

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/02

Paper 2 Critical Reasoning

For examination from 2007

Specimen Paper

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Sheet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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.

Answer **all** the questions.
Start each question on a new Answer Sheet.

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

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

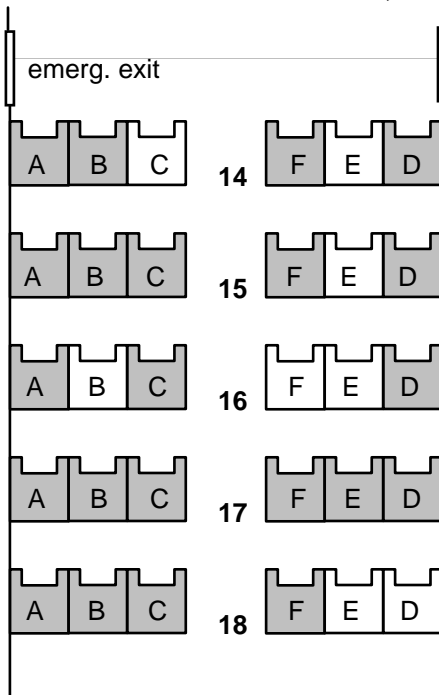
This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.

1 Study the following evidence, and answer the questions which follow:

General information

- Ms Linda Hong, was arrested on arrival at Changi Airport and charged with *causing a violent disturbance* on flight AZ 101 from Johannesburg. Ms Hong was occupying seat 16C. She in turn accused Karen van Dyke, an employee of the airline, and another member of the crew of over-reacting and using unnecessary force. Linda Hong alleges that Karen first spilled coffee over her, and then mistook her (Linda's) behaviour for aggression.

Plan of section of the cabin, with occupied seats shaded:



Linda Hong's statement to airport police:

- They were hurrying to collect the breakfast trays, and the stewardess (Karen) was reaching over to get the tray of the man in the window seat. His half finished coffee fell into my lap. I was understandably angry, and jumped up, possibly rattling some of the things on the trolley. I called the stewardess clumsy and she told me to calm down. I tried to push past her to go to the toilet and wash the stain off, but she blocked my way. She called for assistance and she and another crew member restrained me, wrenching my shoulder in the process.

Karen Van Dyke's statement:

- Yes, there was coffee spilled, but it was Linda who knocked it off the tray herself. She leapt to her feet shouting insults and threats at me. I asked her to sit down and apologised for the spilled coffee, though it was not my fault, because that is how we are trained to calm angry passengers down. But she would not listen. I retreated to the other side of the trolley. She gave the trolley a violent push so that objects fell off it on to other passengers. I called for help and my colleague and I tried to get her to sit down as we were soon going to land. She lashed out at me and we had to hold her down until she was quiet.

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Statement by passenger in seat 16A

- I did not see who knocked the coffee off the tray, but I was aware that the staff seemed to be in a hurry. The passenger (Linda Hong) was angry and that she stood up and muttered something to the stewardess. Linda tried to get past her, but the trolley was blocking the aisle. There was a struggle and Linda was pushed back into her seat and held down for a minute or so.

Statement of Dr Sharma, seat 17B

- I saw Linda stand up. I couldn't hear what she was saying, but I could tell she was annoyed. I heard the stewardess say: 'Please sit down. It was just an accident. I'll get a cloth.' There was a scuffle and the stewardess called for help. A steward came and there was some kind of struggle. When the plane landed, security guards came on board and took her off first.

Statement of Marian Deane seat 15F

- Well, this woman (Linda Hong) went crazy and sent stuff flying everywhere. A lot of it fell on me. A stewardess, who'd been very nice to me, told her to calm down but she wouldn't. It was quite frightening really for an old lady like me. I'm 77 next birthday. The cabin staff were very brave. The woman could have been armed.

Additional information

- Eight other passengers were questioned. Some had been aware of a scuffle, but none said they seen or heard enough to make a statement. No one reported trays or cups falling on them.
- Ms Hong is 27, unmarried, and a teacher. She has no record of violent behaviour.

