



## WACE examinations – frequently asked questions

### Where do I find out about the examinations?

Read the Year 12 Information Handbook that was sent to your school for you. Each Year 12 student should have a copy. A copy of the handbook is also available at <http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Publications/Brochures>.

### What time should I arrive for my examination?

For written exams, you should arrive at the examination centre 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. For practical exams, you should arrive 20 minutes early.

### What if the bus, car or train I'm in breaks down and I'm late for an examination?

You will not be admitted after the first 30 minutes of an exam. However, you should report to the examination centre no matter how late you are and ask the exam supervisor to note the time of your arrival. If you were too late to be admitted to the exam or if you think your lateness affected your exam performance, submit a sickness/misadventure form to the Curriculum Council with supporting evidence from the transport company before the final acceptance date that is printed on the front of the form. Special consideration is not automatic. Sickness/misadventure forms are available from the examination centre, your school, from the Council or from the Council website at [http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Events\\_and\\_Forms/Application\\_Order\\_Forms](http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Events_and_Forms/Application_Order_Forms).

### What happens if I misread the examination timetable and miss an examination?

If you miss an exam because you misread your examination timetable, you are not entitled to special consideration. Make a copy of your personal examination timetable and stick it to the fridge. Put the dates into your phone calendar with reminders set. Check it with your friends and then get someone else (like your parents) to check it again.

### What happens if I break my arm a few days before the examinations start?

If you suffer an illness or disability just before the exams, you should telephone the Curriculum Council on 9273 6377 to determine if special arrangements can be made for you to sit your exams. If you injure your writing arm, for example, you could be provided with a scribe.

### What if I get sick during the examination?

If you suffer a temporary illness or misadventure during the examination period, your exams cannot be rescheduled. You're encouraged to sit the exam if you can, provided this is not against medical advice. Special consideration may be given to you if you're suffering from an illness. If you feel your performance was affected, you may submit a sickness/misadventure form to the Curriculum Council after the exam. Obtain a sickness/misadventure form as soon as possible from an examination centre, your school, from the Council or from the Council's website at [http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Events\\_and\\_Forms/Application\\_Order\\_Forms](http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Events_and_Forms/Application_Order_Forms).

You will need medical advice to support your application. Your completed application, and all supporting evidence, must be submitted by the date indicated on the front of the form. You shouldn't miss an exam just because you do not feel well. If you don't sit an exam and your application for consideration is unsuccessful, you won't receive a mark and it could affect your Australian tertiary admission rank (ATAR).

### **What should I take into an examination?**

You must take your signed personalised examination timetable and pens, pencils, ruler, eraser and correction fluid. Approved dictionaries are permitted in all language exams (written), except English. Approved dictionaries information is available at [http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior\\_Secondary/WACE\\_Examinations/Examination\\_Information](http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/WACE_Examinations/Examination_Information) and in the Curriculum Council's Year 12 Information Handbook.

Approved calculators and/or notes are allowed for some exams. See [http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior\\_Secondary/WACE\\_Examinations/Examination\\_Information](http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/WACE_Examinations/Examination_Information) and the Curriculum Council's Year 12 Information Handbook for more details. It's also a good idea to take a clear plastic bottle of water (with the label removed) with a capacity of no more than 1500ml.

### **What can I do during reading time?**

All WACE written exams have 10 minutes of reading time. The purpose of reading time is to give you time to read all of the instructions on the paper, familiarise yourself with the questions and determine which questions you will do. Reading time is for reading only. No marking of the paper is allowed and you are not allowed to use a calculator. Approved dictionaries can be consulted for all language exams in which a dictionary is permitted.

### **Can my school stop me from sitting the exams?**

Your school cannot stop you from sitting the exams. However, if your school is your nominated examination centre and you cannot attend that centre (because, for example, you have been suspended or expelled), it is your responsibility to seek an alternative examination centre by approaching principals of other schools.

### **Can I leave an examination early?**

You can leave after one hour, but not during the final 15 minutes of the exam. If you need to leave temporarily, you'll be accompanied by a supervisor.

### **What can I use to help prepare for the exams?**

See the Examination tips information available at [http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior\\_Secondary/WACE\\_Examinations/Examination\\_Information](http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/WACE_Examinations/Examination_Information).

### **Can I take my mobile phone or iPod into the examination room?**

No, and if you do, you will have breached the examination rules and could lose some of your exam marks. This is one of the main reasons students lose marks for breaching examination rules. A complete list of exam rules is available in the Year 12 Information Handbook.

### **Can I eat during an examination?**

Under normal circumstances, you cannot eat during an exam. This includes lollies, gum and any kind of drink except water in a clear plastic bottle. In special circumstances, for example, if you have diabetes, you may apply to the Curriculum Council for permission to eat during the exam.