

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level

THINKING SKILLS

8436/02

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

May/June 2003

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Sheet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

There are **3** questions on this paper. Answer **all** the questions.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

Start each question on a new answer sheet.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

1 Study the following scenario and answer the question that follows:

Two drivers – Ed Farr and Ray Crowe - collided and spun off the track in heavy rain in a race of the *Supa-Cars* season earlier today. Neither driver was injured, but the incident put both cars out of the race, leaving Crowe as the World Champion for the second year running. Before the race there was just one point between the two drivers. If Farr had finished the race ahead of Crowe, he would have moved into first place and taken the title.

Farr's team manager reacted furiously by claiming that Crowe had deliberately swerved and forced their driver off the track as he tried to overtake on a notorious bend known as The Slide. 'It was no surprise, either' she added. 'With Ed out of the race, Crowe knew he had won the championship. Of course he meant to do it.'

A television camera team filmed Crowe walking away from his wrecked car. He appears to be smiling as he removes his helmet. He says to reporters: 'I hope you're not all going to blame this on me. I just "held my line" (meaning kept on course), and that is completely within the rules.' Later he added: 'It was all Ed's fault. He could have killed us both. It was a crazy place to try to overtake. He has only himself to blame.'

Ed Farr, not surprisingly, told a different story: 'There was plenty of room to get past if Crowe had held his line. He waited till I came level, then drove into me.'

Today's race winner Waleed Akram, who was just behind the two cars at the time, commented: 'That's motor racing. Ray had earned his one point lead, and he was just defending it. If it had been the other way round, Ed would probably have done the same. Everyone was expecting something like this to happen.' Asked if he had seen Crowe swerve, he said: 'Maybe not a "swerve" exactly, but he could have avoided the crash. Anyway, it stands to reason that he would take Ed out of the race if he got the chance. It's not the first time he's done something like that.'

