
THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

May/June 2015

1 hour 45 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **all** the questions.

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

This document consists of **6** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** insert.

- 1 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

News report

from Eastland Gazette

Several international newspapers have published documents which are evidence of widespread corruption within the government of the Democratic Republic of Marinia. John Obanji, a senior civil servant, has fled the country. He is widely believed to have been the source of the leaks. Mr Obanji has been accused of treason, which carries the death penalty. He has applied for asylum in Eastland.

Source B

Extradition request

To: Eastland Ministry of Justice

We have received credible reports that John Obanji, a Marinian citizen suspected of very serious criminal offences, is being sheltered in your country. On behalf of my government I protest against hospitality being given to a terrorist. Under the extradition treaty between our two countries, I require you to deliver him to our police force so that he can face these charges.

(signed) Marinian Minister of Justice

Source C

Reply to Extradition Request

To: Marinian Minister of Justice

We have carefully considered your request for the extradition of your citizen John Obanji. It is clear that the charges against him are political in nature and are therefore not covered by the extradition treaty, which refers to criminal offences only. We have granted him asylum and must refuse your request for his extradition.

(signed) Eastland Minister of Justice

Source D

Evidence to Examining Magistrate

My name is Henry Hole. I am a member of the Marinian security services. I quite often visit Palacetown, in the neighbouring country of Kaldovia, when I am off duty. I was there last week, when I heard a burglar alarm go off. I saw a man running from the National Bank. I was not close enough to be able to stop him, but I could see his face clearly. The police subsequently showed me a photograph of John Obanji and I identified him as the man I had seen running from the bank.

Source E**Statement**

from John Obanji's lawyer

The government of Kaldovia has announced that John Obanji has been accused of armed robbery in Palacetown and has asked for him to be extradited for questioning. My client absolutely denies this ridiculous charge. He believes that if he is sent to Palacetown, he will be extradited or even kidnapped and taken to Marinia. In that country, he will be in danger of being assassinated or executed in revenge for having revealed the corruption in the government. On my client's behalf, I urge the Eastland government to refuse to send him to Kaldovia.

- (a) How significant is Source C in explaining why John Obanji has been accused of armed robbery? [3]
- (b) On the basis of the information in Source D, suggest **one** factor which may make the evidence of Henry Hole unreliable. [2]
- (c) Marinia and Kaldovia are close allies. Suggest **two** ways in which this information is significant in relation to the evidence given in Source D and/or Source E. [4]
- (d) In your opinion, why has John Obanji been accused of armed robbery?

Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and considering a plausible alternative conclusion. [6]

2 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

News report

Early morning exercise can be bad for your health, according to researchers. They have discovered that the body's immune system cannot cope with intense exercise first thing in the morning. Their research suggests that evening is the best time to exercise.

The researchers, at the Sports Science Department at Brunel University in West London, examined the levels of cortisol, a stress hormone that can suppress the immune system, in fourteen British competition swimmers with an average age of 18. The swimmers performed their practice routines at 6 am and 6 pm on different days. Tests revealed cortisol levels were lower (that is, better) in the evenings. In addition, levels of antibodies in the blood that help fight off infection were down sharply in the morning, causing swimmers to be at greater risk of picking up infections.

Source B

News report

The afternoon is the best time to exercise if you want to avoid injuries. Body temperature is at its highest between 4 and 5 pm, which makes muscles warm and flexible and therefore less likely to be hurt. Strength output is 5% higher at around mid-day than at other times of day. Anaerobic performance, such as sprinting, improves by 5% in the late afternoon, while endurance is approximately 4% higher in the afternoon.

However, although afternoon exercise is best from a physiological standpoint, research also shows that people who exercise in the morning are more likely to stick to it than those who take their exercise later in the day.

Source C

News report

Exercising before breakfast is better for you than exercising afterwards, according to new research by scientists at the University of Glasgow.

