
CRITICAL THINKING

9694/23

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

May/June 2017

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 45

Published

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	The evidence is inconclusive, so not (very) useful [1]. The evidence strongly suggests that Singh could be responsible for the accident, due to driving too fast (“goes like a rocket”) [1]. If the car was new, he might not be used to driving it [1]. However, it also suggests that, since the car had cost him a lot of money and was his “pride and joy”, he would want to treat it very carefully [1]. Also, he may have been boasting/exaggerating/joking with his friend rather than expressing serious intentions [1].	3
1(b)	It suggests that the farmers may be responsible, as they are not fulfilling their legal obligation to clear mud from the roads [1]. However, we do not know whether the road in question is one where “the traffic is considerable” [1], hence whether this obligation would apply [1]. Source A suggests that the road has seen a “considerable increase in traffic”, but it is not clear whether it has increased considerably enough [1]. Source D suggests that the council may ultimately be responsible, by not enforcing the rules properly [1].	3
1(c)	Not significant as regards reliability [1]. The statement in Source C is from a farmer, so is already affected by bias and vested interest and this information doesn’t add much to this [1]. However, it reinforces the view in Source D that the council puts the interests of farmers ahead of those of other residents [1]. This might be significant in reinforcing the view that lax enforcement of the regulations was the root cause of the accident [1].	3

Question	Answer	Marks								
1(d)	<table border="1" data-bbox="303 277 1329 808"> <tr> <td data-bbox="303 277 475 443">Level 3 5–6 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 277 1329 443">A strong answer, which provides a reasoned argument including thorough evaluation of all or most of the evidence to support an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and evaluates the plausibility of at least one alternative conclusion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="303 443 475 577">Level 2 3–4 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 443 1329 577">An answer which evaluates some of the evidence, draws an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and may mention the plausibility of at least one alternative conclusion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="303 577 475 712">Level 1 1–2 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 577 1329 712">A weak answer, which refers to some of the evidence, possibly including a simple evaluative comment. The conclusion may be unstated or over-stated.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="303 712 475 808">Level 0 0 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 712 1329 808">No credit-worthy material.</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="303 842 555 869">Indicative content</p> <p data-bbox="303 904 691 931">The possible conclusions are:</p> <ul data-bbox="359 956 1310 1126" style="list-style-type: none"> • Singh was driving too fast and without taking due care in relation to the muddy conditions. • The farmers are responsible by failing to fulfil their obligation to keep the roads clear of mud. • The council is responsible by failing to enforce the regulations. <p data-bbox="303 1160 1326 1559">Farmers certainly create the mud and their changing farming practices seem to have increased the problem. They should not take advantage of a lack of enforcement by the council to leave mud on the roads. However, if they are right in saying that mud is an unavoidable consequence of farming and farming is a central economic activity, then it is perhaps up to motorists to take the possibility of mud on the road into account when they drive. Singh was a local driver and should have known mud on the road was a hazard. Also, they can hardly be held responsible for <i>all</i> accidents. The council bears some responsibility for failing to enforce the law and their letter to Terry Singh bypasses this point. They may also have failed to take in to account increased traffic on the road. However, they may take the view that they are turning a blind eye to an unenforceable and stupid regulation.</p> <p data-bbox="303 1592 783 1619">Notes for the guidance of markers</p> <p data-bbox="303 1655 1126 1682">Simple supported conclusion 1 (if no conclusion cap at Level 2)</p> <p data-bbox="303 1718 831 1783">+ simple consideration of alternative +1 AND reasoned rejection of alternative +1</p> <p data-bbox="303 1818 1142 1883">+ explicit use of some (3 or fewer) sources of evidence +1 OR explicit use of all or most (4 or more) sources of evidence +2</p> <p data-bbox="303 1919 1118 1984">+ critical evaluation of evidence +1 or (more than one case) +2 + good inferential reasoning +1 or (more than one case) +2</p> <p data-bbox="303 2020 384 2047">Max 6</p>	Level 3 5–6 marks	A strong answer, which provides a reasoned argument including thorough evaluation of all or most of the evidence to support an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and evaluates the plausibility of at least one alternative conclusion.	Level 2 3–4 marks	An answer which evaluates some of the evidence, draws an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and may mention the plausibility of at least one alternative conclusion.	Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which refers to some of the evidence, possibly including a simple evaluative comment. The conclusion may be unstated or over-stated.	Level 0 0 marks	No credit-worthy material.	6
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Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	<p>Drugs make some contribution to health damage in sports professionals, but it is not the root cause [1]. Source B suggests that drug use is just a symptom of a wider problem of an over-competitive ethic in professional sport [1]. It is this ethic that is the root cause of health damage [1]; other effects of this, e.g. strain on heart, use of dietary supplements, are not be affected by a ban on drug use [1].</p> <p><i>If 0 scored, give 1 mark for evidence that the conclusion of Source B has been identified correctly.</i></p>	3
2(b)	<p>It may become impossible to agree the descriptors for what qualifies one as 'disabled' [1]. Some athletes may have better access to bionic technology than others, which would interfere with fair competition [1]. But this is not obviously different to the current situation, where some athletes have better access to state of the art training facilities than others [1]. Source C suggests that many disabilities may become correctable (e.g. eyesight), in which case there might not be any competition between disabled athletes at all [1]. Source C also suggests that if gene therapies are undetectable, one could never have any confidence in the fairness of a competition [1].</p>	3
2(c)	<p><i>1 mark for each plausible explanation, for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The richer athletes are able to afford dietary supplements etc. which are not available to the poorer athletes. • The richer athletes have better living standards and diet than the poorer athletes. • Higher average income and greater sporting performance are both effects of an achievement-orientated society. • The richer athletes get better training facilities than the poorer athletes. • Sport is taken more seriously in richer countries where competition is valued. • Professional sport is a genuine opportunity for a greater proportion of the population in richer countries, giving those countries a relatively larger pool of people from which to draw. <p><i>Award the third mark if two explanations are given and one is fully developed, e.g. with examples or some argumentation, or if three plausible explanations are given.</i></p>	3

