

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level and GCE Advanced Level

MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2013 series

9694 THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 (Critical Thinking), maximum raw mark 45

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2013 series for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level components and some Ordinary Level components.

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1 (a) Is Source A an argument? Briefly explain your answer. [2]

- 2 marks for a correct answer with accurate explanation.
- 1 mark for a correct answer with vague or generic explanation.
- 0 marks for correct answer without explanation.
- 0 marks for incorrect answer with or without explanation.

Source A is an argument. The reference includes a persuasive conclusion, namely that Barbara “would be an excellent candidate for an administrative post” and the remainder of the reference consists of several reasons supporting that conclusion, such as “She has been a conscientious student”, “[she] passed her Diploma in Administration with Distinction” and “Good working relationships are especially important to Barbara”.

(b) How useful is the reference from Arrowe College (Source A) in deciding why Barbara lost her job? [3]

Useful/of some use (neither very useful nor useless) [1].
The reference strongly suggests that her performance during the trial period would be unlikely to be unsatisfactory [1] and that problems with relationships are unlikely to be her fault [1]. The reference thereby supports the hypothesis that there was another motive behind her dismissal [1].

But the tutor has no ability to comment on Barbara’s work at the Coriander Counselling Centre [1], and she has a vested interest to exaggerate the good points of her student in order to make herself and the college look good [1].

Maximum 2 marks if one side only.

(c) How reliable is the evidence from the Senior Counsellor about the confrontation between Barbara and Diana (Source C)? [4]

Reliable about what Barbara told her [1], because she heard it herself [1] and has no apparent vested interest to distort what she heard [1]. As a counsellor, she should have good expertise in listening accurately [1] and as a professional she should be truthful [1].

But the Senior Counsellor did not witness the confrontation herself [1], and she has heard only one side of the story [1]. Barbara’s version of the story may be unreliable [1], because she has a vested interest to portray herself in a good light [1].

Maximum 2 marks if one side only.

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- (d) **Why do you think Barbara lost her job? 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]

Level 3 5–6 marks	A strong answer, which provides a reasoned argument including thorough evaluation of the evidence to support an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and evaluates the plausibility of at least one different possible course of events.
Level 2 3–4 marks	A reasonable answer, which evaluates the evidence, draws an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and may mention the plausibility of at least one different course of events.
Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which refers to the evidence, possibly including a simple evaluative comment. The conclusion may be unstated or over-stated.
Level 0 0 marks	No credit-worthy material.

Indicative content

It is possible that Barbara's work really was below standard, but Sources A, C and D suggest that this is unlikely.

More likely reasons according to the evidence are that

- once Barbara had sorted out the files and systems, the Management Committee realised they could save money by employing someone less well qualified than her.
- they never intended to keep Barbara on after her probationary period, and only pretended to make a permanent appointment, because they really wanted to appoint a skilled person on a temporary basis to overhaul their administration and knew they were likely to get a better class of applicant if they advertised for someone permanent.
- Diana had complained about Barbara's attitude, and used her position on the Management Committee to ensure that she failed her probationary period. This is consistent with Source B.
- the Senior Counsellor felt that Barbara was too psychologically needy and would need too much support from her. Source C is consistent with that explanation, but does not directly support it.

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- 2 (a) To what extent does the report in Source B contradict the information given in Source A? [3]

The changes reported in Source B contradict the information given in source A to some extent.

Whereas the increased occurrence of swear words is consistent with the claim that “people use them” [1], it also suggests that they are no longer regarded as taboo [1]. It may be that what once were taboo swear words are losing taboo status and being replaced by other taboo expressions [1].

There is a difference in the explanation as to why people swear. According to source A it is a deliberate attempt to break a taboo in order to express anger or frustration (other reasons are also listed) [1], whereas Source B describes it as a “habit” which children pick up from their parents [1].

Source A says that young children cry rather than swearing, but Source B says that swearing has become common amongst young children [1].

There is some consistency in that the increase in swearing described in Source B might be plausibly explained by an increase in the occurrence of the motives given in Source A [1].

Both sources say that swearing is more of a masculine activity than feminine [1].

No mark for judgment.

- (b) Suggest two possible explanations for the changes in acceptable behaviour described by the retired teacher in Source C. [4]

2 answers, credited as follows: 2 marks for a clear, specific answer; 1 mark for a vague or generic answer.

Indicative content

- Swearing may have become more widespread and less significant in society in general.
- It may be that what once were taboo swear words are losing taboo status and being replaced by other taboo expressions.
- Relationships between teachers and students may have become less formal.
- Now that students have become recognised as consumers in a competitive marketplace, the power relationship between them and teachers has changed radically.
- Student misbehaviour may have become more tolerated.
- There may be a greater emphasis on group identity among students.

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- (c) Based only on the information given in Source D, suggest two ways in which the sample used in the research project may not have been representative of the general world population. [2]

1 mark each for any valid comment based on information in Source D, such as:

- They are probably all young, since they are all students.
- They are presumably all of a certain level of intelligence, since they are all students.
- All or most of them may be from the UK, and have English as their first language, although it is not stated that this is the case.

