

Professional Skills & Issues Essay Marking Scheme

| Level | Ethical issues .25 | Legal issues .25 | Social issues .2 | Structure .1 | Writing & evidence .1 | Peer Rev .1 |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|---|-------------|
| A1-A5 Excellent | Excellent discussion of core ethical issues using different approaches, + mitigations | Excellent discussion of statutes, cases, controversies & gaps, + need for new law if relevant | Excellent discussion of social/political issues & impacts with examples | Excellent scene setting & focus, structured argument in body, critical discussion & clear stance at the end | Excellent writing style, use of evidence, citation & referencing | Yes |
| B1-B3 Very good | Very good discussion of core ethical issues using different approaches + mitigations | Very good discussion of statutes, cases, controversies & gaps, + need for new law if relevant | Very good discussion of social/political issues & impacts with examples | Very good scene setting & focus, structured argument in body, critical discussion & clear stance at the end | Very good writing style, use of evidence, citation & referencing | |
| C1-C3 Good | Good discussion of core ethical issues using an approach, + mitigations | Good discussion of statutes, cases, controversies & gaps, + need for new law if relevant | Good discussion of social/political issues & impacts with examples | Good scene setting & focus, structured argument in body, critical discussion & stance at the end | Good writing style, use of evidence, citation & referencing | |
| D1-D3 Adequate | Adequate discussion of core ethical issues doesn't identify approaches | Adequate discussion of statutes, cases, controversies & gaps | Adequate discussion of social/political issues & impacts with examples | Adequate scene setting & focus, structured argument in body, discussion & stance at the end | Adequate writing style, use of evidence, citation & referencing | |
| E1-E3 Weak | Weak discussion of ethical issues. Missing elements | Weak discussion of statutes, cases, controversies & gaps. Missing elements | Weak discussion of social/political issues & impacts Missing elements | Weak scene setting, argument in body and conclusions. Missing elements. | Weak writing & use of evidence & referencing. Missing elements | |
| F1-F3 Poor | Poor discussion of ethical issues. Missing or incorrect elements | Poor discussion of statutes, cases, controversies & gaps. Missing or incorrect elements | Poor discussion of social/political issues & impacts . Missing or incorrect elements | Poor scene setting, argument in body and conclusions. Missing or irrelevant elements. | Poor writing & use of evidence & referencing. Missing or incorrect elements | |
| G1-G2 Very poor | Very poor with many missing or incorrect elements | Very poor with many missing or incorrect elements | Very poor with many missing or incorrect elements | Very poor with many missing or incorrect elements | Very poor with many missing or incorrect elements | |
| H | No attempt | No attempt | No attempt | No attempt | No attempt | No |

These are element descriptors, NOT a prescribed essay structure. Many alternative structures are acceptable

Ethical issues: Identifies core ethical issues/dilemmas. Pulls out the main dilemma/s and discusses different perspectives. Explains how different ethical approaches can be used to understand the rights and wrongs of the dilemma. Discusses how some of the issues may be mitigated.

Legal issues: Identifies and discusses relevant statutes and some cases (preferably UK law but maybe from elsewhere if a global issue). Uses these to outline current legal position. Identifies controversies and gaps in the law and if there is little/no law discusses potential moves towards creating new law.

Social issues: Identifies relevant social and political issues and impacts. Provides some key examples of different opinions and movements related to the issue citing good quality news sources. Discusses the actual and potential social impacts and changes that do or may result.

Structure: The introduction sets the scene and explains why the topic is important and interesting. Identifies main controversies and if the topic is very broad, outlines a particular focus. The main body of the essay is clearly structured with good paragraphing. The conclusions critically discuss the different sides of the dilemma/s and take a stance based on evidence presented. This may be a nuanced view.

Writing & evidence: Clear and objective academic style. Good explanations and use of good quality evidence. Easy to follow structure (may use sub-headings). Systematic style for in-text citations and references at the end.