



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

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**THINKING SKILLS**

**9694/21**

Paper 2 Critical Reasoning

**May/June 2010**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the booklet.

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 and correction fluid.

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

Answer **all** the questions.

Start each question on a new answer sheet.

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

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

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



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

### Source A

#### Newspaper Article

## Poetry Professor Quits Amid Allegations of Dirty Tricks Campaign

The literary world has been split by a scandal.

Ivory Tower University's first ever female poetry professor, Rebecca Leopard, has resigned before even starting work. She has been accused of using dirty

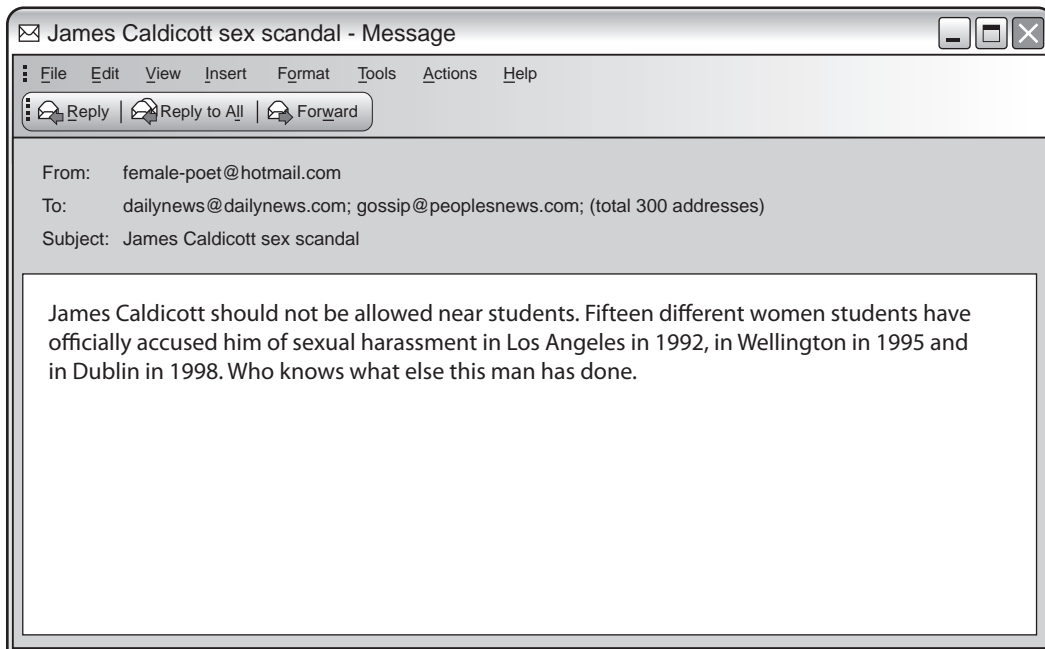
tricks against her main rival for the job, West Indian poet James Caldicott.

Some people say that Ms Leopard sent an anonymous email to 300 journalists. This email claimed that he had been

convicted of sexually harassing students.

These claims were printed and Mr Caldicott withdrew his application for the post of Poetry Professor. Ms Leopard was then appointed.

### Source B



### Source C

#### Television Comment

by Rebecca Leopard

I certainly did not deliberately set out to smear Caldicott, and I did not send any anonymous emails. I did mention to an old friend, who happened to be a journalist, that I was concerned that Caldicott might not be a suitable man to work with students. I can see now that this might have been unwise. But I only mentioned information that is already available. Anybody could have found this information – and it seems as if somebody did, and decided to use it against me as well as against Caldicott. It is a shame. We should be talking about improved access for women and other minorities to top jobs, but it seems that there is a conspiracy to keep us all out.

**Source D****Television Chat Show**

*Presenter:* Today we welcome James Caldicott, poet, and Dr Satiya Gupta, academic. Mr Caldicott, what do you think about Rebecca Leopard's resignation?

*Caldicott:* Well, it just shows that women can only get into high positions by lying and cheating. This scheming, unpleasant woman would never have got my job if she had not told lies about me.

*Gupta:* So you deny that women have accused you of sexual harassment?

*Caldicott:* As I was saying, this woman was not the best person for the job. It is a good thing that she has resigned.

*Gupta:* But do you deny the accusations?

*Caldicott:* Poetry is far more important than all of this. It is a shame that we have lost sight of the importance of poetry in all of our lives. I am a better poet than Leopard. That is all that matters.