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2(d)	<table border="1" data-bbox="304 282 1331 743"> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 282 475 376">Level 3 5–6 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 282 1331 376">A reasoned argument, which uses and evaluates all or most of the evidence provided.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 376 475 470">Level 2 3–4 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 376 1331 470">A simple argument, which uses and/or evaluates evidence.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 470 475 645">Level 1 1–2 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 470 1331 645">A weak answer, which makes some correct reference to evidence but consists of opinion and/or assertion rather than argument or a weak argument which makes no reference to evidence.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 645 475 743">Level 0 0 marks</td> <td data-bbox="475 645 1331 743">No credit-worthy material.</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="304 779 555 810">Indicative content</p> <ul data-bbox="360 846 1331 1639" style="list-style-type: none"> • Source A makes a number of points suggesting the distinction between performance-enhancing drugs and other ways of enhancing performance is difficult to maintain. • Source B states that the use of performance-enhancing drugs causes health problems • but implies that drugs are a symptom of a wider problem of sports being over-concerned with performance; • although allowing drugs would exacerbate this and increase the threat to sports men and women. • Source C suggests it may be impossible to maintain the idea of competition free from medical or technical aids. • Source C suggests future performance-enhancing techniques will be undetectable. • The analogy in Source D is weak. • Source D fails to address the problem of how to maintain the distinction between drugs and other forms of performance enhancement. • Source D fails to address the problem of artificial performance enhancement becoming increasingly undetectable. • Source E suggests sportsmen and women in richer countries may have an advantage, • which may be linked to better access to performance enhancement which could be considered unfair. <p data-bbox="304 1675 1302 1774">The sources suggest that whilst ‘fair competition’ is an ideal, it will be difficult (probably impossible) to maintain this ideal in the future. So sporting organisations should abandon the attempt to ban the use of drugs in sport.</p>	Level 3 5–6 marks	A reasoned argument, which uses and evaluates all or most of the evidence provided.	Level 2 3–4 marks	A simple argument, which uses and/or evaluates evidence.	Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which makes some correct reference to evidence but consists of opinion and/or assertion rather than argument or a weak argument which makes no reference to evidence.	Level 0 0 marks	No credit-worthy material.	6
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Question	Answer	Marks
2(d)	<p>Notes for the guidance of markers</p> <p>Simple supported conclusion 1 OR nuanced conclusion 2</p> <p>+ <u>use</u> of 1 or 2 sources +1 OR <u>use</u> of all or most (3 or more) sources of evidence +2 <i>not just mentioning or summarising or comprehension</i></p> <p>+ critical evaluation of evidence +1 or (more than one case) +2</p> <p>+ good inferential reasoning +1 or (more than one case) +2 <i>not speculation</i></p> <p>+ personal thinking +1</p> <p>Max 6</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	<p><i>2 marks:</i> this trend [for people in the UK to have wooden floors...] is regrettable.</p> <p><i>1 mark:</i> It has become fashionable in the UK for people to have wooden floors instead of carpet in their homes: this trend is regrettable.</p>	2
3(b)	<p><i>1 mark for each of the following, to a maximum of 3 marks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These noise-reducing qualities make carpet a far superior floor covering to wood. • Using carpets would (eliminate this risk and so) relieve the pressure on health services. • (Therefore) there is a harmful effect on the economy (as a result of the declining popularity of carpet). • The environment would benefit from a shift back to carpets as the floor covering of choice. • The supposed advantages of wooden floors for those with allergies are illusory. <p><i>Allow one additional element or one significant omission in each case. If more than three answers are offered, mark the first four only.</i></p>	3