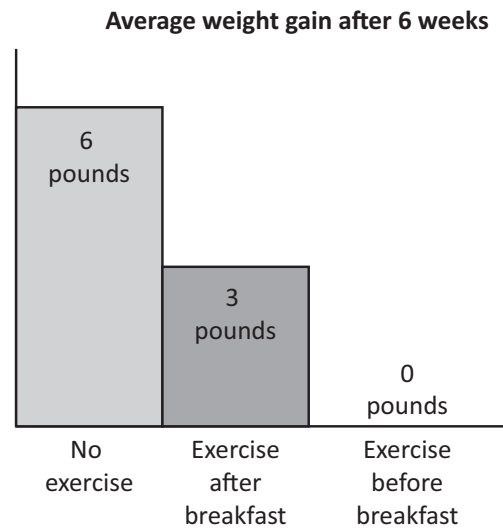
The research was based on a sample of ten overweight men who did not normally undertake any exercise. The experiment had three stages. First, the men performed no exercise then ate breakfast; a week or two later, they walked briskly for 60 minutes before eating breakfast; in the third stage, they did the same walk after breakfast.

On average, exercising before breakfast used up 298 kcal more energy (and so the men lost more fat) than the day without exercise, compared with only 216 kcal if the exercise took place after breakfast.

Source D

News report

Many trainers advise that you should eat something before engaging in heavy exercise, but researchers in Belgium have now discovered that exercising before eating is better, especially if you are trying to lose weight. For six weeks, 27 healthy young men ate a diet high in sugar, fat and calories. A third of the men ate the unhealthy diet and did no exercise. The other two-thirds used exactly the same exercise routine, but half of them exercised before breakfast and the other half exercised after breakfast. In addition, those who exercised before breakfast drank only water during their exercise, but the group which exercised after breakfast consumed energy drinks while exercising.



- (a) Suggest **two** reasons why the findings from Source A may not apply to everyone. [3]
- (b) Source A recommends exercising in the evening, whereas Source B says the afternoon is the best time. Give **two** reasons why these research results do not contradict one another. [3]
- (c) Suggest **two** weaknesses in the support given in Source D for its claim that “exercising before eating is better, especially if you are trying to lose weight”. [3]
- (d) ‘The best time to exercise is the time most convenient to yourself.’

To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the information provided in Sources A–D. [6]

3 *Read the passage and answer the questions below.*

- 1 Colour television has been available in many parts of the world since the late 1960s. No one ever complained about the reliability of the signal or the quality of the picture and sound. Then somebody decided that the existing system was out of date and needed to be replaced by 'digital' television. This was described as an 'improvement'. Eventually, broadcasters stopped transmitting in the old system, which meant everyone had to buy new televisions. The quality of picture and sound are no better now than they used to be, while the reliability of the signal is worse. This example shows that improvements are always worse than what they replace.
- 2 Something very similar is true about reforms. In the past, people who campaigned against injustice succeeded in bringing about important political and social changes, which were known as 'reforms'. In those days, reforms were good, but governments now use the word 'reform' to signify making people work longer for less money and reducing the quality of services by employing fewer people. Anything which is described as a reform should be opposed. It is certain to be a change for the worse.
- 3 There are always good reasons for the arrangements which exist. They have evolved gradually in response to the demands of the situation. Any difficulties have already been identified and resolved. No change can have such strong support, because it cannot have stood the test of time.
- 4 Making changes involves considerable waste of time and effort. It would be more cost-effective to devote that time and effort to making the current system work as well as possible.
- 5 Admittedly, some changes do eventually turn out to have been for the better, but the difficulty is that we cannot tell in advance which ones they will be. It is always more likely that any particular proposal will lead to disaster than that it will result in an improvement. So the best policy is to be safe, by opposing all change.

- (a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the main conclusion. [2]
- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify **three** reasons which directly support the main conclusion. [3]
- (c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]
- (d) 'New technology has improved the quality of our lives.'

Write your own short argument to support **or** challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. Credit will not be given for repeating ideas from the passage. [5]

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