*Gupta:* Rebecca Leopard has been unfairly treated. If a man had mentioned Caldicott's history with women, he would have been applauded. As it is, Leopard is hated. She might not even have anything to do with the smear campaign against Caldicott.

**Source E****Letter to Newspaper**

Sir,

I was one of the fifteen women who officially accused James Caldicott of sexual harassment. His poetry was amazing but he was a terrible teacher, and he couldn't keep his hands to himself. I complained about him when he threatened to give me bad grades unless I spent a night with him. I absolutely support Rebecca Leopard.

(name withheld, Wellington, New Zealand).

- (a) How reliable are Caldicott's responses in Source D? Justify your answer. [3]
- (b) How useful is Source B in helping to decide what happened in this situation? Justify your answer. [3]
- (c) 'I am a better poet than Leopard.' (Source D).  
How relevant is this claim in trying to decide what happened in this situation? Justify your answer. [3]
- (d) How likely is it that Rebecca Leopard deliberately spread untrue claims about James Caldicott? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using the evidence provided and considering plausible alternative scenarios. [6]

2 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

**Source A**

Some scientists believe that human conflict is partly a matter of instinct and partly depends on circumstances.

**Imbalance of power**

Chimps from one troop attack other troops when the attackers outnumber the other group and so have minimal risk of injury. Human societies, from hunter-gatherers to large modern nations, are also more likely to attack others if they are more powerful and therefore confident that they can win. Both humans and chimps are more likely to attack rivals with whom they have no previous contact.

**Population**

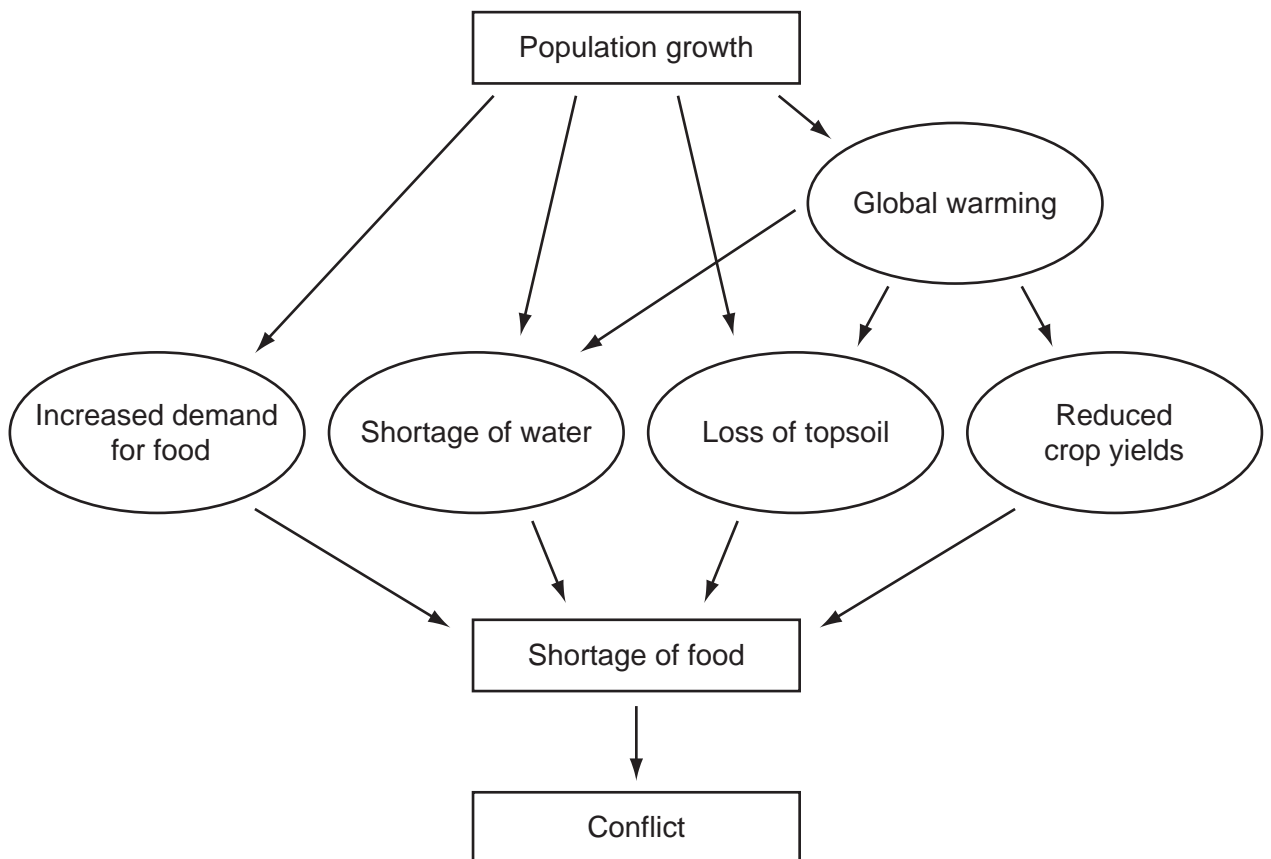
If the population grows and too many people are living in too small a space, there is likely to be conflict. For example, the Enga people first had a war 200 years ago when the introduction of sweet potatoes led to food surpluses and rapid population growth.

