

² 'the state' in this instance refers to the government of a country

Question 2 Source

Read Source 2 and then answer Question 2 in the Question/Answer booklet.

Source 2

Dialogue between Stephen Colbert, an American comedian and television host, and Ricky Gervais, an English comedian. This interview aired on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert on 1 February 2017.

Stephen Colbert (SC): And I know that you're an atheist, correct?

Ricky Gervais (RG): Yeah.

SC: Did you want to debate the existence of God? So, Ricky Gervais, why is there something instead of nothing?

RG: That makes no sense at all.

SC: Why is there something instead of why is there nothing? Why does the universe exist at all? Why is there something?

RG: But surely the question is not why but how? Why is irrelevant.

SC: Okay fine, how is there something, because if you think of God as the prime mover, how is there anything instead of nothing?

RG: But wait, I don't.

SC: Is there a prime mover? Is there a demiurge¹ that started everything?

RG: Well, outside science and nature, I don't believe so. So the interesting thing is – this is the thing, right? So, I'm an agnostic atheist technically. Agnostic means no one knows [if] there's a god. So everyone is technically an agnostic because we don't know.

SC: So you're not convicted of your atheism?

RG: Well I am. No, I am, because atheism is only rejecting the claim that there's a god. Atheism isn't a belief system. So this is atheism in a nutshell. You say, "There's a god." I say, "Can you prove that?" You say, "No." I say, "I don't believe you then."

SC: Right. Do you ever have a feeling of great gratitude for existence?

RG: Of course. I know the chances are billions to one that I am on this planet as me and never will be again.

SC: I know I can't convince you that there is a god, nor do I really want to convince you that there's a god. I can only explain my experience which is that I have a strong desire to direct that gratitude towards something or someone. And that thing is God.

RG: We want to make sense of nature and science. It is too unfathomable that everything in the universe was once crunched into something smaller than an atom.

SC: But you don't know that. You're just believing Stephen Hawking and that's a matter of faith in his abilities. You don't know it yourself. You're accepting that because someone told you.

RG: Yeah, well, but science is constantly proved all of the time. You see, if we take something like any fiction, any holy book, and any other fiction and destroyed it, in a thousand years' time that wouldn't come back just as it was. Whereas, if we took every science book and every fact and destroyed them all, in a thousand years they'd all be back, because all the same tests would be the same result.

SC: That's good. That's really good.

¹demiurge: a being responsible for the creation of the universe

Question 3 Sources

Read Sources 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D and then answer Question 3 in the Question/Answer booklet.

Source 3A

The global fashion industry has a significant impact on environments and people around the world. It provides a job and livelihood for over 50 million people, but for too many of these it fails to pay living wages and creates risks of forced labour. Environmentally, the fashion industry is estimated to contribute up to 10% of greenhouse gas emissions, and 20% of wastewater globally. The complex global supply chains that connect consumers with the origins of their clothes mean these impacts, and the potential to change them, are too often hidden.

Since 2013, Baptist World Aid Australia has worked to raise the standards for workers in global fashion supply chains through the Ethical Fashion Guide. Now published in October each year, the Ethical Fashion Guide shines a spotlight on the practices of major Australian and global fashion brands, providing information to guide consumer decisions.

Source 3B

Baptist World Aid Australia is an international aid and development organisation with a vision to see a world where poverty has ended, where all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends.

Established in 1959, Baptist World Aid Australia works with local partners in 20 countries in the Pacific, Middle East, Southeast Asia, South Asia and Africa. Through advocacy, research and education we stand with the oppressed and marginalised, advocating for a more just world.

