

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
AS GCE**

F502/01/RB

F502/02/RB

CRITICAL THINKING

Assessing and Developing Argument

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be issued with the Question Paper

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2012: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Use the Resource Booklet to answer all the questions in Section B and Section C.**

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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PARK LIFE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

‘Council owned parks’ include recreation grounds, playing fields, and grassed open spaces on housing estates owned by councils.

‘By-laws’ are laws councils make for their area.

An amazing 8% of the land in the UK consists of council owned parks. These beautiful, green spaces should be ideal places to relax. But parks cost a lot to maintain and anti-social behaviour discourages people from using them, so things should be changed.

1

Councils’ attempts to regulate behaviour through by-laws have gone too far. For example, in May 2010, one council in the Midlands banned ball games in a playing field, despite being in an area where there is a high level of child obesity. One council in the north of England has a shocking 44 different by-laws about behaviour in parks, which include a rule on no singing. Parks should be for leisure, but it is hard to relax with so many petty by-laws restricting people’s activities.

2

Under council ownership, parks are not being used to their full capacity. They should be a facility for all sectors of the population to enjoy. However, young people are often not provided for. Much more could be done with that amount of space. Just as muscles become wasted without exercise, so too with parks; they are under-used and have become unpleasant, neglected and worthless.

3

Furthermore, council ownership of parks is an inefficient use of taxpayers' money. It simply costs too much. In one London borough, £5.4 million was spent on parks in one year, which was roughly £20 for each man, woman and child that lived in that area. If councils no longer had to look after parks, then the money would be spent on better things, like schools or hospitals. People should only have to pay tax for the things that they use or which benefit them. 4

Overall, councils are doing a poor job of running parks and therefore parks should no longer be owned by councils. 5

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