



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2010

## Critical Thinking

**CRIT2**

Unit 2 Information, Inference and Explanation

## Source Material

This source material is to be read in conjunction with the questions in Unit CRIT2



## Document A

### CCTV doesn't keep us safe, yet the cameras are everywhere

**Bruce Schneier** *The Guardian*

- (1) Pervasive security cameras don't substantially reduce crime. There are exceptions, of course, and that's what gets the press. Most famously, CCTV cameras helped catch the toddler James Bulger's murderers in 1993. More recently, they helped convict a man of murdering five women in the Ipswich area. But these are the well-publicised exceptions. Overall, CCTV cameras aren't very effective.
- (2) Conventional wisdom predicts the opposite. But if that were true, then camera-happy London, with something like 500,000\*, would be the safest city on the planet. It isn't, of course, because of technological limitations of cameras, and the adaptive abilities of criminals.
- (3) The solution isn't for police to watch the cameras. Unlike an officer walking the street, cameras only look in particular directions at particular locations. Criminals know this, and can easily adapt by moving their crimes to some place not watched by a camera — and there will always be such places.
- (4) Cameras aren't completely ineffective, of course. Combined with adequate lighting, they substantially reduce car-related crime in car parks. And from some perspectives, simply moving crime around is good enough. If a local Tesco installs cameras in its store, and a robber targets the store next door as a result, that's money well spent by Tesco. But it doesn't reduce the overall crime rate, so is a waste of money to the community.
- (5) But the question really isn't whether cameras reduce crime; the question is whether they're worth it. And given their cost, their limited effectiveness, the potential for abuse and their Orwellian effects on privacy and civil liberty, most of the time they're not. The funds spent on CCTV cameras would be far better spent on hiring experienced police officers.
- (6) We live in a unique time in our society: the cameras are everywhere, and we can still see them. Ten years ago, cameras were much rarer than they are today. And in 10 years, they'll be so small you won't even notice them. Already, in China, there are companies developing police-state CCTV surveillance technologies like facial recognition, technologies that will find their way into countries like the UK. The time to address appropriate limits on this technology is before the cameras fade from notice.



Have you seen anything more sinister than this 7-headed monster?  
(Source: *Spy blog.org.uk*)

**Bruce Schneier is chief security technology officer at BT**

Source: adapted from *The Guardian*, 26 June 2008

\* This figure includes publicly and privately owned cameras

## Document B

- No one knows exactly how many cameras there are in the UK, because so many different agencies, private and public, have installed them. The official estimate is 4.2 million – one for every 14 citizens. It is also estimated that a person can be caught on CCTV cameras 300 times in a day.
- The charity, Privacy International rates the UK as Europe’s most surveillance-ridden country, with one-fifth of the world’s CCTV cameras.
- “It’s been an utter fiasco: only 3 per cent of solved crimes in London were solved using CCTV. There’s no fear of CCTV. Why don’t people fear it? They think the cameras are not working.” This is not some disgruntled or ill-informed citizen talking. The speaker is head of the Visual Images, Identifications and Detections Office (Viido) at New Scotland Yard, speaking at a world security conference.

Source: Extracts from ANDY McSMITH, *The Independent*, 7 May 2008

## Document C

### Tens of thousands of CCTV cameras, yet 80% of crime unsolved

By Justin Davenport, Evening Standard

(1) London has 10,000 crime-fighting CCTV cameras which cost £200 million, figures show today. But an analysis of the publicly funded spy network, which is owned and controlled by local authorities and Transport for London, has cast doubt on its ability to help solve crime.

(2) A comparison of the number of cameras in each London borough with the proportion of crimes solved there found that police are no more likely to catch offenders in areas with hundreds of cameras than in those with hardly any. In fact, four out of five of the boroughs with the most cameras have a record of solving crime that is below average.

(3) The figures were obtained by the Liberal Democrats in the London Assembly using the Freedom of Information Act. Their policing spokeswoman, said: “These figures suggest there is no link between a high number of CCTV cameras and a better crime clear-up rate”.



