

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

CRITICAL THINKING

2870/2

PAPER 2

Wednesday

25 MAY 2005

Afternoon

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- There are **three** questions on this paper. You must answer **all** questions.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

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 **60**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of your written communication in question 3, which requires a piece of extended writing.
- You should spend no more than 30 minutes answering each question.

This question paper consists of 5 printed pages and 3 blank pages.

1 In the following passage you are given information about a dispute.

Write a reasoned case in which you divide your answer as follows:

- (a) Assess the credibility of the evidence given by each participant/source.
Make clear: • How far this is influenced by any relevant factors
e.g. what they could have seen, and any assumptions that need to be made. [12]
- (b) Come to a reasoned judgement as to whether (M) knowingly sold (S) a defective vehicle.
You should: • Identify where there is corroboration and/or conflicting evidence.
• Outline the balance of evidence.
• Justify your judgement by discussing the weight and quality of the supporting evidence. [8]

[Total Marks: 20]

Information supplied on the reverse of the MOT Certificate

Why we have an.....

An extract has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details:

An extract from the vehicle and operator services agency. Some information supplied on the reverse of the MOT certificate

.....of how to appeal.

Source: Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

When a 15 year old Ford Fiesta failed its MOT at the local Ford garage, the garage manager (G) advised the student owner (S) that her vehicle was too unsafe to drive away. A dispute arose as to whether it had been knowingly sold in a defective condition nine months previously by a mechanic (M) who worked for the owner of another MOT Centre (C), but also renovated cars for private sale in his own time.

(G) claimed, 'Anyone could see from a glance that the car was a rust bucket. It should never have got through its previous MOT. No car could have deteriorated that much in a year. There was extensive corrosion to the underside of the car.' He added that he had felt so sorry for the young woman owner that he had offered her £40 for the car's scrap value.

(M) explained, 'I sold the student my own car when she was looking for a cheap runabout. It was a good little runner, giving her trouble-free motoring for almost a year. What more could you expect for £250? When I sold it, there were minor rust spots on the body, but the car was structurally sound otherwise it wouldn't have passed its MOT.' He claimed that (G) was known to be over-cautious and that, as (S) didn't have a clue about cars, she had probably let the rust deteriorate. 'There was nothing wrong with the car that I could not have fixed.'

(C) said, 'Our MOT Centre is accredited by the Vehicle Inspectorate Agency, so the MOT we issued to (S)'s car would have had to meet their criteria on rust and corrosion. (M) is our best Modern Apprentice. He has been attending the local FE College for three years on day release to gain NVQs in Automotive Engineering. There is nothing that he doesn't know about cars.'

(S) stated, 'I bought the car privately from (M), because I thought that I could trust him as a well qualified mechanic to run a properly maintained vehicle. I took his advice to rub down and treat all the rust that I could find. I took the car for its next MOT to (G) because he is a Ford dealer who has maintained my mother's company cars for years without any problems.'

The vehicle recovery driver (R) who took the car home from the MOT added, 'When I was called out in the middle of the night on three previous occasions to attend the student's car for a puncture, a damaged exhaust and lost keys, I wasn't aware of any immediate dangerous conditions, although I did notice the amount of rust underneath.'

2 Critically evaluate the argument below. Ensure that you divide your answer as follows:

- (a) **Identify** the overall conclusion of the argument. [1]
- (b) **State** the five reasons which are given to support the conclusion. [5]
- (c) **Assess** the argument by giving
- three assumptions
 - three flaws in the reasoning. [6]
- (d) **Construct** two further arguments which may challenge and/or support the conclusion. [8]

[Total Marks: 20]

It has been proposed that judges and barristers in England and Wales should no longer wear wigs. We should support this proposal as part of the wider public demand to abandon counter-productive dress codes and uniforms.

Professionals, including lawyers, should keep up with the times and get rid of outdated forms of dress. Wigs reflect old-fashioned attitudes which are inappropriate and we don't want such attitudes especially in a modern legal system.

Uniforms create a distance between professionals and their clientele. Wigs specifically increase the intimidating atmosphere that characterises law courts. Judges and barristers already take their wigs off when dealing with cases that involve children. There is no reason why they cannot extend this practice to all court cases.

It could be argued that uniforms enable some professionals to remain anonymous. For example, preserving this anonymity is seen as particularly important for judges in case criminals they sentence decide to retaliate at a later date. However, there is little, if any, evidence that lack of anonymity is a problem. There have been few, if any, cases in the last 100 years where criminals have tried to 'get their own back' on judges who have sentenced them. Witnesses do not have this protection, so why should judges?

The legal profession in particular is trying to become less dominated by those from affluent middle class backgrounds. However, the aim of widening recruitment to the legal profession will not be achieved without getting rid of wigs and the prohibitive cost they represent to those from poorer backgrounds.

The old-fashioned values wigs symbolise are clearly the main reason why women and members of ethnic minorities are also under-represented in some professions. It is obvious that wigs are a very good example of this.

3 Write a critical evaluation of the following argument. Ensure that in your answer you:

- Explicitly identify the **structure** of the argument, that is conclusions drawn, reasons given and counter-assertions made. [5]
 - Assess the argument by explaining the **flaws** in the reasoning, and by giving the assumptions that must be made. [6]
 - Present **two further arguments** which challenge and/or support the conclusion. [6]
- Three marks are available for quality of written communication. [3]

[Total Marks: 20]

Many young people are choosing not to use cosmetics. This trend should be encouraged. As we will see, the use of modern cosmetics has a number of negative effects for the individual and society.

Some may argue cosmetics are essential as a means of expressing one's personality. The opposite is the case. They are a means of *concealing* the true personality. The true self is revealed through what people do and what they say. Applying make-up is the equivalent of doing a 'paint-job' on an old car to make it look as if it is not rusting.

The cosmetics industry tests its products on animals. This is a most compelling reason for not using make-up. Any person with an ethical outlook can clearly see that where the choice is between not wearing make-up or being cruel to animals, they should choose the former. Where public opinion leads, the government should follow, as in the cases where, over the years, cruel sports have been banned.

The use of cosmetics is responsible for increasing people's exposure to the harmful chemicals that are used in the manufacture of many cosmetics such as face creams and hair lotions. If they used natural alternatives such as aloe vera to soothe the skin or lemon juice to make hair shine they would avoid such exposure.

The cosmetics industry is a key contributor to the decline in rare species of plants and animals. For instance, the habitat of the Indian tiger is being threatened by the illegal mining of ingredients used in talcum powder. When the last of the tigers finally goes, we will know who to blame.

The expenditure on cosmetics is a classic example of mindless consumption. People spend vast amounts of money on something they don't really need. They should spend their money more wisely on evening classes, foreign travel and trips to the theatre.

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