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**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS  
AS GCE**

**F502/01**

**F502/02**

**CRITICAL THINKING**

**Assessing and Developing Argument**

**THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2012: Morning**

**DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES**

**Candidates answer Section A on the Answer Sheet  
and Sections B and C on the Question Paper.**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**Answer Sheet for Section A Multiple Choice  
Resource Booklet**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**None**

**This paper has been pre modified for carrier language**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- **Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes on the first page. Please write clearly and in capital letters.**
- **Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.**
- **Answer ALL the questions.**
- **Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Answer Section A, questions 1–15, on the Answer Sheet provided. You are advised to spend no more than 20 minutes on Section A.**
- **On completion of Section A move directly on to Sections B and C.**
- **Answer Sections B and C in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.**
- **Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.**
- **Additional paper may also be used if necessary.**

## **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- **The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.**
- **The total number of marks for this paper is 75. Section A comprises 20% of the available marks, Sections B and C comprise 80% of the available marks.**
- **Up to 5 marks are awarded for quality of written communication within Section C.**

## **SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE**

**Answer ALL questions in this section using the separate answer sheet provided.**

**You are advised to spend no more than 20 minutes on this section of the paper.**

**QUESTIONS 1, 2 AND 3 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:**

**In Denmark, children start school at six or seven years old. In comparison, children in the UK begin school at the age of five or earlier and endure assessments every two to three years, including SATs, controlled assessments and GCSEs. Denmark consistently scores highly on so-called ‘happiness’ scales, whereas the UK scores significantly lower. It is obvious that starting education later will help to improve the happiness of the population of the UK.**

**1 What is the name given to the following ARGUMENT ELEMENT in the above passage?**

**‘SATs, controlled assessments and GCSEs’**

- (a) Evidence**
- (b) Example**
- (c) Explanation**
- (d) Reason**

**[1]**

**2 Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the FLAW in the above argument?**

- (a) The author conflates education with GCSE examinations.**
- (b) The author confuses necessary and sufficient conditions: education is necessary for happiness, but is not sufficient for it.**
- (c) The author implies a causal link between Denmark's happiness ratings and the later start to education.**
- (d) The author unreasonably generalises from Denmark to all countries.**

**[1]**

**3 Which of the following, if true, would MOST STRENGTHEN the above argument?**

- (a) Denmark is a more tolerant society.**
- (b) Education is more than just going to school.**
- (c) Frequent assessments can cause young people stress.**
- (d) UK parents report that they are themselves happiest before their children start school.**

**[1]**

**QUESTIONS 4, 5 AND 6 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING  
PASSAGE:**

**American football has become too violent. Even the sport's main governing body, the NFL, has started to worry about the effects of ever bigger, faster players smashing into each other. The resulting concussions can cause memory loss and depression. The NFL's proposal to suspend or fine players who use their helmets to injure their opponents ought to be supported.**

- 4 Which of the following is the MAIN CONCLUSION of the above argument?**
- (a) American football has become too violent.**
  - (b) The NFL has started to worry about the effects of ever bigger, faster players smashing into each other.**
  - (c) The NFL's proposal to suspend or fine players who use their helmets to injure their opponents ought to be supported.**
  - (d) The resulting concussions can cause memory loss and depression.**

**[1]**

**5 Which of the following is a PRINCIPLE which would best support the above argument?**

- (a) Concussions can cause memory loss and depression.**
- (b) Life without risks is boring.**
- (c) People should be protected from unnecessary harm.**
- (d) Players should be fined for using their helmets to injure their opponents.**

**[1]**

**6 ‘Many people love the violent aspect of the game. This is shown in the many sponsored video games and TV coverage which focus on brutal tackles. The NFL’s proposal should be ignored.’**

**Which of the following is an APPEAL made in this response to the above argument?**

- (a) Appeal to emotion**
- (b) Appeal to history**
- (c) Appeal to popularity**
- (d) Appeal to tradition**

**[1]**

**QUESTIONS 7, 8 AND 9 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING  
PASSAGE:**

**In 1984, The Economist magazine asked groups of people from different occupations to make ten-year predictions about the economy. The group of London dustmen (refuse collectors) proved to be more accurate in their predictions than the group of former finance ministers. In addition, an American study of over 300 experts in economics showed that these experts' long-term predictions were no more accurate "than guesses you or I might have made". The more expertise a person has in this area, the less accurate their predictions are likely to be. Therefore, we should no longer be encouraging young people to take economics degrees.**

- 7 Which of the following is the ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION THAT COULD BEST BE DRAWN from the above passage?**
- (a) A different study would have conflicting results.**
  - (b) Dustmen would run the economy just as well as economics graduates.**
  - (c) It is unwise to rely upon long-term predictions about the economy.**
  - (d) London dustmen would want to be finance ministers.**

**[1]**



**8 Which of the following is an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?**

- (a) Most London dustmen do not have economics degrees.**
- (b) Predictions tend to be less accurate over time.**
- (c) The results of the US study cannot be applied to the UK.**
- (d) We should no longer be encouraging young people to take economics degrees.**

**[1]**

**9 What is the name given to the following ARGUMENT ELEMENT in the above passage?**

**‘The more expertise a person has in this area, the less accurate their predictions are likely to be.’**

- (a) Analogy**
- (b) Assumption**
- (c) Principle**
- (d) Reason**

**[1]**

**QUESTIONS 10, 11 AND 12 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:**

**It is often argued that we should not take steps to reduce carbon emissions because there is no proof that human activity causes global warming. But we should not wait for proof. It is at least probable that human activity causes global warming and the predicted consequences of climate change are terrible. So, it is sensible to act as if human activity is the cause of the problem, whatever we find out later. If a train had a significant chance of blowing up, you'd get off straightaway, wouldn't you?**