Questions

- (a) How believable is Karen van Dyke's version of events? Are there any strong reasons for doubting her account? **[3]**
- (b) How does Linda Hong's account differ from Karen van Dyke's, and to what extent is Linda's version supported by other evidence? **[3]**
- (c) Comment on the reliability of Marian Deane's statement. **[3]**
- (d) Construct a reasoned case for concluding **either** that Linda Hong should be charged with *causing a violent disturbance*, **or** that she should not. **[4]**

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2 Read the following passage and answer the questions which follow:

There is clear evidence that people are misinformed and have unnecessary fears about the dangers they face from criminals. From a recent survey it emerged that people believe around 25% of the population will become victims of violent crime, as against the officially recorded figure of 1%. It is not that 1% is anything to be relaxed or complacent about, but nor is it right for there to be too much needless alarm.

There is another significant statistic, which suggests that those most anxious are in fact the least likely group to become crime victims. Most victims are young, but by far the most fearful members of the community are the elderly. In fact some old people have become so apprehensive about the danger they feel themselves to be in that they will not willingly leave their homes or answer the door to callers. They are deprived of social contacts and thus made to feel even more isolated and insecure.

It cannot be a coincidence that in recent years there has also been a rise in the number of television programmes in which crimes are documented or re-enacted, and appeals made to the public to report observations to the police. The purpose behind such programmes is supposedly to catch criminals, and there is evidence that they are very successful in achieving this purpose. The overall effect of these programmes should make crime less rather than more of a threat. More crimes are solved, more criminals are put away. All this ought to make people feel better protected.

But it doesn't. By bringing real crime footage, and life-like reconstructions into the home, the programmes help to create an impression that crime - especially violent crime - is an everyday occurrence, and that it is on the rise. This is bound to fuel the fears of the most vulnerable and most isolated in society, whose main or sometimes only source of information about the outside world is the television.

The programmes are obviously doing more harm than good. It is therefore time to restrict the amount of air time they are given, or remove them altogether. The fight against crime should be carried out in a manner that reassures the public, not one that results in unnecessarily alarming them, especially for the sake of improving television viewing figures.

(a) Summarise in your own words:

- (i)** the main conclusion of the argument **[1]**
- (ii)** the main reason for drawing this conclusion **[1]**
- (b)** The author says that it 'cannot be a coincidence' that there has also been a rise in the number of crime programmes. What is the author assuming here? **[1]**
- (c)** Explain why the case of the elderly is particularly important to the argument? **[2]**
- (d)** If further evidence were produced to show that people who do not watch the programmes have the same perception of crime levels as those who do, would this **severely** weaken the argument, or not – and why? **[3]**
- (e)** Construct a brief argument that could be used by a television company to justify continuing to broadcast crime documentaries and re-enactments. **[4]**

3 Study this article and then answer the questions that follow:

Lawyers who successfully challenged the big tobacco companies on behalf of victims of cigarette addiction, are now taking on the top fast-food chains for their alleged part in making people ill through unhealthy eating.

To many this seems absurd. Surely, they say, people who eat too much fast food have only themselves to blame. But some scientists are starting to believe that bingeing on foods that are excessively high in fat and sugar can cause changes to your brain and body that make it hard to say no. A few even believe that the foods can trigger changes that are similar to full-blown addiction. If they can prove this, they may have a case, just as they did against tobacco.

But how can something you need for survival be addictive? The answer could be in the nature of the food itself. The difference between a fast-food meal and a home-cooked one is the sheer quantity of calories and fat it delivers in one go. The recommended daily intake for a normal adult male is 2800 kilocalories (kcal) and a maximum of 93 grams (g) of fat. A meal at a fast-food outlet - burger, fries, drink and dessert - can deliver almost all of that in a single sitting (see diagram). Biologists are now starting to realise that a binge of these proportions can trigger physiological changes which silence the body's natural signals that tell you to stop eating.

