

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED GCE**

F503/RB

CRITICAL THINKING

Unit 3: Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be opened on the day of the examination

THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2010: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Use Documents 1, 2, 3 and 4 to answer the questions.**

DOCUMENT 1

FIRST BLANKET BAN ON SMOKERS BECOMING FOSTER PARENTS

Redbridge Council in east London has voted to prevent children being placed with foster carers* who smoke. Councillors said the move was essential to protect children from the harmful effects of passive smoking. 1

The Fostering Network** has expressed concerns that the policy could prevent good foster carers from coming forward. A spokesman said: “We certainly view this as a good move in terms of creating a smoke-free environment for a child, but we don’t agree that a blanket ban on any smokers becoming foster carers is the right thing. If a person has the right qualities and skills to be a foster carer, they shouldn’t be put off coming forward just because they have the odd cigarette at the end of the garden or on a night out. Fostering is about much more than just smoking.” 2

The pressure group Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST), who champion the rights of smokers, reacted with anger. A spokesman said: “This is another attempt to demonise smokers and separate them from the rest of society. This discriminates against plenty of people who would have made excellent foster carers, and so it is damaging not only for them but also for the children that they would have fostered. The really insidious implication is that smokers in general are not fit to be parents, and that is totally unacceptable.” 3

The majority of fostered children consulted before the meeting were in favour of the policy. During a consultation in September, 11 out of 17 children said they would discourage their family and friends from smoking, while only one said they would not and five said they did not have an opinion either way.

4

Edited from a report in the *Daily Telegraph*

*** Foster carers provide family life in their own home for other people's children when they are unable to live with their birth family. Fostering is usually a short-term arrangement.**

****The Fostering Network is the UK's leading charity for everyone with a personal or professional involvement in fostering.**

DOCUMENT 2

REAL PARENTS AREN'T PERFECT

The most impressive mother I know, the one who always has time to build scale models of the pyramids out of match-sticks, who knows the names and star signs of the Jonas Brothers, who never insists on public kisses outside the school gates, enjoys the odd cigarette. Not a full 20-a-day habit, mind you, but the odd one between school runs.

1

Although this is the woman most likely to make your children sigh and wish you could be more like her, her one small vice would make her ineligible to foster children for some councils.

2

Foster parents can be single or married, gay or straight; they can even, in some council areas, have a criminal record (as long as it doesn't involve violence against children). But these days, if they want to foster children under the age of five, they have to give up the fags – despite a shortage in London alone of about 2,000 foster places.

3

Quite a few readers will have grown up, as I did, with a parent who smoked, and those of us who haven't yet perished from passive smoking would not swap our childhoods in the shadow of the ashtray for the most smoke-free of children's homes. I suppose if you are a young social worker trying to determine whether people are 'suitable' to foster, it is at least possible to tick with some certainty the 'nonsmoker' box, whereas there is no saliva test to determine which would-be parents have the patience to sit through High School Musical 17 times.

4

Edited from an article in *The Times*

DOCUMENT 3

Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home:

- **are twice as likely to suffer from bronchitis, pneumonia or bronchiolitis. In the US, secondhand smoke has been linked to up to 300,000 cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in small children each year**
- **will have less developed lungs that have a reduced ability to function well**
- **will suffer severe asthma attacks if they are already asthmatic and more of them have a higher risk of developing asthma if they were not born with it**
- **are more likely to be hospitalised before they reach their 2nd birthday**
- **will suffer from more colds, coughs and sore throats**
- **are more likely to suffer ear infections, which could lead to some loss of hearing**
- **could suffer from possible cardiovascular disorders**
- **will have a higher risk of developing cancer as an adult**
- **will be absent from school more often due to various illnesses caused from breathing in the tobacco smoke.**

Extract from helpwithsmoking.com website

DOCUMENT 4

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN FROM SECONDHAND SMOKE

If you are a smoker and unable to give up smoking at the moment and you have children or a non-smoking partner, the following steps will protect them from the harmful effects of passive smoking in your home:

- **Smoke outside at all times. Even if you limit smoking to one room, the smoke will spread to the rest of the house and the poisonous tiny particles and gases can easily be inhaled.**
- **Ask your visitors to smoke outside.**
- **Do not smoke in the car during a journey – either smoke beforehand or after and if embarking on a long car journey, smoke when you stop the car for a break. Even if you wind the windows down in the car, the wind may cause the harmful tobacco smoke to be blown back into the car into the faces of those occupying the back seat.**
- **Educate everyone, especially spouses and children on the dangers of breathing in secondhand smoke.**

Extract from helpwithsmoking.com website

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