CCTV: most images are not as helpful as this one of a pickpocket on Oxford Street

Source: <http://thisislondon.co.uk>, 22 September 2007

Turn over ►

Figure 1

**Figures from the Greater London Assembly:  
Cameras vs crime and clear-up rates**

	London Borough	2007			
		Cameras	Crime (recorded incidents)	Total clear-up (cases solved)	Percentage Clear-up rate
1	Hackney	1484	31,160	6,920	22.2
2	Wandsworth	993	30,039	6,018	20.0
3	Tower Hamlets	824	32,627	6,791	20.8
4	Greenwich	747	29,829	5,413	18.1
5	Lewisham	730	32,150	6,367	19.8
6	Lambeth	498	38,868	8,875	22.8
7	Hounslow	482	24,485	5,229	21.4
8	Haringey	471	30,595	7,349	24.0
9	Ealing	425	36,734	7,357	20.0
10	Newham	319	35,597	7,278	20.4
11	Redbridge	291	24,646	4,979	20.2
12	Westminster	283	66,267	14,324	21.6
13	Bexley	265	16,997	3,728	21.9
14	Bromley	252	28,424	5,885	20.7
15	Southwark	234	39,713	8,339	21.0
16	Islington	202	35,248	6,997	19.9
17	Hammersmith and Fulham	175	25,334	5,210	20.6
18	Camden	171	42,435	7,337	17.3
19	Brent	164	30,474	7,835	25.7
20	Croydon	163	31,510	6,505	20.6
21	Havering	156	19,997	4,236	21.2
22	Harrow	156	15,837	3,527	22.3
23	Enfield	152	27,058	5,850	21.6
24	Barnet	150	29,920	6,149	20.6
25	Hillingdon	137	28,144	6,322	22.5
26	Kingston upon Thames	119	13,105	3,400	25.9
27	Barking and Dagenham	104	21,384	4,364	20.4
28	Kensington and Chelsea	89	24,328	5,139	21.1
29	Sutton	81	15,408	3,867	25.1
30	Waltham Forest	78	28,927	5,784	20.0
31	Richmond upon Thames	71	13,408	2,736	20.4
32	Merton	58	16,078	3,357	20.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,524*</b>	<b>916,726</b>	<b>193,467</b>	
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>28,648</b>	<b>6046</b>	<b>21.1</b>
	<b>Median</b>	<b>189</b>			

\*Not including cameras installed privately by residents or businesses.

Source: <http://www.glalibdems.org.uk>

Figure 2 (using data from Figure 1)

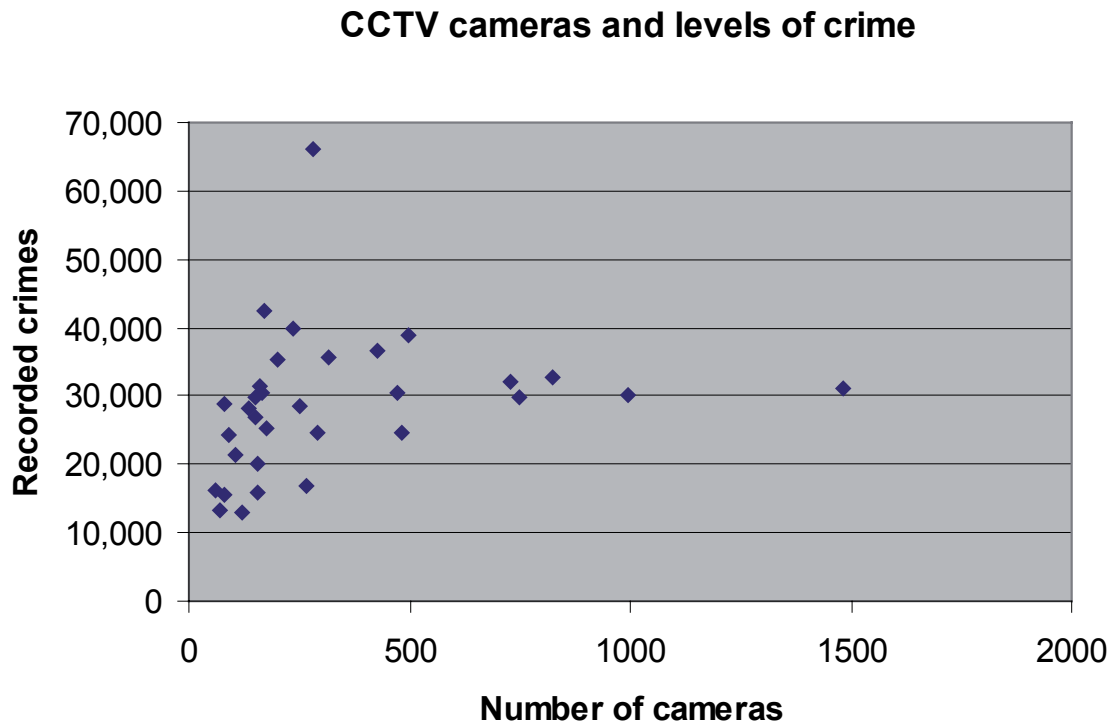
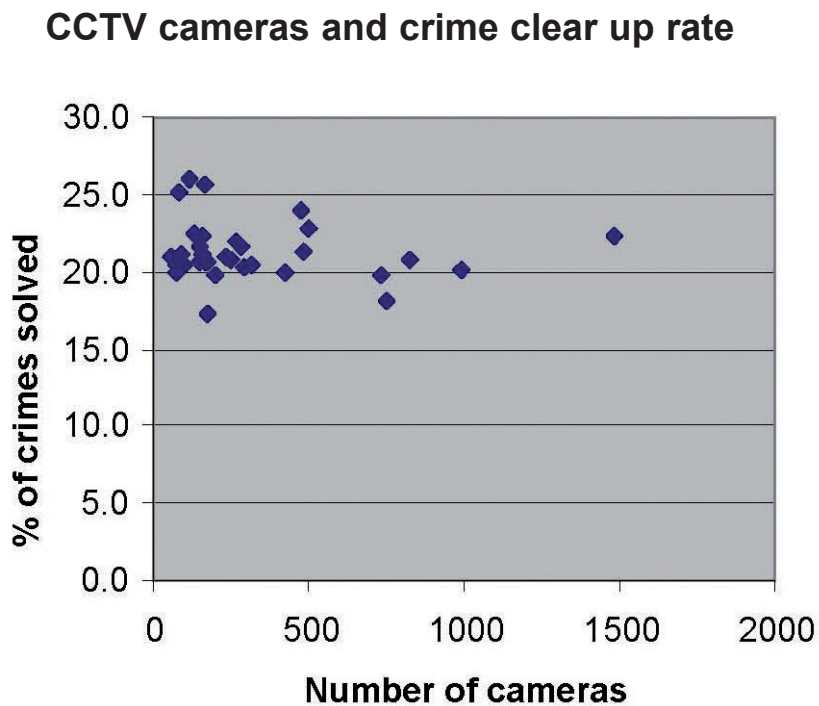


