



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/42

Paper 4 Applied Reasoning

May/June 2012

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE ON ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** the questions.

Start each question on a new answer sheet.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.



- 1 Suggest five criticisms of the statistics presented in the passage below and/or the inferences drawn from them. [5]

A leaflet produced by a vegan pressure group was headlined, “Up to 100 million pus cells in every glass! If that doesn’t shake you, nothing will.” The centre pages of the leaflet were headlined “White Lies” and stated, “...milk is presented almost as a wonder food, essential to health – strange, considering that Americans lap it up and have some of the worst health statistics going, while the Japanese barely touch it and are some of the healthiest, longest-living people on Earth.”

A section of the leaflet was entitled “Milk – magnificent for kids?” and stated, “Childhood diabetes (Type 1), for which insulin injections are needed, is dramatically on the up in under-fives. Cow’s milk formulae and early milk-drinking can be important triggers, particularly in genetically susceptible children. Type 2 diabetes is also skyrocketing. It used to affect only adults but is now being found in children. Research in 40 countries shows the more milk and meat kids consume the higher their risk.”

In a section entitled “Milk – fat of the land?” the leaflet stated, “Sure is, and particularly the most damaging kind – saturated fat. Breast cancer in the UK is up 80% since 1971 and hits one in nine women. It’s one in 10 000 in rural China, where dairy produce is a rarity. The difference is due to diet, not genes.”

Questions 2, 3 and 4 refer to Documents 1 to 5

- 2 Briefly analyse Baik’s argument in Document 1: *Democracy – the best form of government*, by identifying its main conclusion, main reasons and intermediate conclusions as well as any counter-arguments. [6]
- 3 Give a critical evaluation of Baik’s argument in Document 1: *Democracy – the best form of government*, by identifying and explaining strengths, weaknesses, implicit assumptions and flaws. [9]
- 4 ‘Democracy should be defended at all costs.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Construct a well-reasoned argument in support of your view, commenting critically on some or all of Documents 1 to 5, and introducing ideas of your own. [30]

DOCUMENT 1

Democracy – the best form of government

Does the concept of democracy need to be defended? Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as “Government of the people, by the people and for the people”, making it a morally superior concept. Winston Churchill said, “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others”. Mahatma Gandhi said, “My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest”.

The words of these great world leaders make the concept of democracy unchallengeable. A government empowered by its people to rule over them is the best form of government and worth defending at all costs.

Democracy provides peace internally and externally. Democratic states do not go to war with each other. It stops tyrants from coming to power as rulers are chosen by the people. The classical example of democracy is that of ancient Athens, where all the male citizens would meet in the marketplace to vote on decisions. The underlying principle is that if groups of people are involved in discussions they are likely to arrive at wiser decisions than individuals who think by themselves. We all know that discussion is a good thing. That is why democracy is desirable – because it works by popular consent.

Democracy is based on the principle that all human beings should have equal rights, so no one has a right to lord it over others. Therefore, by the democratic process, every human being can be in control of their own affairs. This is because, in a democracy, people have a direct say in who governs them via the votes cast by every adult member of the population. As such, it ensures that a government is made up of those who are truly representative of the people. It is the masses who understand what kind of leader they truly need, and in a democratic country they will have the ability to vote for them. They can have the satisfaction of electing a government that will think about them, care about them and provide for them.

Furthermore, when the responsibility of electing government is given to the people, the people will be careful when using their power to vote, as they will have to bear the consequences if the leader elected is corrupt or not a wise leader. An elected government will represent the people’s wishes and make decisions according to the will of the people. A democracy allows full freedom of the media, and the people will not be misled because the media will expose everything. Dissatisfied minorities cannot use violence to overturn the government because they will not get majority support. Thus, we can see how democracy safeguards peace and stability within the country.

Furthermore, the will of the people is far more representative of different groups in society than if they were ruled by influential elites, who have no understanding of ordinary people. Moreover, democratic nations allow citizens to criticise leaders, their policies and laws. In this way a democratic nation can improve its affairs and progress towards prosperity, unlike totalitarian regimes which crush dissent and rule with a heavy hand.

Baik

DOCUMENT 3**Better off under communism**

Why do I think a nation would be better off under communism? Well, to start with, democracy champions capitalism. Capitalism causes unequal distribution of wealth, and can uphold or create class divisions. Next, democracies are vulnerable to easy manipulation by those with power and/or vast financial resources. For example, lobbyists can manipulate the system to give themselves unfair advantages.

Capitalists, whatever their persuasion, have made big money to run the election campaigns, and with so many of these competing with each other politics descends into meaningless competitions. We all know how politicians have become accustomed to lying and cheating to get ahead. We're not really ever sure of their real intentions: are they funded by lobbyists for certain policies the public would have no sympathy for? Are they secret admirers of communism trying to take over the democratic government? We have no way of knowing, as we would if it were a communist system. Respecting the privacy of individuals also means you can never tell if some party leader is an imposter or genuine, until we have put him/her in office. Then the honeymoon is over for us and them, and we start finding out that they never actually meant most of their election manifesto. People will have to take to strikes and demonstrations to protest and make their voice heard, causing a lot of unrest and unhappiness.

You don't get that in communist regimes. People know what the governing party stand for from the start. Nor do communist leaders need to hide their agenda from the public. There is nothing that the public can do about it if they don't like what they get, as the leaders most probably already have a very strong system in place to protect themselves. Communism treats all its lesser citizens as equals. Everyone is offered the same health care, the same basic entitlements etc. There can be no dog-eat-dog fight to get ahead economically, yet there are some communist countries in the world today with a surging market economy, the envy of many struggling democracies.