**Climate change**

Studies of the Chumash, hunter-gatherers who lived on the Californian coast for millennia before Europeans arrived, show evidence of conflict. In years when evidence (such as tree rings) indicates that there was a drought, violence between Chumash groups became worse. In the modern world, people in dry countries, such as Somalia, fight to control wells.

**Source B**

**Causes and Effects of Food Shortage**



**Source C****Failed States are a Threat to Us All**

If there is no functioning government, a state has failed. It can no longer keep citizens safe. It cannot maintain basic services such as the police. This leads to social chaos and total disorder which spreads beyond its own borders.

- Diseases spread.
- Refugees flee.
- Violent conflicts affect neighbouring states.
- Political extremism flourishes.
- International crimes such as drug trafficking, piracy and terrorism are not controlled.

**Source D****We need to:**

- Create economic and social links between people and states so that we feel like one big tribe.
- Stabilise states that are at risk of failing.

**We could do this by:**

- Abolishing poverty.
- Stabilising the world population.
- Restoring the planet's forests, soils and water resources.
- Cutting carbon emissions.

This might cost \$200 billion a year. This is a sixth of current global military spending.

- (a) How reasonable is it to use evidence about chimps and ancient hunter-gatherers to help understand human behaviour today? Justify your answer. [3]
- (b) Source A suggests that food surpluses can lead to conflict, whereas Source B suggests that food shortages can lead to conflict. Is this a contradiction? Briefly explain your answer. [2]
- (c) 'Abolishing poverty.' (Source D). Suggest one way in which we might abolish poverty. Explain your answer. [4]
- (d) Can human conflict be avoided?  
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.

Modern people live in such an unnatural way that we have romanticised the natural world, and many people are inclined to believe that anything natural must be good. Of course, there are ways in which we could improve our lives by reconnecting with nature. But on the whole, nature is a nasty, messy business and so our lives are better for being unnatural.

In a natural world, people would live in tribes like chimpanzees, eating only the food that was naturally available, such as fruit, seeds and roots. No one would really want to eat only these things, so it is clear that our diets are better now than they would be if we lived a truly natural life. Furthermore, to be properly natural we would have to live in trees or caves as no man-made buildings are natural. In most parts of the world this would be very cold, and controlling fire is not natural, of course. Nor are modern beds, sofas, toilets, showers, music or cooking appliances. So a natural life would be much more uncomfortable than our modern lives.

Unlike cooking, building and music, injury and disease are natural. Medicine is not natural. So in a natural world we would have to rely on prayer and witch doctors to heal the sick. We would therefore be less healthy and die much younger.

People talk about the natural world as if it were some kind of paradise. But there are snakes, poisonous plants, large animals that would like to eat people – and there are bad people. We have morality in our modern world precisely because a natural world is not very nice. Our unnatural moral rules prevent us from killing each other, stealing from each other and fighting over mates. By nature, we would stick to our own small tribe, and fight outsiders. In the modern world this can be seen in bullying and prejudice. Fortunately, we have unnatural governments which impose unnatural laws so that people who do behave naturally can be punished. So we should stop talking about a natural life and simply enjoy the benefits of our unnatural life.

- (a) Identify the main conclusion. [1]
- (b) Identify **three** reasons used to support the main conclusion. [3]
- (c) Evaluate the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you could consider any strengths, weaknesses, flaws and unstated assumptions. [6]
- (d) 'Medicine is natural.'  
Write your own short argument to **support** this claim. [5]



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