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	<p><i>Marks for each evaluative point as follows, up to a maximum of 5 marks:</i></p> <p><i>2 marks: Valid evaluative point, clearly expressed.</i></p> <p><i>1 mark: Weak attempt at a valid evaluative point.</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumption – that there is no solution to the problem of noise created by wooden floors. • Flaw – noise reduction not a sufficient condition to conclude that carpet is “far superior”. <p><i>Paragraph 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal to pity: reference to children and elderly persons. • Assumption – that there are no other hard surfaces in homes which would cause injury. • Assumption – that there are no other health risks (which put pressure on health services) created by carpets e.g. dust allergies. • Assumption – the number of such accidents is high enough to create significant pressure on health services. <p><i>Paragraph 4</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal to tradition: “long-established”. • Assumption – jobs in wooden flooring manufacture have not outweighed loss of jobs in carpet industry. <p><i>Note to markers – accept this for 2 marks if expressed as a counter</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumption – tropical hardwoods are used in manufacturing wooden floors. • Assumption – there are not environmentally negative effects from rearing sheep. • Assumption: that the difference in speed for renewing wool and wood is significant. <i>(May be expressed as an inconsistency etc.)</i> • Flaw – <i>ad hominem</i> – reference to ‘old hippies’. • Flaw – straw man: ‘old hippy’ argument would be more selective on which natural materials should be used. • Fails to justify claim that hippies are being inconsistent. <p><i>Paragraph 6</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumption – artificial fibres do not harbour creatures such as dust mites. • Assumption – other causes of allergies have not increased. • Flaw – inconsistency: in para 5 the reasoning is based on the idea that carpets are made of wool but in para 6 it is stated that most US carpets are made of synthetic materials. 	5

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3(d)	<table border="1" data-bbox="300 280 1331 779"> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 293 475 483">Level 3 4–5 marks</td> <td data-bbox="478 293 1323 483">Developed, coherent argument. Reasons strongly support conclusion. Development may include intermediate conclusion or apt examples. Simply structured argument – 4 marks. Effective use of IC etc. – 5 marks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 488 475 580">Level 2 2–3 marks</td> <td data-bbox="478 488 1323 580">A simple argument. One reason + conclusion – 2 marks. Two or more separate reasons + conclusion – 3 marks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 584 475 676">Level 1 1 mark</td> <td data-bbox="478 584 1323 676">Some relevant comment.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 680 475 772">Level 0 0 marks</td> <td data-bbox="478 680 1323 772">No relevant comment.</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="300 813 1262 875"><i>Maximum 3 marks for wrong conclusion or if conclusion is implied but not stated.</i></p> <p data-bbox="300 880 1074 913"><i>No credit for material merely reproduced from the passage.</i></p> <p data-bbox="300 947 667 981">Specimen level 3 answers</p> <p data-bbox="300 1014 555 1048"><i>Support (91 words)</i></p> <p data-bbox="300 1066 1294 1361">Before the development of synthetic materials, such as plastics, many everyday purchases such as buckets were cumbersome and expensive. Natural materials such as wood also wear out quite quickly. Therefore, in an age before synthetic materials, people spent a great deal of their income on such everyday objects, meaning they had less money to spend on their own leisure and enjoyment. Synthetic materials have also been key in the development of a number of technologies including those in the medical sphere. Therefore synthetic materials such as plastic have been a life-enhancing development.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1395 603 1429"><i>Challenge (105 words)</i></p> <p data-bbox="300 1447 1326 1749">The use of synthetic materials, particularly plastics, has been a major contributor to the ‘throwaway society’. People now use plastic bags when shopping and dispose of them afterwards. The result is that even the remotest parts of the world’s oceans are contaminated with plastic. Plastic is not biodegradable, meaning an individual piece of plastic can last hundreds of years bobbing around in the sea. Many synthetic materials, including plastics, are derived from oil – a fossil fuel. So synthetic materials are a key contributor to the environmental damage of the planet. Therefore synthetic materials such as plastic have not been a life enhancing development.</p>	Level 3 4–5 marks	Developed, coherent argument. Reasons strongly support conclusion. Development may include intermediate conclusion or apt examples. Simply structured argument – 4 marks. Effective use of IC etc. – 5 marks.	Level 2 2–3 marks	A simple argument. One reason + conclusion – 2 marks. Two or more separate reasons + conclusion – 3 marks.	Level 1 1 mark	Some relevant comment.	Level 0 0 marks	No relevant comment.	5
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