
THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

May/June 2017

1 hour 45 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **all** the questions.

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



This document consists of **6** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** insert.

1 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A**News report***Pensioner foils burglary attempt*

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, Mr Peter Day (68), was woken by the sound of intruders at his home. On investigating, he discovered two men in one of the upstairs rooms. Fortunately, he disturbed them before they had time to steal anything from the house. Two men were arrested at the scene and have been charged with breaking and entering. Neighbours report that there have been several burglaries in the area in recent weeks. This paper understands that police have removed a table leg from the house for forensic examination.

Source B**Statement to police by Peter Day**

I was awoken by a noise in our spare bedroom and went to investigate, carrying a table leg with which to defend myself if I was attacked. I saw two young men in the room. I challenged them. In their haste to escape, they became so disorientated that they tripped over one another, fell down the stairs and knocked themselves unconscious. I did not hit either of the men.

Source C**Statement to police by Darren Jones**

While I was passing Mr Day's house at about 3 am, I noticed someone entering the house. I thought he seemed suspicious, and so I followed him into the house in order to investigate. I intended to warn the householder if necessary. I followed the man upstairs and into a bedroom. Suddenly, I felt a severe pain in the back of my head. The next thing I knew, I woke up at the foot of the stairs in handcuffs and a police officer told me I had been arrested on suspicion of burglary.

Source D**News report***Have-a-go hero accused*

Lawyers representing Mr Darren Jones (22) have announced that they have been instructed to prosecute Peter Day for assault on their client. They allege that Day struck Mr Jones with a weapon, knocking him unconscious, and pushed him down a flight of stairs, causing severe headaches and extensive bruising.

Source E**Home Lawyer reference book**

Anyone who has reasonable grounds for thinking that their life, physical safety or possessions are being attacked may legally use reasonable force in self-defence. However, anyone who uses greater force than required by the nature of the threat may still be guilty of assault.

- (a) Peter Day is a retired Special Forces Marine. Suggest **one** way in which this additional information might affect your evaluation of his evidence in Source B. [2]
- (b) Suggest **two** factors which make Darren Jones's evidence in Source C unreliable. [4]
- (c) How useful is Source E in relation to this incident? [3]
- (d) How likely do you think it is that Peter Day is guilty of assault against Darren Jones? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and considering a plausible alternative conclusion. [6]

2 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

Health advice website

The popular myth that you can catch a cold or flu from being cold is not true. Colds and flu are caused by viruses. Although cold and flu symptoms occur most commonly during the winter, they are not caused by being out in the cold.

According to our expert advisers, the reason why cold and flu infections occur mainly in the winter is because infections spread when people tend to stay indoors for longer periods of time and in closer contact with one another. This closeness makes it easier to catch viruses, which are transmitted in the air and by touching infected surfaces.

In order to minimize the risk of catching a cold or flu, we recommend that you

- avoid contact with family or friends who are displaying the symptoms of a cold;
- wash your hands frequently, especially before you eat and after you use the toilet;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Source B

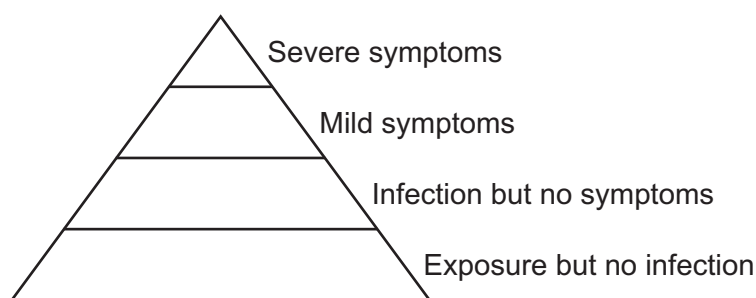
Research report

In research undertaken by Cardiff University, 180 volunteers were randomly assigned to two groups of 90 each. One group immersed their feet in ice water for 20 minutes, and the other group did not. 13 of the 'chilled' group and 5 of the 'not chilled' group reported symptoms of a cold in the following 5 days.

The researchers think that being chilled may reduce people's ability to ignore symptoms.

Source C

The Common Cold Pyramid



Most people who are infected by a cold virus are not aware of symptoms at all, and very few experience "severe" symptoms.

Source D

Research report

American scientists have conducted an experiment using a virus which affects mice in a similar way to the effects of the cold virus on humans. At warmer temperatures, mice infected with the virus activated natural defences that fought off the virus. At cooler temperatures, fewer antiviral defences were activated, and so the infection was able to survive and grow.

- (a) Source A comes from a company which sells products to relieve the symptoms of cold and flu. How does this affect the reliability of the information given in Source A? [3]
- (b) (i) Explain why the information in Source C is of limited relevance to the findings in Source B. [2]
- (ii) Suggest **two** alternative explanations for the results seen in the experiment in Source B. [2]
- (c) How useful do you think the research described in Source D is in attempting to answer the question of whether cold temperatures cause people to catch a cold? [2]
- (d) 'There is nothing you can do to avoid catching a cold.'

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 expansion of university places has been a mistake. Roughly half the people who leave school in the UK currently proceed to university. This has led to a catastrophic decline in standards. Too many jobs now require university qualifications. It will soon be impossible to obtain a job sweeping roads without a degree in Environmental Science, while checkout operators will need a degree in Economics. Young people who have chosen not to go to university, or through no fault of their own have been unable to do so, face a lifetime of unemployment, unfulfilment and misery.
- 2 Apprenticeships are more suitable than university courses to equip people for many occupations. In order to qualify to teach in a university, professors and lecturers need research degrees and a list of publications. The way to achieve these qualifications and publications is to challenge accepted theories, ideas and even facts. This emphasis on research distorts the way most subjects are taught at university and makes them unsuitable as vocational training.
- 3 Traditionally, school teachers were expected to know a lot of facts and to have mastered various skills; their task was to pass on some of those facts and skills to their pupils. They used to go to specialised training colleges to learn answers, not to raise questions. The university courses which would-be teachers now take have higher status but are less effective at equipping them for this work. We should restore the old training colleges.
- 4 A very few young adults gain satisfaction from exploring more and more deeply into the nature of their subject without ever knowing anything for certain. But they are a tiny minority. University courses are not suited to the needs of most students, because most people do not benefit from the constant undermining of their knowledge. They want to know more about their subject as a result of their studies, not less.
- 5 University education is also very expensive. Responsible parents would try to dissuade their sons and daughters from spending borrowed money on pleasure, luxury and self-indulgence. Similarly, they should discourage young adults from wasting money they do not have on a university education.

- (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** intermediate conclusions. [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) 'University education should be free of charge.'

Write your own short argument to support **or** challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. Credit will not be given for repeating ideas from the passage. [5]

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