

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2015 series

9694 THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 (Critical Thinking), maximum raw mark 45

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- 1 (a) How significant is Source C in explaining why John Obanji has been accused of armed robbery? [3]

Significant [1]. Because Eastland will not extradite John Obanji to answer political charges [1], the only way to have him sent into the grasp of the Marinian security services would be if he were charged with a criminal offence [1]. This makes it likely that the accusation of armed robbery is a trumped-up charge [1].

- (b) On the basis of the information in Source D, suggest one factor which may make the evidence of Henry Hole unreliable. [2]

As a member of the Marinian security service, Henry Hole may well be under orders (have a vested interest) to lie about John Obanji [1], in order to support his government's attempt to extradite him to Kaldovia [1].

There is no obvious reason for the police to have shown Mr Hole a photograph of John Obanji [1], which makes it more likely that the evidence and the charge have been fabricated [1].

Do not allow answers which are not based on information given in Source D, e.g. speculation that Henry Hole may have been bribed to give false evidence.

- (c) Marinia and Kaldovia are close allies. Suggest two ways in which this information is significant in relation to the evidence given in Source D and/or E. [4]

*2 marks each for up to 2 of the following.
1 mark for vague, incomplete or marginal answer.*

- It would suggest some collusion between Marinia and Kaldovia in relation to the arrest of John Obanji.
- Henry Hole's visit to Palacetown is plausible.
- The security service agent could have been on duty/has a vested interest to do what is best for his country.
- It is unlikely that John Obanji would have risked travelling to an ally of the country from which he was fleeing, which reduces the plausibility of the allegation about the bank robbery.
- The fears that Obanji will be handed over to Marinia are justified.
- The charge is probably trumped up in order to get round the extradition restrictions.

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(d) In your opinion, why has John Obanji been accused of armed robbery?

Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and considering a plausible alternative conclusion. [6]

Level 3 5–6 marks	A strong answer, which provides a reasoned argument including thorough evaluation of all or most of the evidence to support an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and evaluates the plausibility of at least one alternative conclusion.
Level 2 3–4 marks	An answer which evaluates some of the evidence, draws an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and may mention the plausibility of at least one alternative conclusion.
Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which refers to some of the evidence, possibly including a simple evaluative comment. The conclusion may be unstated or over-stated.
Level 0 0 marks	No credit-worthy material.

Indicative content

In descending order of plausibility, the possible conclusions are:

- The Kaldovian authorities have falsely accused him at the request of the Marinian government, so that he can be extradited, kidnapped or assassinated.
- The Marinian authorities have produced false evidence which has convinced the Kaldovian authorities that Obanji is guilty.
- The accusation against Obanji is a genuine error / based on mistaken identity.
- Obanji is guilty of armed robbery. Perhaps he needed to raise funds in order to support a coup d'état.

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2 (a) Suggest two reasons why the findings from Source A may not apply to everyone. [3]

3 marks 2 reasons, at least one of which is developed
 2 marks 1 developed reason or 2 undeveloped reasons
 1 mark 1 undeveloped reason
 0 marks No credit-worthy material.

- The subjects were aged 18 and so the results may not apply to older adults or younger children.
- The subjects were all competition swimmers. The results may not apply to people who exercise less strenuously or are less fit.
- Swimmers are immersed in water and therefore may be more susceptible to infection than other people who engage in exercise.
- Other forms of exercise may affect the body in different ways.

(b) Source A recommends exercising in the evening, whereas Source B says the afternoon is the best time. Give two reasons why these research results do not contradict one another. [3]

3 marks 2 reasons, at least one of which is developed
 2 marks 1 developed reason or 2 undeveloped reasons
 1 mark 1 undeveloped reason
 0 marks No credit-worthy material.

- The Brunel research compared only two times of day, not an intermediate time. They might have favoured the afternoon if they had considered it.
- There is not much difference between “late afternoon” (e.g. 4–5 pm) and “evening” (6 pm).
- “undeveloped” only: The documents agree on exercising later/not in the morning.
- The research projects were looking at the question from two different angles. The Brunel research focused on avoiding infection, whereas Source B considers risk of injury and optimal performance.
- The Brunel research is about swimmers only; the conclusions may not apply to all exercise as dealt with in Source B.

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(c) Suggest two weaknesses in the support given in Source D for its claim that “exercising before eating is better, especially if you are trying to lose weight”. [3]

3 marks 2 reasons, at least one of which is developed
 2 marks 1 developed reason or 2 undeveloped reasons
 1 mark 1 undeveloped reason
 0 marks No credit-worthy material.

- The research concerns weight gain, not weight loss. Reducing weight gain is not the same as losing weight.
- Those who exercised after breakfast also consumed energy drinks while exercising, which may be the main cause of their weight gain / The control of the experiment is wrecked by altering more than one variable at a time.
- The conclusion “exercising before eating is better” is too broad to be inferred from research referring only to breakfast.
- The participants were “healthy young men”. The results might have been different for unhealthy/older/women, which is significant because many people trying to lose weight are unhealthy/because it is harder to lose weight when you are older/because women’s physiology may be different from men’s.

