

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

A2 GCE

F503/01/RB

CRITICAL THINKING

Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be issued with the Question Paper

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

plus your additional time allowance

MODIFIED ENLARGED

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use the resource documents to answer the questions in the Question Paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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Any blank pages are indicated.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are two kinds of horse racing in the UK. ‘Flat racing’ does not include jumping, but in ‘steeple-chasing’ (also known as ‘National Hunt racing’) horses have to jump over hedges or other obstacles (known as ‘fences’). The Grand National, which is held at Aintree racecourse in Liverpool, is the most famous steeplechase race. Many people who gamble on the Grand National each year never bet on any other sporting event. Most injuries sustained by horses in steeplechase races such as the Grand National cannot be healed, so the horses are humanely killed in order to save them from further suffering.

Document 1

Protestors renew calls for ban on Grand National after death of two horses

Animal Aid director Andrew Tyler once again called for the Grand National to be banned after the deaths of two horses. 1

Andrew Tyler said: “We’ve heard claims that the Aintree course is being made safer, safer, safer. No it’s not. The Grand National should be banned. It’s a deliberately hazardous, challenging and predictably lethal event.” 2

He said the race’s combination of a tightly packed field, high fences, long distance and huge crowd noise meant it was extremely dangerous for the horses taking part. He added, “It’s a depraved spectacle, just as bad as Spanish bullfighting. It is clearly animal abuse.” 3

Tony Moore, chairman of Fight Against Animal Cruelty in Europe (FAACE), said, “Whatever you do with National Hunt racing, you can’t avoid horses being killed. You can’t make the Grand National better in terms of safety for the horses without getting rid of the Grand National.” 4

The managing director of Aintree said: “All horses and riders in the Grand National have to meet very high standards set by an independent panel of experts. The Grand National is a well-organised and professional race. Only the best horses and the best jockeys are allowed to enter.” 5

Source: Liverpool Daily Post

Document 2

The Grand National: media information

The Grand National is unique. It is the race of dreams, the stuff of legend. No wonder it receives more attention than any other race.

1

Millions and millions of people in Britain bet on the Grand National each year. It is the most anticipated sporting event and far more money is bet upon it than any other sporting event. Whether in one of Britain's 8,800 off-course betting shops, over the telephone, through the internet or on the course, regular punters and those who bet only once a year will be out in force. It is estimated that some £500 million is gambled in Britain on the day, with the Grand National accounting for the bulk of that.

2

The Grand National is always one of the highlights of televised sport, both in Britain and around the world. The Grand National meeting has been televised each year since 1960. In addition to global news access and online reports, the Grand National is streamed to more than 140 countries. This makes the great race very much a global event and the estimated worldwide audience for the Grand National is over 600 million. The UK television audience for a recent Grand National averaged 10 million viewers when the race was run – a 59% audience share.

3

Horse welfare was a paramount consideration when the latest redevelopment programme was planned. David Muir, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals equine consultant, is enthusiastic about the facilities, “What they have done is superb. They have implemented a veterinary structure to deal with all course incidents. The facility provides for the immediate medical needs of horses to an extremely high standard. The surgery has the correct facilities, with treatment boxes that are the right size and structure. Everything is very pro-equine welfare and the on-course X-ray facility they now have is superb. From a diagnostic point of view, it takes away any doubt.”

4

The North West Regional Director for the company that owns Aintree Racecourse said, “Balancing the Grand National’s enduring appeal while working to reduce risk in the race is a delicate but important balance to strike. We have made significant investments in safety in recent years and believe the latest measures demonstrate we will continue to do so while preserving the unique character and appeal of the nation’s favourite race.”

