

Candidate Forename						Candidate Surname					
Centre Number						Candidate Number					

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

**F492/01
F492/02**

CRITICAL THINKING

**UNIT 2
Assessing and Developing Argument**

MONDAY 18 MAY 2009: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 45 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the question paper

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

**Answer sheet for Section A Multiple Choice
Resource Booklet**

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the boxes on the first page.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read the Resource Booklet and each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer Section A, questions 1–20, on the answer sheet provided in pencil. You are advised to spend no more than 40 minutes on Section A.
- On completion of Section A move directly on to Sections B and C.
- Answer Sections B and C in the spaces on the question paper in black ink.
- Answer ALL the questions.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided, however additional paper may be used if necessary.

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 120. Section A comprises 33% of the available marks; Sections B and C comprise 67% of the available marks.
- Up to 5 marks are available for quality of written communication Sections B and C.

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SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Answer ALL questions in this section of the paper using the separate answer sheet provided.

You are advised to spend no more than 40 minutes on this section of the paper then move directly on to Sections B and C.

- 1 The football season is again notable for over-paid players cheating by diving around in the penalty area in an effort to win undeserved penalties. Apart from the fact that such highly paid ‘stars’ should be setting a good example, the poor behaviour will eventually back-fire as sponsors will not want to be associated with teams known for cheating. The dramatic dives, worthy of a theatre stage, also lower the image of the sport in general. Stamping out this type of cheating is therefore in everyone’s interest.**

Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the MAIN CONCLUSION of the above argument?

- A Diving in the penalty area lowers the image of football in general.**
- B Highly paid stars should set a good example.**
- C Everyone would benefit from stamping out diving in the penalty area.**
- D Diving in the penalty area will lead to the loss of sponsorship.**

- 2 The best assessment of the safety of our driving is our car insurance premiums which reflect the money paid out by insurance companies for accidents and theft. Premiums for young drivers were increased by up to 40% last year so we can be sure that older drivers are safer than younger drivers.**

Which of the following, if true, would MOST STRENGTHEN the above argument?

- A Younger drivers' insurance premiums increased by only 10% the previous year.**
- B Younger drivers have always had to pay higher insurance premiums.**
- C Younger drivers have quicker reaction times than older drivers.**
- D Younger drivers tend to own cheaper cars that are easier to steal.**

- 3 The main outcome of introducing healthier school lunches has been a reduction in the number of children taking school lunches. Many children dislike the new menus and now bring packed lunches. Given that we want our children to eat more healthily and given that school lunches are a really good way of ensuring that this happens, we might consider preventing children from bringing packed lunches to school.**

Which of the following is an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?

- A Children will never choose the healthy option for lunch if they are given a choice.**
- B The bulk of children's knowledge about diet comes from their school.**
- C Packed lunches contain only high fat, high salt, unhealthy snacks.**
- D The contents of the average packed lunch is less healthy than a school lunch.**

Questions 4 and 5 refer to the following passage.

It was thought that the increasing height of many people in the western world was the result of higher living standards. However, evidence that Americans are getting shorter as well as getting richer means that we must look for another explanation. The timescales involved show that the decrease in height came after the dramatic increase in consumption of junk food. It therefore seems certain that poor diet is the cause of the decrease. Given that there are now concerns about British children eating too much junk food, we can shortly expect to see a decrease in the average height of Britons. This is despite the fact that our average height has increased over the last 10 years.

- 4 Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the MAIN CONCLUSION of the above argument?**
- A We should be concerned about British children eating too much junk food.**
 - B We must look for another explanation for the decrease in height of Americans.**
 - C We may see a change in the average height of Britons.**
 - D A decrease in average height of Britons is expected in the near future.**

- 5 Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the FLAW in the above argument?
- A A causal connection is not proven just because the decrease in height of Americans followed an increase in consumption of junk food.
 - B The decrease in height of Britons is an unreasonable generalisation given that our height is currently increasing.
 - C A decrease in the height of Britons could be because our living standards are lower than America's.
 - D Just because American children have a poor diet does not mean that it is all right for British children to eat badly.

- 6 4x4 vehicles might be bad for the environment, but they continue to be advertised on bill boards and TV and in many magazines. Sadly, neither higher road taxes nor guilt have diminished our desire for them as sales continue to be strong. The goal has to be to reduce the number of these vehicles on our roads and we should pass legislation that will restrict adverts for 4x4s.

Which of the following is an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?

- A The popularity of 4x4s is unaffected by increases in road tax.
- B The continued popularity of 4x4s is largely due to advertising.
- C 4x4s are just as popular in urban areas as they are in country areas.
- D Legislation is the only way that the popularity of 4x4s can be reduced.