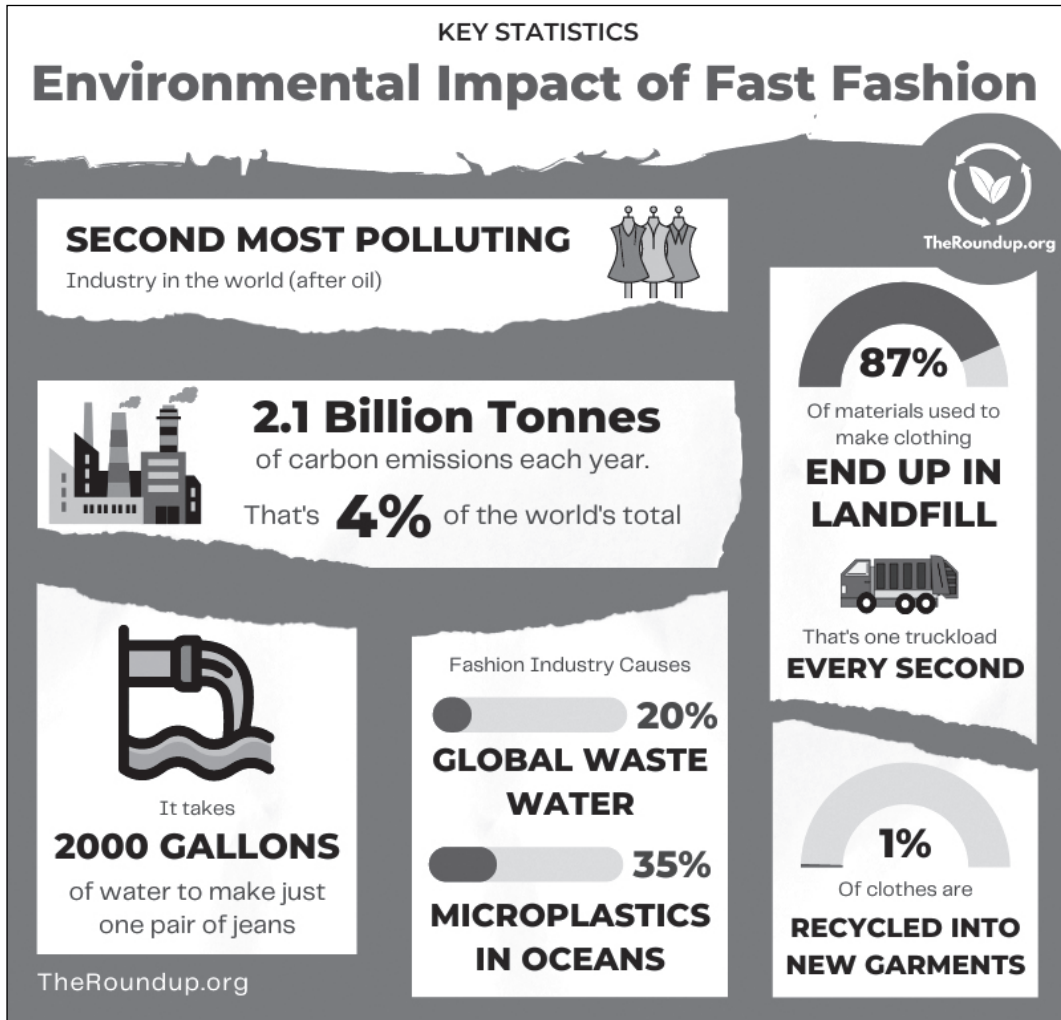
Baptist World Aid Australia has been campaigning for various industries to end worker exploitation for over nine years, beginning its research into the fashion and electronics industries in 2010.

Throughout the 2022 Ethical Fashion Report (EFR) is a call for fashion companies to escalate the pace of change towards a more ethical and sustainable industry. It aims to inspire action and change-making conversations with companies, governments, and citizens.

