

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**

F492/01/RB

F492/02/RB

CRITICAL THINKING

Unit 2: Assessing and Developing Argument

RESOURCE BOOKLET

MONDAY 18 MAY 2009: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 45 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**Use Documents 1 and 2 to answer all the questions in
Sections B and C.**

DOCUMENT 1: LABELLED FOR LIFE

Although designer fashion labels seem to be becoming more and more popular, their influence on us and our society is negative. 1

Designer clothing has a negative impact on children's self esteem. Evidence suggests that 51% of our 11–14 year olds are now keen to keep up with the latest fashions. This is hardly surprising given reports of children being bullied for wearing the wrong style of clothes. The pressure is now so great that to be popular at school, children even have to have designer underwear. This is undoubtedly the main reason why truancy has become such a huge problem. 2

The high cost of children's designer labels is putting an increasing strain on family finances. It is estimated that the percentage of children receiving new jeans in 2005 was 76%, a massive rise from 55% in 2001. The total amount of new clothes bought for children will also have increased by a similar amount so it is easy to see how the average family now spends 10% of its budget on children's clothes. 3

The cost of some designer labels is so high that only the rich can afford to buy them suggesting that designer labels breed snobbery and social division. In fact, costs are kept artificially high to enable the rich to flaunt their wealth. Unfortunately, as with so many of our other material possessions, spending our money shopping for things we don't really need and don't really want, only makes us unhappy. HD TVs, music systems, jewellery, iPods, bags and shoes are all the same. We only have to look at how unhappy celebrities are for confirmation. 4

The demand for designer labels has led to a mushrooming of fakes, a market now estimated to be worth a massive £14 billion in this country alone. Many of these fakes are sold illegally through market stalls, car boot sales and the internet, showing that our desire for designer labels is supporting crime. **5**

A surge in the use of traditional Indian zari* embroidery on designer clothing is thought to have led to more Indian families selling their children into bonded (slave) labour. In Delhi alone it has been suggested that there are about 100,000 children working 14 hour days for as little as 3p per hour. Western societies should not encourage exploitation of children and although some fashion labels are now produced ethically, the fashion industry causes us to go against our better instincts by undermining attempts to eradicate exploitative child labour. **6**

We should stop buying designer labels. **7**

***zari embroidery is embroidery done using metallic threads.**

DOCUMENT 2: THE ‘SIZE ZERO’ DEBATE

The fashion industry has come under pressure to stop using size zero (UK size 4) models. However, excessively thin models have been used since the 1960s so the industry will definitely continue using them. Some in the industry have suggested that asking them to stop using very thin models because of health concerns would be like asking a supermarket to stop selling its most popular chocolate just because it contains some sugar. 1

They argue that we would all think it unreasonable to ask a supermarket to do this and so they should be allowed to continue to use thin models. Whatever the arguments, size zero models continued to be used at shows. Not only does this put pressure on women to become thinner, it also means that average sized women (UK size 16) are excluded from the world of fashion.



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