5

Source: owners of Aintree Racecourse

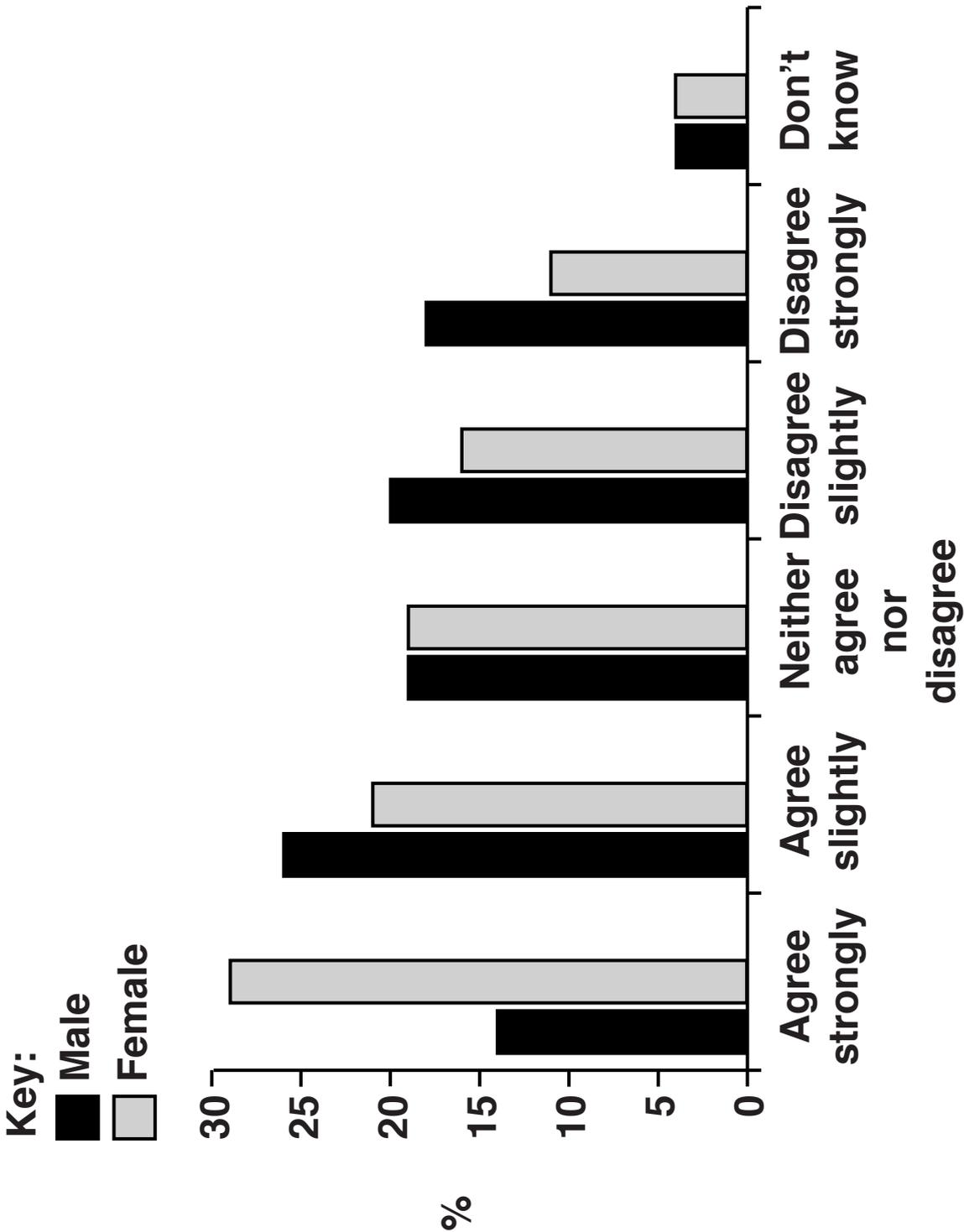
Document 3

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Document 4

Market research interviewer: "I am going to read a statement other people have made about the Grand National and I would like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with it. 'The Grand National is a cruel race.'"



Sample: 1000 adults aged 16+, approximately equal numbers of males and females

Source: National Opinion Polls on behalf of Animal Aid

Document 5

Students were invited to vote online for one of four opinions in response to the question ‘Should the Grand National be made illegal?’

Yes, it’s cruel.	20.09%
No, it’s fun and these things happen.	22.32%
I don’t care either way.	8.93%
It shouldn’t be illegal but should be improved.	48.66%

Sample: 224 students responding to website poll

Source: the studentroom.co.uk website

Document 6

Is the Grand National cruel? What children think

Boy aged 12

I think the Grand National is cruel because horses weren't born to race. They are equal to humans and should have equal rights like us. We wouldn't like it if we were forced to race. Horses are beautiful creatures and, if they don't want to do it, they shouldn't be forced to. It's OK, though, if they want to race and enjoy doing it.

Girl aged 8

I think it should be banned because a lot of horses and people die or get seriously hurt.

Boy aged 10

The Grand National is not cruel because the horses are born and raised to do it.

Boy aged 15

If the horse didn't want to do it then it wouldn't. Even after they unseat their jockey they carry on running and jumping.

Girl aged 13

It isn't cruel because it's something that the family can enjoy.

Girl aged 14

I think it is cruel – horses may enjoy it but they don't know that they can die. But I like watching it so it would be better if it became safer.

Sources: internet chatrooms

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