

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**  
**Advanced Subsidiary GCE**

**CRITICAL THINKING**  
**PAPER 2**

**2870/2**

Friday      **13 JANUARY 2006**      Afternoon      1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:  
8 page 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.

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**This question paper consists of 6 printed pages and 2 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:

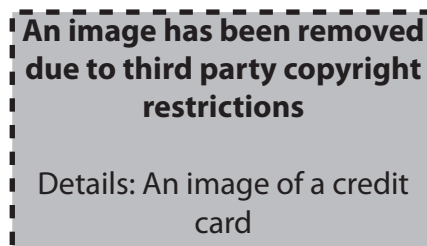
- (a) Assess the credibility of the evidence given by each participant/source.  
 Make clear: • How far this is influenced by any relevant factors  
 e.g. what they could have seen, and any assumptions that need to be made. [12]
- (b) Come to a reasoned judgement as to whether (G) stole the wallet from (S).  
 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]

Diagram of the scene of the alleged crime



Credit card similar to that of (S)



## Background Information

**British Transport Police** have offices in some large train stations and deal with incidents that occur on the trains and in the station area.

An **onboard shop** is available on some inter city trains. They usually have self service fridges and shelves of snack food and magazines. They are located next to an exit.

A solicitor (S) reported to the British Transport Police that a teenage girl (G) had pick pocketed his wallet, whilst he was queuing to get off an overcrowded train with his young children. When (G)'s boyfriend (B) was arrested for attempting to use (S)'s credit card the next day, a dispute arose as to whether (G) had stolen (S)'s wallet with the credit card in it or found them on the floor of the train.

(S) claimed, 'I felt (G), who was queuing behind me, tug at my jacket pocket whilst I was busy manoeuvring my luggage and three children through the automatic carriage doors and onboard shop to the nearest exit. As soon as my hands were free I checked my pocket for my wallet, and realised that (G) had stolen it. When I called out, (G) had already retraced her steps and was getting off the train at the other end of the carriage.'

The train onboard shop manager (O) explained, 'I saw (G) fall against (S) as she came through the door into the shop. When I caught her eye she barged back down the carriage. Luckily, (G) could be identified on the shop CCTV camera as being suspiciously close to (S). No other CCTV footage is available, but I'm sure she was in the crowd of young football fans who had caused problems in the shop earlier. I'd had to call in the train manager (T) to help me keep track of their self service purchases. For the first time ever the till and stock did not balance and I had to put it down to goods having been stolen.'

(G), a nursery nurse, protested, 'I picked up a wallet that was lying on the floor by the central luggage bay when I was collecting my bag. The carriage was crowded and I put out my hand to stop (S)'s little girl falling over in the shop area when the train lurched. I felt so sorry for him as his children were tired and crying. I turned back down the carriage when I realised that my boyfriend (B) had gone to the opposite exit. I was going to hand the wallet in somewhere, but was in a hurry to catch the last bus home. I can't believe that (B) has done this.'

(B) said, 'I saw (G) pick up the wallet. She gave it to me to hand in at the station, so you can't blame her. I was hard up so I decided to keep the credit card. I didn't see any harm in it; after all the banks pay back any purchases not made by the credit card holder. (S)'s kids were a nightmare. He was up and down getting them things from the onboard shop. It's no wonder that he lost his wallet.'

The train manager (T) reported, '(S) was very flustered when I checked the tickets during the journey. He had several bags and took some time to find his wallet. It wouldn't have surprised me if he had dropped it on the floor subsequently as he wasn't very organised. He was very distressed when he got off the train as it was late at night and he had no money for a taxi or a credit card to guarantee his hotel booking.'

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 main reasons that are given to support the conclusion. [5]
- (c) **Assess** the argument by
- giving **three** assumptions and
  - explaining **three** flaws in the reasoning. [6]
- (d) **Construct** two further arguments which may challenge and/or support the conclusion. [8]

**[Total Marks: 20]**

Charity shops are to be found on almost every shopping street in every town. They are staffed by teams of helpful volunteers who happily work for nothing. And there is little doubt that they do raise money for worthy causes. However, despite this, we would be better off without charity shops.

Such shops encourage some of the worst excesses of our consumer society. For example, we dispose of our used clothes and household goods merely because we have grown tired of them and want to do more shopping. When things tear or break down we should take the time to repair and fix them rather than simply disposing of them in the nearest charity shop. Also a lot of what we give to these shops cannot be sold and it would be better for the environment if we simply put it out for re-cycling.

Though it might make us feel we are doing our bit to help by giving things to them, charity shops actually reduce the amount given to charity. They are an inefficient way of raising money for good causes, having to pay for buildings, heating costs, and staff.

Charity shops are run by amateurs. There is no guarantee that these people have been trained or have any particular knowledge of what they are selling. Some of these places get away with selling faulty, second-hand electrical goods. This is merely encouraging irresponsible behaviour all round. You would not go to an optician and agree to be treated by some unqualified person, even if it was for charity.

Charity shops also provide unfair competition for small shops. For example, it is unfair for a small business like a local clothes shop to have to compete with places that do not even have to pay for their stock of goods, let alone pay wages.

The more discerning shopper is deserting the High Street. We can already see the effect of charity shops, as people have to drive all the way to out-of-town supermarkets if they want any real choice. If things go on like this, then soon shoppers will be faced with having only rows of charity shops to choose from in their local High Street, interspersed with desolate and boarded-up empty properties where proper shops used to be. Charity shops are destroying the character of our High Streets.

**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]**

In September 2004 the government introduced Educational Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) for 16-18 year olds in schools and colleges. The aim of such allowances is to make this age group more useful to society by persuading more of them to continue their education after the age of sixteen. However, there is no real evidence of EMAs having any significant effect on the numbers going on to further education.

EMAs are no guarantee that students will work harder. It is doubtful if the average 16 or 17 year-old thinks they should have to work for their money anyway. Also, we do not give pocket money to 14 or 15 year-olds at school, so why should a 17 or 18 year-old get such an allowance? The government introduced EMAs for 18 year old students only as an attempt to buy their votes.

EMAs will do little to improve the quality of our labour force. While there is no doubt that more students are doing more examinations now, with AS and A Levels in just about any subject, it is doubtful if such students are learning anything particularly useful. What we need are more skilled workers, such as plumbers, not people doing Media Studies. We need more apprentices: young people who will work hard and be responsible, partly because they will be getting paid.

Furthermore, EMAs are likely to become an unnecessarily large expense for the education system. Not only is there the cost of the actual allowances, there is also the extra burden on schools and colleges of administering such an unwieldy system. A Sixth Form College recently announced that it had increased its student services staff from four people to five in order to cope with the extra demands of sorting out EMAs. This means that such administrative costs are likely to rise by 25%. Soon, schools and colleges will be full of administrators rather than teachers.

We can see then that providing financial incentives to encourage further study after the age of 16 has few, if any, benefits but many costs. We should scrap EMAs altogether and spend the money instead on really worthwhile things like giving pensioners a better standard of living.

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