- 7 Prague has become yet another city to suffer from the poor behaviour of British tourists. The problems stem from the tens of thousands visiting the city for stag and hen parties that seem to lead inevitably to drunkenness and violent behaviour. Blackpool – the stag party capital of Britain – has suffered from similar problems for years. Other European cities such as Riga and Tallinn are expected to become popular destinations for British stag and hen parties.**

Which of the following is the CONCLUSION THAT CAN BEST BE DRAWN from the above passage?

- A Riga and Tallinn must have similar numbers of bars to Prague and Blackpool.**
- B Riga and Tallinn would be well-advised to ban British stag and hen parties.**
- C Riga and Tallinn will need extra police to deal with drunken British stag and hen parties.**
- D Riga and Tallinn will need to prepare for the drunken behaviour of British stag and hen parties.**

- 8 Many Americans love the beach, but worry about attacks by sharks and decide not to swim in the sea. This is a shame as swimming in the sea is good exercise and good fun. Surprisingly, in the last 15 years, more Americans have died in accidents related to building sandcastles than have died in shark attacks – 16 as opposed to 12. In reality, the risk of being killed by a shark is so low that we can safely encourage people back into the sea.**

Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the above argument?

- A Of the 12 fatal attacks by sharks, 6 occurred in the last 8 years.**
- B The coast guard service is now able to track the movements of sharks in coastal waters.**
- C The majority of attacks by sharks lead to serious injury, rather than death.**
- D There are many other seaside dangers, such as jellyfish and pollution.**

- 9 In recent months many of the extravagant claims made by beauty adverts have been subjected to scientific scrutiny – and found wanting. Curiously, although these products may not make our skin less wrinkly, our lashes thicker or the colour of our hair more intense, millions of men and women continue to buy these expensive products. Adverts need to be appealing, but beauty adverts that do not meet scientific standards and take advantage of our desire to look younger cannot be acceptable. We should ensure that manufacturers of beauty products are prevented from making this type of advert.

Which of the following is an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?

- A Beauty products never achieve the effects claimed in adverts.
- B The adverts are only aimed at older consumers.
- C A reason that these products are bought is to look younger.
- D Manufacturers have knowingly made false claims about their products.

- 10 Whilst there is an urgent need to look at our transport policies, it is unfortunate that cycling groups have become so influential. In order to reduce emissions, they seem intent on wiping cars off the map, either by covering the whole country with cycle lanes or by forcing us all to use buses to get to work. These ideas are impractical and we can dismiss the arguments of cycling groups. Transport policies need to work for the car owning majority so we should ensure that cycling groups do not have such a strong influence on future policies.

Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the FLAW in the above argument?

- A A false and extreme version of the cyclists' ideas is used to dismiss their whole argument.
- B Not all cyclists would want to see the country covered in cycle lanes.
- C The argument does not consider the option of cyclists and motorists working together in improving transport policy.
- D It is wrong to base an argument on the basis of the views of the car owning majority.

- 11 Most surfers currently use fibre glass surf boards. Manufacturing these boards involves the use of toxic chemicals and considerable amounts of energy. However, a wooden surf board is now available that uses sustainable materials. Very little energy is used in their manufacture as they are hand-crafted. Admittedly, the new wooden boards are more expensive, but the surfing community is well-known for its commitment to the environment and therefore we should expect these wooden boards to rapidly replace fibre glass surf boards.**

Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the above argument?

- A The wooden boards will last nearly as long as fibre glass boards if treated with appropriate oils.**
- B Wooden boards are far more difficult to use than fibre glass boards.**
- C Smaller surf boards used by beginners and children are made from polystyrene.**
- D As wooden boards become more popular, it is likely that they will become cheaper.**

- 12 In the past, great classical musicians were known for their talent. Today, image is just as important for a classical musician as any aspiring pop ‘wannabe’ – classical stars are more likely to become known through glamorous photos on magazine covers than any concert performance. It is a great shame that this is the case as musicians of great talent may fail to be successful because they are deemed too unattractive.**

Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the MAIN CONCLUSION of the above argument?

- A Classical musicians should be known for their talent, not their looks.**
- B Unattractive classical musicians will not become successful.**
- C It is sad that classical musicians are known more for their looks than their talent.**
- D Classical musicians become known through photos on magazine covers.**

- 13 During the 1990s the percentage of the population getting married dropped from 13.1% to 10%. Some suggested that marriage had become less popular. However, with rocketing house prices, couples were faced with a choice between their wedding or setting up home and putting a deposit down on their first house. Many will have chosen to buy a house and we can conclude that it was not marriage that was getting less popular, but the process of getting married.**

Which of the following, if true, would MOST STRENGTHEN the above argument?

