



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

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**THINKING SKILLS**

**9694/21**

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

**May/June 2013**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the booklet.

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

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

Answer **all** the questions.

Start each question on a new answer sheet.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

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



## 1 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

**Source A****Police Report**

A member of the public reported that he had seen items of furniture being removed from a house which had been empty since the death of the resident, Mrs Alice Allot. When a policeman called at the house, he met Mr Barry Brain, who explained that he was the nephew of Mr Alf Allot, who died some years ago, and was executor of Mrs Allot's will. Under the will, the house and contents were to be sold and the proceeds given to charity. When the policeman asked if Mr Brain had moved any furniture out of the house, he replied that his uncle had given him various items of furniture from the house and that his solicitor had advised him to remove those items before selling the house and contents.

**Source B****Statement**

*from Mr Charles Clark (neighbour)*

When I moved into my present home twenty years ago, my next-door neighbours were Mr and Mrs Allot. Because Mr Allot was suffering from Alzheimer's Disease\*, it was not possible to have a conversation with him, but I used to say "Good morning" when I saw him. After Mr Allot's death, his widow continued to live in the house until she died recently. Her only relative was her late husband's nephew, Barry Brain, who used to visit her regularly. I had expected that she would leave the house to Mr Brain in her will, but in fact she left everything to a local charity.

\* Alzheimer's Disease is a brain disease which affects many elderly people. It causes loss of memory and in advanced cases irrational behaviour.

**Source C****Statement**

*from Mr Duncan Dresden (solicitor)*

When Mr Brain consulted me about selling his late aunt's house, he mentioned that some of his own property was currently in the house. I advised him to move it out, so that it would not be mistakenly included in the sale. Of course, I was referring only to items which definitely belonged to him. I would never have advised him to break the law by taking anything else.

**Source D****Statement**

*from Barry Brain's wife, Emily*

On one occasion, when Barry's Uncle Alf was very confused, he insisted on giving Barry a lamp from the house, and then later accused him of stealing it. Of course, Barry returned it. He hadn't wanted it in the first place, and had only taken it because his uncle was so insistent. Aunt Alice was very embarrassed about the incident. I don't remember any other occasion when Uncle Alf gave Barry anything, but it may have happened when I wasn't there.

Before Aunt Alice's death, my husband knew nothing about her will, although he had guessed that as her only relative he was likely to benefit. When she died, he discovered that she had left everything to a local charity and had named him as executor. From then on, he mentioned to several people that his uncle had given him several items of furniture from the house. I think Barry may have told this story so many times that he began to believe it himself.

- (a) How reliable is the evidence from Mr Duncan Dresden (Source C)? [3]
- (b) How useful is the evidence given by Emily Brain (Source D)? [3]
- (c) How useful would a statement from Mr Barry Brain be in helping to establish whether he stole items from his aunt's house? [3]
- (d) Do you think Barry Brain stole items from his aunt's house? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and with consideration of any plausible alternative scenarios. [6]

2 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

**Source A**

**News Report 2006 – Southland National News**

*The Hidden Cost of Economic Success*

The current economic boom is good news for most people, but there is another side. The number of cases of depression, as measured by the number of prescriptions issued for anti-depressant medication, has been rising steadily over the last few years.

High-achievers in business are currently receiving high rewards and a luxurious lifestyle which most other people envy. What they don't see is the stress and insecurity caused by the fear of losing this material prosperity.

"Money doesn't buy happiness" is an old cliché, but we now have the evidence which proves it.

**Source B**

**News Report 2012 – Southland National News**

*The Cost of the Recession*

Figures released today reveal the psychological cost of the current economic recession. Rising unemployment and reductions in public expenditure have created a rise in mental health problems, especially depression. This is shown by the number of prescriptions for anti-depressant medication, which rose last year by comparison with the previous twelve months.