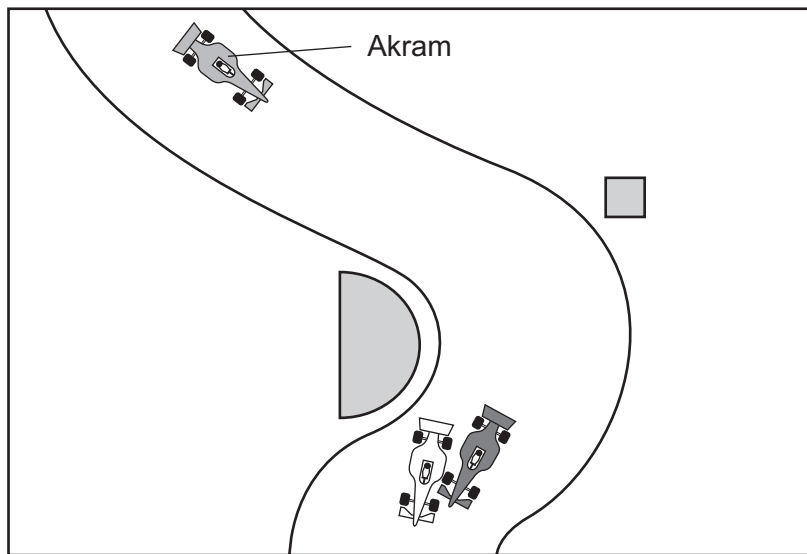
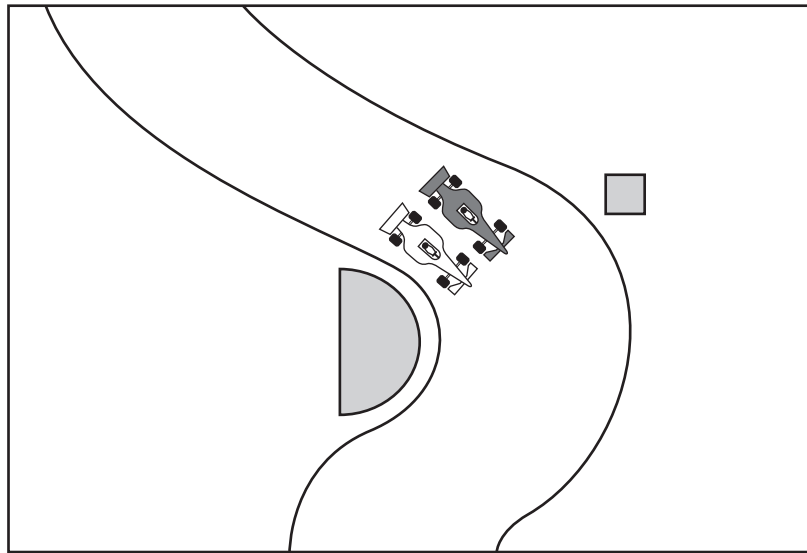
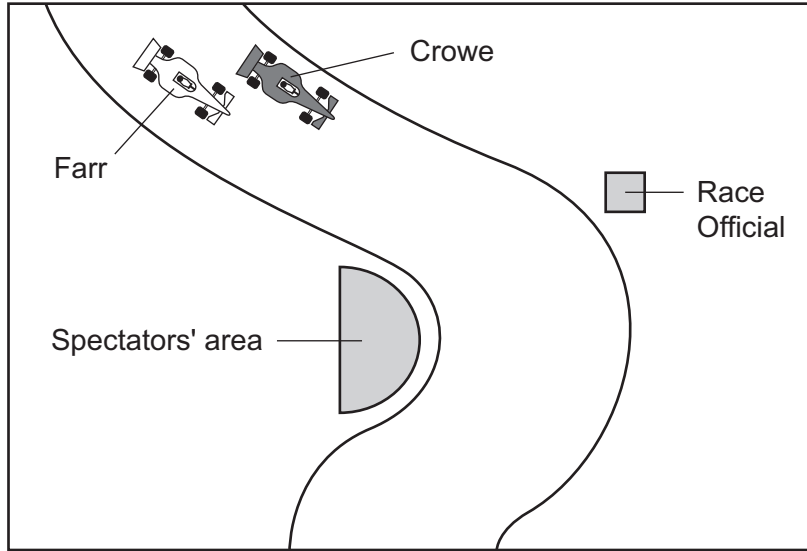
Overhead cameras recorded the positions of the cars just before, and just as, they made contact. The pictures are given on the next page.

A race official, stationed on the bend, reported: 'There was a lot of spray as the cars rounded the bend. Farr tried to cut through on the inside. He was almost past when the two cars touched. They both spun and ended up on the verge opposite. It is hard to tell, but to me it just looked like an accident.'

Journalist, Gudrun Brecht, added to the controversy by reporting that she had been at a party two days before the race and that she had heard Crowe openly boasting that he would: '...do anything necessary to win the championship.' She wrote: 'I know Crowe well, and he makes no secret of his determination to win, whatever it takes.'

Crowe was involved in two similar controversies last season, but on both occasions he was cleared of any blame. Under the rules of motor-racing, the driver who is in front is allowed to choose their line and keep to it, but not intentionally to cause a collision.

Assess the evidence for and against Ray Crowe. Consider the reliability of each of the witnesses and their statements, in the light of other information available. On the basis of the evidence, can it be concluded that Ray Crowe *intentionally* collided with Farr's car?



2 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Figures published recently strongly suggest that office workers are happier and more positive about work, if they know they can spend some part of their day on personal, recreational activities that they enjoy. Seven out of ten clerical workers admit to e-mailing friends, surfing the Internet or playing on-line computer games during working hours. Most of them claim that they are better motivated, and their time is more productive, because of these breaks in routine. It would therefore seem like good business sense for managers and bosses to adopt a policy of tolerance towards this practice. Some firms that have gone the other way, and forbidden personal use of computers during office hours have felt the effects of increased worker apathy and resentment.

However, the amount of time spent in this way is increasing dramatically, and the cost to a large corporation, in lost or misused time, can run to millions of dollars per year. It is consequently very hard, if not impossible, to calculate whether turning a blind eye to time-wasting, to keep a percentage of the workforce feeling 'happy' and 'positive', is worth the cost or not. Probably it is not.

