# SOCRATES

Module G — Full Practice Exam · 105 minutes · 100 points

## WRITTEN RECEPTION (60 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–8. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

### SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN PUBLIC SPACES

**I** Walk down almost any city street today and you are unlikely to notice the small glass eyes watching from lamp posts, shop fronts and station entrances. Surveillance cameras have become so ordinary a feature of modern life that most of us barely register their presence, yet their numbers have grown extraordinarily quickly. In many large cities, an average resident may be filmed hundreds of times in a single day. Supporters welcome this silent network as a guardian of public safety, while critics warn that it is quietly eroding a freedom we have long taken for granted: the right to move through the world unobserved.

**II** Those who defend the cameras point first to crime. The presence of a visible camera, they argue, discourages would-be offenders, who are far less likely to steal or vandalise when they know they may be recorded. When crimes do occur, the footage can prove invaluable, helping police to identify suspects and providing courts with evidence that is difficult to dispute. Cameras have helped solve serious offences, locate missing children and even guide emergency services to accidents more quickly. For many ordinary citizens, especially those who walk home alone at night, the knowledge that someone may be watching offers genuine reassurance.

**III** Critics, however, question both the effectiveness and the cost to privacy. Some studies suggest that cameras simply push crime into neighbouring streets rather than preventing it, while offenders determined to act are rarely deterred by a lens. More troubling, they argue, is the gradual normalisation of constant observation. When every movement can be recorded, stored and reviewed, ordinary people may begin to alter their behaviour, avoiding lawful protests or simply feeling uneasy in public. A society in which citizens assume they are always being watched, critics warn, is one in which genuine freedom slowly withers, often without anyone noticing.

**IV** The debate has grown sharper as the technology has advanced. Modern systems can now be linked to software that recognises faces, tracks individuals across a city and stores vast quantities of personal data for years. This raises urgent questions about who owns the footage, how securely it is kept and whether it might be misused by governments or sold to private companies. A camera intended to catch a thief could, in the wrong hands, become a

tool for monitoring political opponents or ordinary citizens going about their lawful business. Without strict rules, critics fear, the balance may tip too far.

**V** Few people seriously propose removing the cameras altogether, and most accept that, used sensibly, they make public spaces safer. The real challenge lies in drawing sensible limits: deciding where cameras belong, how long footage should be kept and who is permitted to see it. Clear laws, independent oversight and honesty with the public about how the images are used could allow societies to enjoy the protection the cameras offer without sacrificing their privacy. Whether we strike that balance wisely will help define the kind of public life future generations are able to lead.

## QUESTIONS — PART I (60 points)

**1.** How do supporters and critics differ in their view of surveillance cameras, according to paragraph I?

i. Supporters see them as protecting safety, while critics see them as eroding privacy.
ii. Both believe the cameras are completely useless.
iii. Supporters want them removed, while critics want far more of them.
iv. Neither group has any opinion about them.

*(6 points)*

**2.** How can camera footage help after a crime has been committed? (paragraph II)

ANSWER:

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*(7 points)*

**3.** Why do some citizens feel reassured by the cameras, according to paragraph II?

i. Because the cameras replace the police entirely.
ii. Because cameras remove all crime instantly.
iii. Because footage is never kept or reviewed.
iv. Because knowing someone may be watching makes them feel safer, especially at night.

*(7 points)*

**4.** What do some studies suggest about the effect of cameras on crime? (paragraph III)

ANSWER:

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*(7 points)*

**5.** Constant observation can change the way people act. COMPLETE: When they feel constantly watched, ordinary people may begin to

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*(7 points)*

**6.** Modern camera systems can do more than simply record. COMPLETE: Linked to advanced software, they can recognise faces and

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*(7 points)*

**7.** What fears do critics raise about how camera footage might be misused? (paragraph IV)

ANSWER:

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*(7 points)*

**8.** Mark the TWO statements that are true according to the text.

- ☐ Almost everyone wants every surveillance camera removed.
- ☐ Most people accept that, used sensibly, cameras make public spaces safer.
- ☐ Camera footage is always secure and can never be misused.
- ☐ Clear laws and independent oversight could protect both safety and privacy.
- ☐ Surveillance cameras always prevent crime completely.
- ☐ In cities, an average resident is almost never filmed.

*(2×6=12 points)*

## PART II — WRITTEN PRODUCTION (40 points)

**9.** *(40 points)*

*Some people believe that surveillance cameras in public places make us safer, while others argue that they invade our privacy. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of installing surveillance cameras in public spaces. Write 120–140 words in English.*

**DRAFT / טיוטה**

**FINAL VERSION / גרסה סופית (words 140–120)**

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