According to Plato's *Republic* the vast majority of the population aren't clued up enough to make political decisions anyway, which makes communism a legitimate intervention. After all, it's really releasing the worry of having to find a government. And, to be honest, looking at voter turnout in some Western countries, how many citizens want to participate in government anyway?

Communism also gives the ruling party such absolute power they can move reforms and concentrate on policy matters in an environment of stability. Whereas, in democracy, there is so much diversity of opinion and so many different options to consider that progress is slowed down, because consensus is not obtained easily. People are looking for leadership, not squabbling among politicians as to who might have got it right. However, with communism the government can dictate that the entire country pull all its resources in a single direction, for the benefit of all. Some may say this is dangerous, but you may be sure those who are empowered to be in the driving seat are also intelligent enough to know what they're doing is right. Look at the Chinese leadership, which is winning accolades on the world stage now. Premier Wen Jiabao was named the "Man of the People" by *Newsweek* in August 2010 – what does that say about the intelligence of a communist leader?

Kumar

DOCUMENT 4**Democratic exclusion**

Across the world millions of people have joined public demonstrations showing opposition to war against Iraq. Even though, in addition, opinion polls may show a majority against war in Iraq, this evidence of opposition to their policies is by no means guaranteed to cause governments to change their course.

In none of the countries involved is there a procedure which formally allows citizens to propose policy or law for their country. There is no way in which they can demand a binding referendum on a policy question. They must wait until the next election in order to express their dissatisfaction. And what if the major parties agree on substantial areas of policy, such as defence? Where then is the voter's choice?

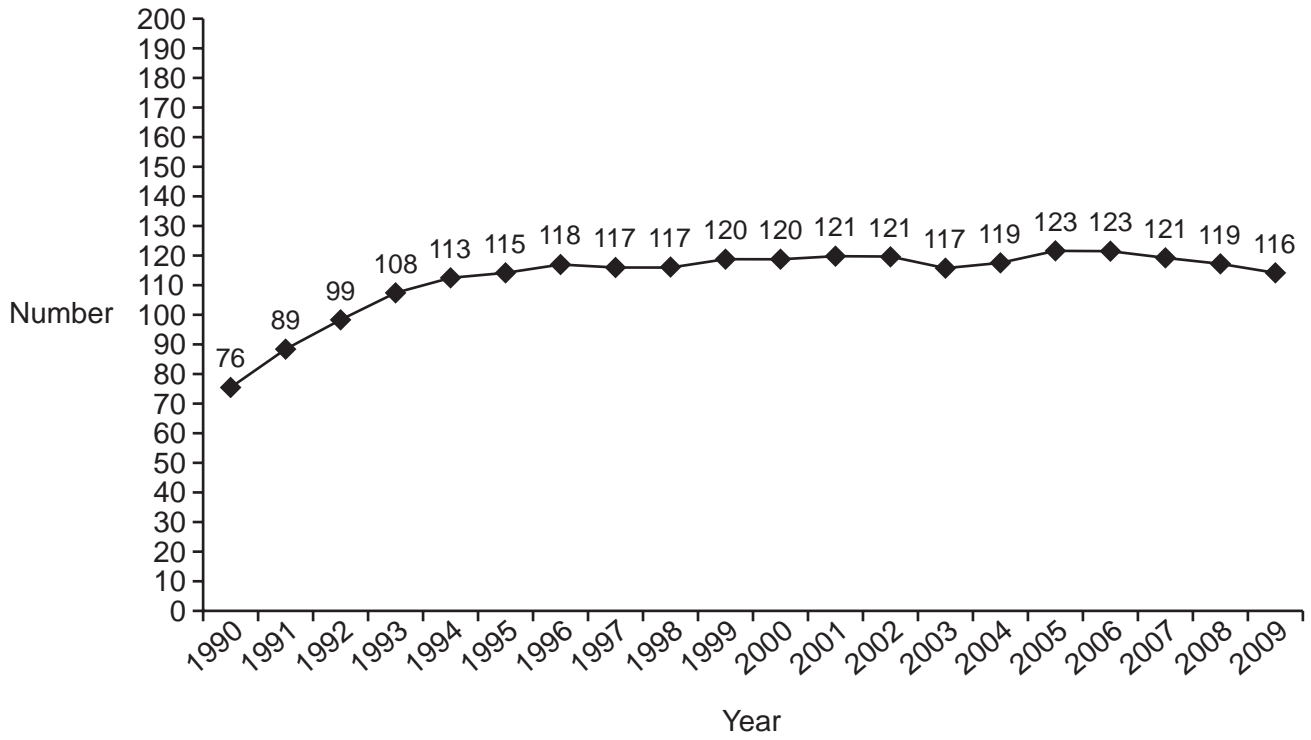
In Britain and in most other countries there are grave deficiencies of democracy. The House of Lords, the election system and the European Union have been criticised in this regard. What is missing is an awareness of procedures which enable the electorate to propose for consideration, and to decide directly upon, some public issues.

The solution is to introduce partial direct democracy in the form of citizens' law initiatives and referenda. The system is already very well tried in Switzerland, many states of the USA and elsewhere. This allows a proposal, if it can gather support from hundreds of thousands of people, to be put before parliament, and, if necessary, to go before the whole electorate in a binding referendum. The million who demonstrated in London against the war in Iraq could trigger such a referendum.

Wallace Macpherson, 2003

(from the Citizens' Initiative and Referendum)

DOCUMENT 5

Freedom in the World: Electoral Democracies, 1990–2009

Source: www.freedomhouse.org

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- Question 1 © http://www.asa.org.uk/ASA-action/Adjudications/2008/5/The-Vegetarian-and-Vegan-Foundation/TF_ADJ_44459.aspx
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