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(d) 'The best time to exercise is the time most convenient to yourself.'

To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the information provided in Sources A–D. [6]

Level 3 5–6 marks	A reasoned argument, which uses and evaluates all or most of the evidence provided.
Level 2 3–4 marks	A simple argument, which uses and/or evaluates evidence.
Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which makes some correct reference to evidence but consists of opinion and/or assertion rather than argument or a weak argument which makes no reference to evidence.
Level 0 0 marks	No credit-worthy material.

Indicative content

- The sources (especially Source B) provide research-based advice on the best time of day in which to exercise in various respects.
- But the various pieces of advice are not compatible with each other.
- For example, Source A advises people not to exercise before breakfast, whereas Sources C and D give the opposite advice.
- Probably the most important factor is that mentioned in the last sentence of Source B, namely the importance of choosing a time when you will “stick to it”.
- So the claim is generally true. The benefits of choosing a time when you will actually be able to exercise is more important than the specific benefits of various times of day.
- Another approach is that the best time to exercise depends on your reasons for exercising,
- e.g. to lose weight (Sources C and D)
- or to train for competitive sport (Sources A and B).

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- 3 (a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the main conclusion. [2]

2 marks: (So) the best policy is to be safe, by opposing all change.

1 mark: Part of the above / paraphrase of the above / including previous sentence.

- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify three reasons which directly support the main conclusion. [3]

1 mark for each of the following, to a maximum of 3 marks:

- (This example shows that) improvements are always worse than what they replace.
- Anything which is described as a reform should be opposed.
- No change can have such strong support [as the arrangements which exist].
- It would be more cost-effective to devote that time and effort to making the current system work as well as possible.
- It is always more likely that any particular proposal will lead to disaster than that it will result in an improvement.

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- (c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]

Marks for each evaluative point as follows, up to a maximum of 5 marks:

2 marks: Valid evaluative point, clearly expressed.

1 mark: Weak attempt at a valid evaluative point.

Paragraph 1

- The second sentence is presumably exaggerated, but in itself this does not weaken the argument much.
- Exaggeration: most people chose to buy new TVs before the old system ended.
- The conclusion relies on generalising from a single example. The intermediate conclusion is therefore overstated.

Paragraph 2

- To some extent changes the subject, to focus on the misuse of a word. So it provides only weak support for the main conclusion.
- Even if there is some truth in the argument, the intermediate conclusion is exaggerated.
- *Accept:* The description of the Government's use of the word "reform" is a straw man.

Paragraph 3

- The argument is self-contradictory, because the processes described in the second and third sentences consist of making changes.
- There is an assumption that the demands of the situation will not change and no new difficulties will arise.
- Assumption: that for situations to be good, they must have stood the test of time.

Paragraph 4

- The use of the word "waste" begs the question.
- The argument presents a false dichotomy, because "making the current system work as well as possible" presumably involves making changes.

Paragraph 5

- The admission that "some changes do turn out for the better" is inconsistent with the claim in para 1 that "improvements are always worse than what they replace."
- The second sentence restricts the options, but this does not greatly weaken the argument.
- The use of the word "improvement" is inconsistent with the argument in para 1, which claims that "improvements are always worse than what they replace".
- The argument relies on the assumption that the potential gains from a beneficial change will not outweigh the adverse consequences of bad changes.

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(d) 'New technology has improved the quality of our lives.'

Write your own short argument to support or challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. Credit will not be given for repeating ideas from the passage. [5]

Level 3 4–5 marks	Developed, coherent argument. Reasons strongly support conclusion. Development may include intermediate conclusion or apt examples. Simply structured argument – 4 marks. Effective use of IC etc. – 5 marks.
Level 2 2–3 marks	A simple argument. One reason + conclusion – 2 marks. Two or more separate reasons + conclusion – 3 marks.
Level 1 1 mark	Some relevant comment.
Level 0 0 marks	No relevant comment.

Maximum 3 marks for wrong conclusion or if conclusion is implied but not stated.
No credit for material merely reproduced from the passage.

Specimen level 3 answers

Support (109 words)

A hundred years ago, being a housewife was a full-time job in most families, but since then, such items of technology as refrigerators, freezers and washing machines have given women far more choice over how they spend their time.

The lives of children and teenagers have been transformed by advances in entertainment and information technology. Most children now have more technology in their bedroom than a medium-sized business had a generation ago. They use that technology to keep in touch with their friends, to inform themselves about the world and to develop their skills.

In these and many other ways, new technology has improved the quality of our lives.

Challenge (130 words)

When our grandparents were young, families used to find their entertainment together, friends enjoyed each other's company and people read books for information and for pleasure. The development of laptop computers and mobile phones has destroyed that world and led to an unhealthy culture of individualism and voyeurism. People have become incapable of appreciating the simple pleasures of nature, imagination and relationships, because whatever is not on a screen does not exist for them.

The rapid development of technology has also created a culture of competitive consumerism, in which people feel they have failed if they do not own the latest version of every device. This attitude leads to constant dissatisfaction and an inability to enjoy what one has.

So new technology has not improved the quality of our lives.