- A The proportion of the population getting divorced remained at about 13% throughout the 90s.**
- B Some of the couples who married in the 90s already owned their home.**
- C The adult population of Britain fell slightly during the 90s.**
- D The average cost of a wedding rose from £10k to £15k throughout the 90s.**

- 14 Mobile phone sales have remained high for several years. This is partly as a result of the increase in the numbers of us who own a mobile phone but mainly because so many of us have swapped our phones for the latest model. However, significant technological changes are very unlikely and future changes to mobile phones will be mainly cosmetic. It is very likely that sales of mobile phones will decrease in the near future.**

Which of the following is an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?

- A Keeping up with new technology is the major reason for consumers changing their mobile phone.**
- B Most mobile phone users are uninterested in new technology such as internet access.**
- C There are no economic factors that would explain a decrease in mobile phone sales.**
- D Cosmetic changes never persuade consumers to change their mobile phone.**

Questions 15 and 16 refer to the following passage.

The most famous and long-lived bands come from the 1960s. Bands such as The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd built up a large fan base over many years and were well-established before becoming famous. All of these bands benefited from this period of ‘apprenticeship’, learning their craft as well as the skills needed to cope with fame. Such a period of apprenticeship is therefore essential for any band hoping for a long career. Some more recent bands, such as the Arctic Monkeys, become popular and famous extremely quickly, their music and appeal spread rapidly by the internet. These bands have not gone through the all-important process of an apprenticeship. As a result, new bands of 2009 will only have very short careers.

- 15 Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of an INTERMEDIATE CONCLUSION in the above argument?
- A It is unlikely that new bands will have careers as long as those of bands like Pink Floyd.
 - B The most famous and long-lived bands are from the 1960s.
 - C Any band hoping for a long career must first serve a period of apprenticeship.
 - D Many bands from the 1960s, such as Pink Floyd, were well-established before becoming famous.

- 16 Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the FLAW in the above argument?
- A It is not possible to generalise from the music of the 1960s to the music of the current decade.
 - B It is not possible to generalise from new bands made popular by the internet to all new bands.
 - C It is not possible to generalise from Pink Floyd to all bands of the 1960s.
 - D It is not possible to generalise from bands that wanted long careers to all bands.

- 17 Just about every book sold has glowing reviews on its back cover. The reviewers are often other authors whose own works will be subjected to review and discussion and there is a clear pressure to make only positive comments. All those involved hope that in the future their own book will receive similar praise. Publishers also select the most positive comments in an effort to promote and sell their books.**

Which of the following is the CONCLUSION THAT CAN BEST BE DRAWN from the above passage?

- A The reviews on the back covers of books should be removed.**
- B Reviews on book covers are never an accurate indication of the quality of a book.**
- C Book reviews are not worth reading if they are written by other authors.**
- D Reviews on book covers are not an accurate indication of the quality of the book.**

18 Work place stress is a major cause of depression. Lost productivity and sick leave due to depression and anxiety is costing Britain £12 billion a year. To maintain a strong economy, we must take action to reduce this massive figure. Teaching has recently been identified as the second most stressful job. It would therefore make economic sense for the Government to improve teachers' conditions of service by increasing salaries, reducing class sizes and bureaucracy.

Which of the following is NOT an UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION of the above argument?

- A Levels of sick leave amongst teachers are higher than for all other professions.**
- B The costs of sick pay for teachers suffering from depression are a significant proportion of the £12 billion.**
- C The costs of improved conditions of service would be more than met by reductions in sick pay.**
- D There is a relationship between class size and the stress felt by many teachers.**

- 19 Many people who experience jealousy feel awful about themselves, believing jealousy to be a result of a weakness in their character. There is, however, no need. As a result of extensive research, one group of scientists has proposed that jealousy is an important natural behaviour that has evolved to protect the family unit, particularly important for the security of children. Other groups of scientists have conducted research that suggests that jealousy is triggered by uncertainty in our relationships. Scientific explanations of jealousy are, therefore, based on factors such as the situation that we find ourselves in rather than any individual character weaknesses.

Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the MAIN CONCLUSION of the above argument?

- A Scientific explanations of jealousy are not based on individual character weaknesses.
- B Scientific explanations for jealousy will lead to people being less jealous.
- C Scientific research suggests that there are natural and understandable reasons why we feel jealous.
- D Scientific research suggests that jealous people do not have to feel bad about themselves.

