

## 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	Weak discussion of social/political issues & impacts. Missing or incorrect elements	Poor scene setting, argument in body and conclusions. Missing or irrelevant elements.	Weak 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.