A single meal at a fast food restaurant can deliver the following doses of fat and carbohydrate (sugar):

Food item	Fat (g)	Sugar (g)	Energy (kcal)
Extra-large cheeseburger	> 75		> 1000
Fries (large portion)	> 28		> 590
Large drink		> 105	> 400
Deluxe dessert	> 18	> 45	> 435

In the past decade, researchers have discovered a range of hormones that play a role in regulating appetite. Under normal conditions these hormones control eating and help maintain a stable body weight. Leptin, for example, is continuously produced by fat cells and its level in the bloodstream indicates the level of the body's fat reserves. This signal is read by the hypothalamus, the brain region that coordinates eating behaviour, and taken as a guideline for keeping reserves stable.

The problem is that people who gain weight develop resistance to leptin's power, explains specialist Michael Schwartz. Their brain loses its ability to respond to these hormones as body fat increases, he says. But you don't need to be fat to upset your leptin system. The latest research shows that it only takes a few fatty meals. It also suggests that early exposure to fatty foods could alter children's bodies so that they always choose fatty foods in later life.

The argument has a long way to go. But the chances are it won't proceed naturally. Some time soon the allegation that fast food is addictive will be made in court, and once that happens the terms of the debate are out of the scientists' hands.

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(a) Can either or both of the following statements be concluded on the strength of the claims made in the passage? Give a brief reason for each of your answers.

(i) Fast-food is addictive. [2]

(ii) The lawyers will probably win their case against the fast-food companies. [2]

(b) Summarise the **two** reasons, in paragraph two, for claiming that the case against the fast-food companies is not as absurd as it may seem. [2]

(c) Explain the significance of the example of the hormone *leptin* in the argument that fast-food encourages people to overeat. [3]

(d) 'Nobody has to smoke, but everyone has to eat?'

How far, if at all, does this comment weaken the lawyers' case against the fast-food companies? [3]

[Source: Extracted from 'Burgers on the Brain', Diane Martindale. *New Scientist*, 1 Feb 2003, pp 27-29. Some parts verbatim.]

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4 Critically evaluate the following argument. In your evaluation you should:

- (a) show that you have a clear understanding of the argument by identifying its main conclusion and the reasoning used to support it.
- (b) point out any assumptions that the argument makes, and/or points that need to be clarified.
- (c) decide whether or not it is a good argument, and identify any flaws or contradictions.
- (d) offer two further reasons, or short further arguments, which could be used for or against the conclusion.

[13]

There are social reasons why people, as a general rule, tell the truth; and why they do not tell lies. A community whose members trust each other works better, and benefits everyone more, than a community where dishonesty and deception are normal behaviour. But although it is desirable under normal circumstances that we should speak the truth, there is no *moral* obligation to do so at all times. What matters is a person's motive for saying something, not whether it is strictly true or false.

Suppose someone decides to come clean about a mistake or crime he has committed, just because he knows he will be found out anyway, and lying will only make his position worse. His confession may be truthful, but that doesn't make him an honest person, or a good person, because he would have lied without hesitation if he thought he could have got away with it.

Also, on occasions, the truth does harm. Journalists peddle 'truth' of this kind all the time. They unearth people's secrets and publish them in the full knowledge that they will be ruining lives and shattering relationships in the process. They do it, not because they value the truth, but because it sells a lot of newspapers and makes a lot of money.

On the other side of the coin, people do not always lie for bad reasons. On some occasions it seems kinder to avoid the truth because of the worry or pain it may cause. Unwisely telling the truth may even endanger people's lives or property. Leaders, especially in wartime, are frequently in the position of having to deceive not only the public but also their family and friends, in the interests of national security. They are not lying for their own ends, but out of what they see as duty.

Last but not least, telling the truth can put you at a disadvantage. If you compete for a job knowing that you will only stay in it for two years, and the employer wants someone for a minimum of five years, you would be throwing away any chance of appointment if you were honest about your intentions. Circumstances sometimes force you to edit the truth a little, to survive in a competitive world where everyone else does the same.

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