20 There was a time when computer literacy levels were low in this country. However, schools are now far better equipped: even primary school pupils have access to a computer. Prices of computers are at an all time low and sales at an all time high. In combination with the excellent facilities at many libraries, access to computers is also much better for adults. This will ensure far higher rates of computer literacy in this country.

Which of the following is the BEST STATEMENT of the FLAW in the above argument?

- A** There may not be enough computers at libraries for most adults to access a computer.
- B** Low prices may not be enough to guarantee that everyone owns a computer.
- C** Access to a computer is essential, but not enough, to guarantee computer literacy.
- D** Learning computer skills at school is not an option for most of the population.

SECTION B: ANALYSING AND EVALUATING ARGUMENT.

READ DOCUMENT 1, 'LABELLED FOR LIFE', AND ANSWER QUESTIONS 21 TO 30.

In questions 21 and 22 you are asked to identify parts of the argument presented to you in 'Labelled for life'. In your answers use the author's exact wording as far as possible.

21 Identify the main conclusion of the argument presented in the passage.

[2]

22 Identify FIVE reasons that are given to support the conclusion.

1. _____

_____ [2]

2. _____

_____ [2]

3. _____

_____ [2]

4. _____

_____ [2]

5. _____

_____ [2]

23 In paragraph 2 the author states, ‘evidence suggests that 51% of our 11–14 year olds are now keen to keep up with the latest fashions’.

Explain two weaknesses in the way that this evidence is used to support the reasoning in paragraph 2.

[2]

[2]

24 In paragraph 2 the author makes a claim about truancy.

(a) Name or describe the flaw in the reasoning that supports this claim.

_____ [1]

(b) With reference to the text, explain why the author's reasoning is flawed. You must clearly show why there is a problem with the author's reasoning.

_____ [3]

25 Explain why the evidence presented about jeans may not support the author's reasoning in paragraph 3.

_____ [2]

26 In paragraph 3 the author states, ‘it is easy to see how the average family now spends 10% of its budget on children’s clothes’.

What else would we need to know in order for this evidence to support the overall reasoning in paragraph 3?

[2]

27 Give one possible explanation for the very large amount of money spent on designer fakes in this country.

[2]

28 What must be assumed about the type of work done by the 100,000 children from Delhi in order to support the reasoning in paragraph 6?

[2]

29 Explain why the reasoning in paragraph 6 strongly supports the idea that we should not buy designer clothes. You should refer to the general principle and evidence used in paragraph 6.

[6]

30 Throughout the passage the author refers to ‘designer labels’ without offering a definition. Many supermarkets now offer their own cheap designer labels. Show how the author’s argument would be weakened if the definition of designer labels included these budget labels.

[4]

**READ DOCUMENT 2, 'THE 'SIZE ZERO' DEBATE', AND
ANSWER QUESTIONS 31 TO 33.**

- 31 Give one assumption that must be made for the argument in Document 2 to support the claim that 'average sized women are excluded from the world of fashion'.**

[2]

- 32 The author argues that the fashion industry will continue to use size zero models.**

(a) Name or describe a flaw in this reasoning.

[1]

(b) With reference to the text, explain why the author's reasoning is flawed. You must clearly show why there is a problem with the author's reasoning.

[3]

33 An analogy is used to persuade us that the fashion industry should be allowed to continue to use very thin models.

(a) Identify the components of this analogy.

[3]

(b) Assess the analogy by explaining one relevant similarity or dissimilarity in the analogy.

[3]

Total marks for section B [50]

SECTION C: DEVELOPING YOUR OWN ARGUMENTS

QUESTIONS 34 TO 36 REFER TO DOCUMENT 1,
‘LABELLED FOR LIFE’.

- 34 Fashion manufacturers would say that they sell their products for a fair price. Write a very short argument consisting of two reasons and a conclusion to support this view.**

Reason

[2]

Reason

[2]

Conclusion

[1]

35 In paragraph 4 the author suggests that our need for possessions is making us unhappy. Construct an argument to support the following conclusion:

‘Our obsession with material possessions does not make us happy’.

Marks will be given for a well-structured argument that contains several reasons that support an intermediate conclusion and an overall conclusion. Your argument should also contain examples or evidence and counter assertions.

[10]

36 Construct ONE further argument that CHALLENGES OR SUPPORTS the main conclusion of ‘Labelled for life’ (Document 1).

Marks will be given for a well-structured argument that contains several reasons that support an intermediate conclusion and an overall conclusion. Your argument should also contain examples or evidence and counter assertions.

You may use information and ideas from the original passages, but you must use them to form a new argument. No credit will be given for repeating the original arguments in ‘Labelled for life’.

[10]

Total marks for section C [25]

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