Figure 3 (using data from Figure 1)

Source: <http://www.glabdems.org.uk>

Turn over ►

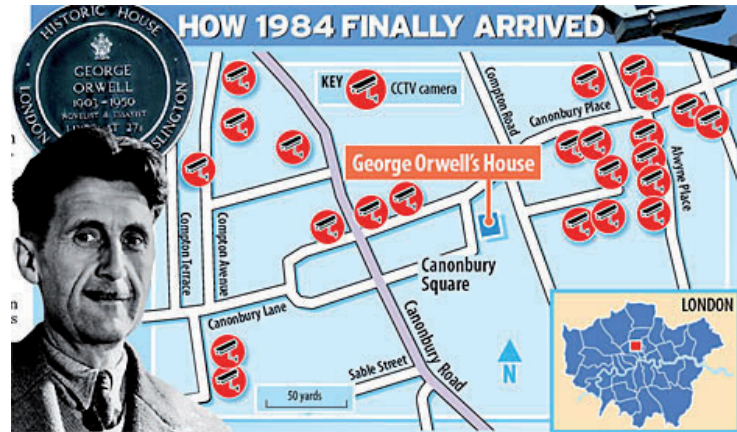


## Document D

### George Orwell, Big Brother is watching your house

The Big Brother nightmare of George Orwell's 1984\* has become a reality – in the shadow of the author's former London home. It may have taken a little longer than he predicted, but Orwell's vision of a society where cameras and computers spy on every person's movements is now here.

Use of spy cameras in modern-day Britain is now a chilling mirror image of Orwell's fictional world. On the wall outside the flat where Orwell lived until his death in 1950, an historical plaque commemorates the anti-authoritarian author. And within 200 yards of the flat, there are 32 CCTV cameras, scanning every move.



Source: The London *Evening Standard*, 'This is London': 31 March 2007

\* This is a reference to the novel *Nineteen-Eighty-Four*, by George Orwell, published in 1949. The following is a short extract:

There was (a large poster) on the house front immediately opposite. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU, the caption read. [...] In the far distance a helicopter skimmed down between the roofs, hovered for an instant like a bluebottle, and darted away again on a curving flight. It was the police patrol, snooping into people's windows. The patrols did not matter, however. Only the *Thought Police* mattered.

Behind Winston's back the voice from the telex was still babbling away... The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. [...] There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the *Thought Police* plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in whenever they wanted to. You had to live – did live, from habit that became instinct – in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinised.

Source: GEORGE ORWELL, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, Penguin

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