**Source C**

**Report in Medical Journal**

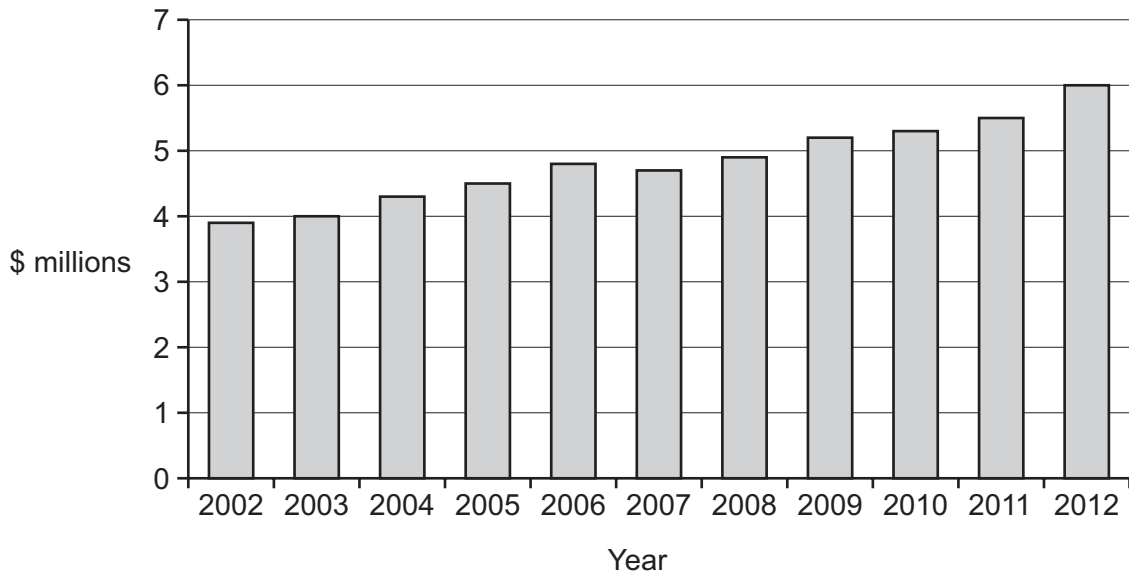
*Not Enough Therapists for Talking Cure*

Most psychiatrists agree that the most effective way of treating depression is Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), which involves many hours of talking to a trained therapist. Although CBT has produced impressive results, it is labour-intensive and time-consuming. As CBT has become the treatment of choice for people suffering from depression, waiting lists have grown. Training more therapists cannot be achieved quickly.

Unfortunately, many doctors who know that CBT would offer the best hope for their patients are currently unable to offer it immediately. In many cases, the condition deteriorates before the "talking cure" can begin. This creates a vicious circle, whereby the severity of the condition causes the treatment to take longer, which in turn makes another patient have to wait even longer for a therapist to become available.

## Source D

Sales of anti-depressant drugs in Southland



- (a) Sources A and B claim that a rise in the number of prescriptions of anti-depressant drugs indicates an increase in the number of patients with depression. Suggest **two** possible **alternative** explanations of your own for the rise in the number of prescriptions. [4]
- (b) Source A claims that economic prosperity causes depression, while Source B claims that economic hardship has the same effect. Do these claims contradict one another? Briefly explain your answer. [3]
- (c) How are the facts reported in Source C likely to affect the amount of anti-depressant medication sold? [2]
- (d) 'Economic factors are a major cause of depression.'  
To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the information provided in Sources A – D. [6]

3 *Read the passage and answer the questions below.*

- 1 The advice that you should never believe what you read in the newspapers is more true today than it has ever been.
- 2 Most newspapers take a particular political position, and some are even owned by political parties. So naturally their reports show political bias. If the party they support is in government, for example, they are unlikely to report public protests against their policies. If they feel they cannot ignore the protests completely, they will probably under-estimate the number attending. Newspapers which support the opposition, by contrast, will probably make the protests their main story and exaggerate the number of participants.
- 3 Without advertising, newspapers would have to increase their cover price to a level which very few readers would be able to afford. The threat to withdraw advertising, therefore, gives commercial companies the power to influence editorial policy. What company will continue subsidising a newspaper which has reported that its products are useless, dangerous or over-priced?
- 4 A less obvious form of commercial pressure arises from the desire to increase profits by reducing costs. It is cheaper to copy a report from another paper or even a statement from a commercial company or pressure group than to send a reporter to find out the facts in person. Companies and campaigns are well aware of this, and they can afford to pay journalists to produce ready-made stories for the use of editors who want to fill their pages as cheaply as possible. Readers need to realise that what they think are news reports are often disguised attempts to influence their political views or buying habits.
- 5 The main motive behind most news stories is to put politicians under an obligation. In the past, the owners of newspapers used those newspapers to influence public opinion in favour of their own political beliefs. Now, the only thing the owners believe in is profit. It does not matter to the newspaper owner who is in power, so long as they remember that they owe their position to the newspaper. Politicians do not dare to restrict the ability of newspaper owners to make money, because they know that, if they did, the owners would ensure that they would never be re-elected.

- (a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the main conclusion. [2]
- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify **three** reasons used to support the main conclusion. [3]
- (c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]
- (d) 'Profit is the only good.'  
Write your own argument to support **or** challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. [5]



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