**10 Which is the INTERMEDIATE CONCLUSION of the above argument?**

- (a) It is at least probable that human activity causes global warming.**
- (b) It is sensible to act as if human activity is the cause of the problem.**
- (c) The predicted consequences of climate change are terrible.**
- (d) We should not take steps to reduce carbon emissions.**

**[1]**

**11 What is the name given to the following ARGUMENT ELEMENT in the above passage?**

**‘If a train had a significant chance of blowing up, you’d get off straightaway, wouldn’t you?’**

- (a) Analogy**
- (b) Evidence**
- (c) Explanation**
- (d) Principle**

**[1]**

**12 Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the above argument?**

- (a) Politicians are reluctant to act unless scientists agree with each other.**
- (b) The consequences of reducing carbon emissions are almost as bad as the consequences of climate change.**
- (c) The Earth has been getting warmer for thousands of years.**
- (d) The evidence that human activity causes global warming is very strong.**

**[1]**

**QUESTIONS 13, 14 AND 15 REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:**

**Parents should give their children the best chances in life, so we should encourage parents to have babies in the autumn. People born in the autumn have the longest life expectancy and the best chance of good health. Moreover, they are the most likely to succeed in sport, particularly football. A study by the Association of Football Statisticians revealed that 40% of Englishmen in the Premier League were born in the autumn, compared with just 15% in the summer.**

**13 What is the name given to the following ARGUMENT ELEMENT in the above passage?**

**‘they are the most likely to succeed in sport’**

- (a) Example**
- (b) Explanation**
- (c) Intermediate conclusion**
- (d) Reason**

**[1]**

**14 Which of the following is an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?**

- (a) Autumn children are stronger and more spatially aware than their peers.**
- (b) Being good at football is crucial to good health.**
- (c) Parents can control the time of year when their babies will be born.**
- (d) There are no disadvantages to being born in the autumn.**

**[1]**

**15 Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the above argument?**

- (a) Children born in the autumn are 20% more likely to get an A\* or A in GCSE exams.**
- (b) Footballers' careers are short.**
- (c) People born in the spring lead happier lives than those born at other times of year.**
- (d) People born in the winter have the greatest risk of getting heart disease.**

**[1]**

**Section A Total [15]**

## **SECTION B – ANALYSING AND EVALUATING ARGUMENT**

**Answer ALL questions.**

**READ THE PASSAGE IN THE RESOURCE BOOKLET.**

**16 State the MAIN CONCLUSION of the argument. You should use the exact words of the author.**

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[2]

**17 State the PRINCIPLE in paragraph 4. You should use the exact words of the author.**

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[2]

**18 Paragraph 1 states ‘parks cost a lot to maintain and anti-social behaviour discourages people from using them, so things should be changed.’**

**(a) State whether this is an argument OR an explanation.**

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**(b) Justify your answer with reference to the text.**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

**19 Paragraph 4 states ‘If councils no longer had to look after parks, then the money would be spent on better things.’**

**(a) Name the argument element.**

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**(b) Explain your answer to 19(a) with reference to the text.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

**(c) Explain ONE flaw or weakness in this reasoning.**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [3]



**20 In paragraph 2, the author uses the example that ‘one council in the Midlands banned ball games in a playing field, despite being in an area where there is a high level of child obesity.’**

**State an INFERENCE that can be drawn from this example.**

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**[2]**

**21 In response to paragraph 2, a park user commented: “Cricket has been played in most parks for over 150 years, so it must be allowed to continue.”**

**(a) Name the APPEAL in the above comment on paragraph 2.**

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**[1]**

**(b) Explain why using this appeal may not give strong support to the park user’s CONCLUSION that “it must be allowed to continue”.**

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**[2]**

**22 In paragraph 3, there is an ANALOGY.**

**(a) Identify precisely the situations being compared in the analogy.**

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**[3]**

**(b) Explain one strength OR weakness in the analogy by commenting on a relevant similarity OR difference between the situations being compared.**

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**[3]**

**23 In paragraph 4, the author uses evidence from one London borough to support the claim that ‘council ownership of parks is an inefficient use of taxpayers’ money’.**

**Make two points of evaluation about the use of this evidence to support this claim. Your evaluations may be strengths and/or weaknesses. You must explain how effectively the use of this evidence supports this claim.**

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**[6]**

**Section B Total [30]**

**SECTION C – DEVELOPING YOUR OWN ARGUMENTS**

**Answer ALL questions.**

**24 ‘The government should provide a greater number of activities for young people.’**

**Write your own argument to support OR challenge this claim.**

**Marks will be given for a well-structured and developed argument. You should include:**

- AT LEAST TWO reasons;**
- a counter-argument and response;**
- a main conclusion.**

**Your argument may also contain other argument elements. You may use information and ideas from the passage, but you must use them to form a new argument. No credit will be given for repeating the arguments in the passage.**

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**26 'Parks allow a wide range of different activities, for example, playing bowls, picnics and dog walking. This makes parks appeal to a huge range of people, showing that parks are an effective use of council money.'**

**Suggest ONE principle which would SUPPORT the above argument.**

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**[3]**

**27 ‘Ball games should be banned in parks.’**

**Write your own argument to support OR challenge this claim.**

**Marks will be given for a well-structured and developed argument. You should include:**

- **AT LEAST THREE** reasons;
- a well-supported intermediate conclusion;
- a main conclusion.

**Your argument may also contain other argument elements. You may use information and ideas from the passage, but you must use them to form a new argument. No credit will be given for repeating the arguments in the passage.**

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[12]

**Section C Total [30]**

**Paper Total [75]**



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