- (d) ‘Swearing is good for you.’

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]

Level 3 5–6 marks	A strong, reasoned argument, which uses and evaluates all or most of the evidence provided.
Level 2 3–4 marks	A reasonable, simple argument, which uses and/or evaluates evidence.
Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which makes some 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.

Indicative content

The evidence is insufficient to support this large-scale claim. The information given in source A suggests that swearing fulfils significant roles in society, but partly by being taboo, which implies that it should be relatively rare. Source B reports changes in the use of swearing in the US, but does not say whether this should be welcomed or deplored. The experiment reported in Source D supports a limited version of the claim.

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- 3 (a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the main conclusion. [2]

2 marks: This (considering museums very low on a government's list of priorities) is a short-sighted view.

1 mark: paraphrase of the above.

1 mark: (The truth is that) the survival of nations depends on museums.

- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify three reasons used to support the main conclusion. [3]

1 mark each for the following, up to a maximum of 3:

- (The truth is that) the survival of nations depends on museums.
- (So) the preservation of cultures is even more necessary now than it was in previous generations.
- The influence of museums spreads much more widely than the few who actually visit them.
- The existence of museums is (therefore) a vital support in the defence of democracy.

- (c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]

Marks for each evaluative point as follows, up to a maximum of 5 marks:

3 marks Key evaluative point, clearly expressed.

2 marks Key evaluative point, incompletely or vaguely expressed

or Valid evaluative point, clearly expressed but less significant than a key point.

1 mark Weak attempt at a valid evaluative point.

Candidates who fail to achieve any marks for evaluative points may be awarded up to 2 marks for partial performance, as follows, in respect of answers which have misinterpreted the nature of the task but have shown some understanding:

2 marks Relevant extended counter-argument/agreement or multiple specific counter-assertions/agreements

1 mark General counter/agreement or single specific counter/agreement.

Partial performance marks must **not** be added to one another or to marks from the main part of the mark scheme.

Indicative content

Paragraph 1

- **[Key]** Assumption: that “a nation” consists of its “heritage” rather than the lives of its people.
- Assumption: that things that can be replaced are a lower priority than things which cannot.
- Assumption: if something is very low on a government's list of priorities it is not well taken care of.
- Assumption: that ancient artefacts and records can only be preserved by museums.
- Assumption: that things preserved in museums cannot get lost or stolen.

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Paragraph 2

- Assumption: that cultural differences can be preserved only by museums.
- **[Key]** The sentence beginning “A world in which...” is a straw man (the effects of globalization are unlikely to be as extreme as this). Alternatively, this can be identified as a slippery slope flaw.
- The statement about “True unity consists...” begs the question.

Paragraph 4

- **[Key]** This section of the argument crucially relies on the assumption that governments would not control museums. It may be more likely that museums would facilitate, rather than resist, the re-writing of history by those in power.
- Appeal to authority or circular argument: “a wise man once said” – calling the man “wise” depends on one agreeing with what he is supposed to have said – it doesn’t therefore support the wisdom of his view.
- Any candidate who points out that this quotation is actually a version of the party slogan in 1984 and is therefore presented as something cynical and anti-democratic rather than the saying of “a wise man” must be given credit, but of course no one is expected to know this.
- Conflates being “kept safe” with “being kept in a museum”.
- **[Key]** Flaw: slippery slope: from museums as a low priority to artefacts and documents not being kept safe; to airbrushing disgraced politicians, to politicians influencing the future, to a breakdown in democracy.
- **[Key]** There is an inconsistency between paras 1 and 4, inasmuch as the argument appears to be directed towards governments, but in para 4 they seem to be regarded as the enemy.

General

- Flaw: limiting the options. The whole passage seems to suggest that the only alternatives are either that museums be a high priority for governments or that they will cease to exist altogether and the artefacts and records they contain will be lost, stolen or destroyed.

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(d) 'The study of history has no value.'

Write your own short argument to support or challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. [5]

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.

Maximum 3 marks if conclusion is implied but not stated.

Maximum 3 marks if argued to wrong conclusion.

No credit for material merely reproduced from the passage.

Indicative content (specimen level 3 answers)

Support (125 words)

It has been said that those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it. However, that saying sounds much wiser than it is. Historians do not have time to engage in public life and people in positions of political or commercial power cannot read widely or deeply enough to come to their own opinions on matters of history. In practice, therefore, it is not realistic for anyone to benefit from the lessons of history.

Furthermore, it is not true that history repeats itself. No two situations are exactly the same, and anyone who predicts an outcome based on a case from previous generations will almost certainly overlook significant factors and come to a wrong judgment.

Therefore the study of history has no value.

Challenge (118 words)

One reason for studying history is as a key to understanding one's cultural identity. Unless we know where we come from, we cannot know who we are. For individuals and communities to live without a knowledge of political and social history is like trying to drive without a roadmap or to build without a blueprint.

Knowledge of history also has practical benefits. Although it is an exaggeration to say that history repeats itself, certain scenarios and themes do tend to recur. By studying the decisions which people made in the past, together with the consequences of those decisions, it is possible to develop wise policies and make the best decisions.

Therefore the study of history has great value.