One huge new source of time-wasting results from employees visiting news-related websites. News bulletins change continually throughout the day, with 'breaking news' constantly rolling across the screen. Many employees admit to having what amounts to an 'addiction' to the steady stream of online news, especially when a major, high-profile scandal is unfolding. They feel compelled to check up regularly on the latest developments, taking up so much of their time and attention that their work is bound to suffer. The extra time spent at the computer, in addition to that which is necessary to do the job, can also lead to tiredness and irritability; and some people find that they have to stay later at work, or take work home, in order to catch up on what they should have been doing earlier. This can interfere with home and family life.

Besides, addiction of any kind has damaging effects. What starts as a seemingly harmless amusement can end up being a dangerous obsession. Addiction to gambling, for instance, can ruin a person's relationship with others and ultimately leave them and their families penniless. If action can be taken to combat the growing addiction to online news, then it should be – not only for the financial good of the business but also for the personal welfare of those concerned. It is easy enough, given the available technology, to monitor an employee's online activities and to make any visit to a site not connected with official business a serious offence.

Whether some employers like it or not, the only sensible policy for any responsible organisation to adopt is to ban personal Internet access in the workplace.

- (a) (i) Identify the conclusion reached in **paragraph 1**, and **two** of the claims which support it.
- (ii) What is the conclusion of the *main* argument (paragraphs 2 – 5)?
- [1]
- (b) Assess the strength of the reasoning given in paragraph 2. How effectively does it challenge the claims made in paragraph 1?
- [2]
- (c) Is the comparison in paragraph 4 between online news addiction and gambling a fair one, for the purposes of the argument? (Give supporting reasons for your answer.)
- [3]
- (d) ‘Companies that run websites deliberately use attention-grabbing news headlines, which encourages users to revisit their sites regularly.’ If true, does this statement support the main argument, or weaken it, or neither? (Give supporting reasons for your answer.)
- [2]
- (e) ‘It is not the right or the responsibility of any organisation to interfere in the way individual employees choose to live their lives.’ Which claim in the passage does this objection challenge most directly. How serious is it for the argument as a whole?
- [3]
- (f) Present **two** further objections which could be made against the main argument and its conclusion.
- [4]

- 3 Write a critical evaluation of the argument which is presented below. Your answer should show that you are clear about the structure of the argument, by identifying the main conclusion and the reasons given to support it, including any intermediate conclusions. You should point out strengths, weaknesses and/or flaws in the reasoning; and identify and evaluate any unstated assumptions that the argument rests on. Finally, include two further arguments for or against the conclusion.

(No credit will be given for merely paraphrasing the passage).

When someone has enjoyed a good meal in a restaurant, it is usual in most countries of the world to leave a tip. Traditionally this has been given to the staff who wait on the tables, and a good waiter or waitress can earn considerable extra money this way.

Restaurant owners, however, have long complained that the tipping system is unfair, and that it costs them money. After all, they grumble, they have to pay for the upkeep and furnishing of the premises. They have to stock the kitchens and cellars. They have to employ the chefs and other staff, who do not get tips and consequently expect higher pay.

The European Court recently ruled that when payment is made by cheque or credit card, and includes a tip or service charge, the restaurant owner is entitled to keep the full amount, providing they pay their staff the minimum legal wage. This is both an unjust decision by the court, and a foolish one, which will harm the whole restaurant industry. Restaurant owners who value their businesses would therefore be wise to ignore it.

To begin with, it is the waiter, not the owner, who serves the customer. Customers who receive excellent service will return to a restaurant time and time again, boosting its profits and its reputation. Any money charged or given for *service* is therefore the waiter's by rights. He or she has earned it.

Secondly, restaurant employees are often very poorly paid. Waiters' organisations say that it is only the tips that give their members the incentive to provide good service. Why else would anyone put up with the long, unsocial hours and the incessant demands of ill-mannered customers. Restaurant profits may rise in the short term, as a result of this court ruling, but in the end, as the standards of service inevitably fall, eating out will cease to be a special occasion. People will stay at home, save their money, and cook for themselves.