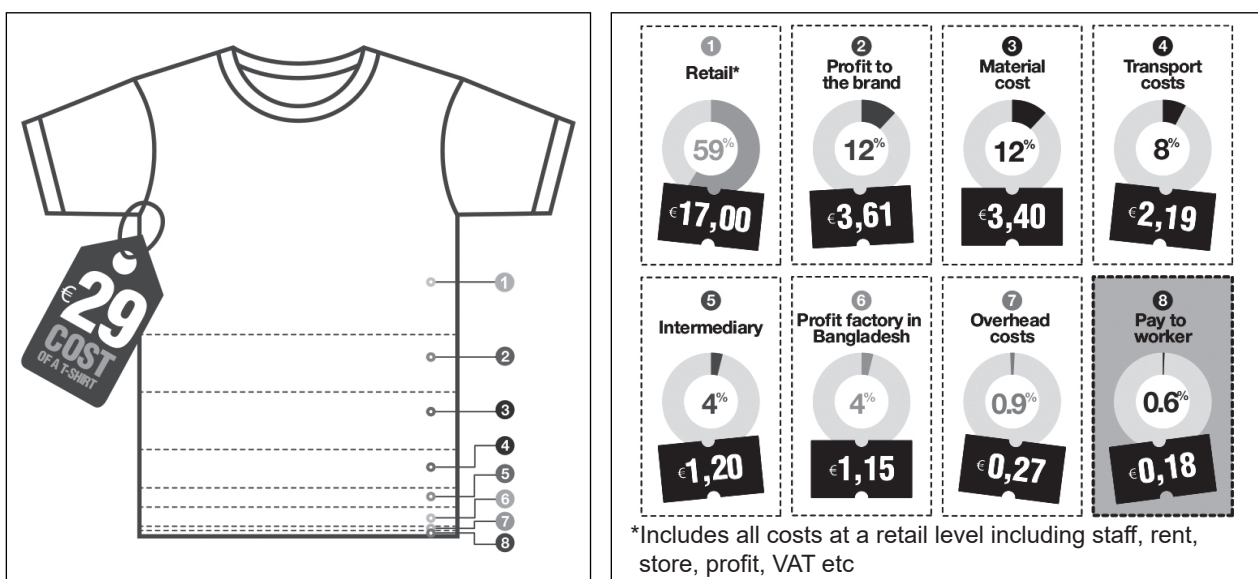
Six spotlight issues are considered in depth in this year's EFR. The report seeks to help both citizens and companies make sense of this by highlighting progress in these six areas, the obstacles to progress, and the opportunities for future improvement. The issues considered in depth are: tracing beyond final stage; remediation of labour exploitation when found; payment of living wages; support for worker voice and empowerment; use of sustainable fibres; and commitment to climate action.

These changes help to keep sight of the end goal: an industry that respects the dignity and rights of every person touched by its supply chains and is working actively to reduce its planetary impact.

Source 3C



Source 3D



€: Euros – currency of Europe

VAT: Value added tax – a tax on all goods sold

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Source 1A** Mulumba, A. (2023). *Ackim Mulumba - Stories of Freedom*. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/ackim-mulumba/>
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- Source 1B** Powell, A.R. (2018, Nov 29). *You Can Think of Negative Liberty as Being About the Absence of External Limits, and Positive Liberty as the Absence of Internal Limits* [Blog post]. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://www.libertarianism.org/blog/what-are-negative-positive-liberty-why-does-it-matter>
- Source 2** Colbert, S. (Presenter). (2017, Feb 2). *Ricky Gervais and Stephen go Head-to-Head on Religion* [Transcript]. In *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5ZOwNK6n9U&t=1s>
- Source 3A** McCrindle. (2021). *The Australian Ethical Consumer Report* (p. 3). Retrieved April, 2024, from https://baptistworldaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/BWA-Australian-Ethical-Consumer-Visualised-Report_McCrindle.pdf
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- Source 3C** TheRoundup. (2024). *Key Statistics Environmental Impact of Fashion*. [Infographic]. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://theroundup.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/fast-fashion-environmental-impact.png>
- Source 3D** Clean Clothes Campaign. (n.d.). *Breakdown of Costs of a T-shirt*. [Infographic]. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://cleanclothes.org/image-repository/wages-vs-profit.png>

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