
THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2015

1 hour 45 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **all** the questions.

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

This document consists of **6** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** insert.

1 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A**News Report**

from The Eastland Gazette

1 May

Reports from Mancunia say that the leader of the opposition party, Joe Vos, will not be standing as a candidate in the forthcoming presidential election. Mr Vos was widely expected to win the election, but the constitutional court has refused to accept his nomination. In a statement, the presiding judge has explained that under the Mancunian constitution, anyone facing serious criminal charges is not eligible to stand in an election for public office. Mr Vos is awaiting trial on charges of corruption, which he has strenuously denied.

Source B**News Report**

from The Eastland Gazette

26 May

The Constitutional Court of Mancunia has announced that the declaration of the results of the presidential election will be delayed by a few days. The presiding judge explained that the counting of ballot papers was taking longer than expected and some votes had been cancelled because of irregularities.

Source C**News Report**

from The Free Mancunian Press

1 June

Following yesterday's announcement that the President had unexpectedly been re-elected by a large majority, Mr Joe Vos has claimed that the election was rigged. He says that opinion polls leading up to the election had predicted that an opposition candidate would win.

Mr Vos says he has evidence that additional voting papers were inserted into ballot boxes after the poll closed and that ballot boxes from his local area disappeared on the way to the counting centre. He also claims that many of his supporters were afraid to vote, because they believed that anyone voting against the President would be beaten up by the armed guards stationed at each polling station.

Residents of remote villages were transported to the polling stations in army lorries, and Mr Vos claims that each lorry called at multiple polling stations. He also suggests that the villagers did not understand the voting procedure, and simply did as the soldiers told them.

Source D**News report***from The Eastland Gazette**2 June*

Protests have been held in several large towns in Mancunia, following the re-election of the President. The President has warned protesters that tough action will be taken against those who refuse to accept the will of the people, as expressed in the democratic election. The editor of The Free Mancunian Press has been arrested and charged with spreading false information about the President, which is a serious offence under Mancunian law.

Source E**Report***from international observers*

The observers attended a number of polling stations on the day of the election and also observed the counting of ballot papers at the counting centre on the days following the election. We saw no evidence of irregularities. We believe this was due in part to the presence of armed guards at each polling station and the counting centre. Staff were very careful in checking the identity of voters, and we saw a number of people rejected because they were not registered or had already voted. Some people needed help from the staff on the voting procedure, but we saw no evidence that staff used these opportunities to influence their choice of candidate.

- (a) Sources A, B and D are taken from a newspaper published outside Mancunia.
- (i) Suggest one way in which this **strengthens** the reliability of the reports. [2]
- (ii) Suggest one way in which this **weakens** the reliability of the reports. [2]
- (b) The claim of Mr Joe Vos in Source C that the presidential election had been rigged relies on several unstated assumptions. Identify **two** of these assumptions. [3]
- (c) The international observers (Source E) suggest that the presence of armed guards helped to prevent irregularities in the voting and counting. Suggest an **alternative** explanation for the presence of the armed guards. [2]
- (d) Do you think that the President of Mancunia won the election legitimately?
- Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and considering a plausible alternative conclusion. [6]

2 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

News report

This report appeared in several newspapers and magazines in August 2011

Many doctors agree that sleeping on your back is best. This position is good for spine and neck health, because the back is straight and not forced into any contortions. Ideally, everyone would sleep on their backs without a pillow, as this position leaves the neck in a neutral position. But this is rather uncomfortable. The big problem with sleeping on your back is that the tongue tends to fall into the airway, which obstructs breathing and also causes snoring. So perhaps it is not so surprising that a study discovered that people with worse-quality sleep spent more time on their backs than the good sleepers.

The vast majority of people say that they sleep on their side. Doctors encourage sleeping on the left side during pregnancy because it improves circulation to the heart, which benefits both the mother and her baby. Sleeping on the left side can also ease digestive problems. However, sleeping on the left side can put pressure on the liver, stomach, and lungs. Other specialists have suggested that sleeping on the right side may improve the operation of the heart.

Resting on the stomach is widely regarded as the worst sleeping position. It flattens the natural curve of the spine, which can lead to lower back pain. Sleeping all night with the head turned to one side also strains the neck.

Regardless of health benefits, people sleep in the position they find most comfortable. So unless a doctor specifically recommends changing the position, it's probably best to keep doing what feels right.

Source B

News report

This report appeared in several newspapers and magazines in February 2013

Research conducted by the UK's biggest hotel chain reveals it is better to sleep on the left side of the bed than on the right.

In the survey, those who slept on the left described themselves as generally more cheerful, more positive and better at tackling stress and heavy workloads. Over a quarter of people who slept on the left side of the bed said they had a really positive outlook on life, compared to 18% of those who slept on the right.

These differences may help to explain why over half of the people interviewed said they would not change sides with their partner. Over 75% of people in the UK said they would find it strange to sleep on the other side of the bed.

A representative of the hotel chain said, "At our hotels we guarantee a good night's sleep for all, no matter what side of the bed they sleep on. If choosing which side of the bed to sleep on is causing any disagreements, we hope the quality of our beds and comfortable pillows will resolve the problem. We are so committed to giving everyone a great night's sleep that we recently invested millions of pounds refurbishing many of our bedrooms."

Source C**News report**

This report appeared in several newspapers and magazines in March 2013

A survey from a hotel chain reveals that over 10% of couples argue over who should sleep on which side of the bed. Women claimed that they usually win these arguments. Around 5% of men say they are not happy with the side they sleep on.

The main reason given for choosing one side over the other is to be nearer the door in case of intruders or crying children. One person in 20 chooses the side of the bed which gives a better view of the TV, and similar numbers choose the side nearer to, or further from, the radiator. There was very little difference in the proportion of people favouring the left and right sides of the bed. 51% preferred the left and 49% the right.

A representative of the hotel chain said, "We want to give all our guests a good night's sleep, irrespective of what side of the bed they sleep on. We are confident that the quality of our beds and comfortable pillows will resolve any disagreements over choosing the side of the bed. This is also why we have recently invested millions of pounds refurbishing many of our bedrooms."

- (a) How well does the evidence in Source A support its claim that "sleeping on your back is best"? [4]
- (b) The survey in Source C was conducted among customers from the hotels. Briefly explain how this might have affected the finding that "over 10% of couples argue over who should sleep on which side of the bed." [3]
- (c) The last paragraphs of Source B and of Source C are similar to one another. What do they suggest about the company's motive in conducting the research? [2]
- (d) 'Everyone should spend time and thought planning their sleeping arrangements.'

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–C. [6]

3 *Read the passage and answer the questions below.*

- 1 Until very recently, almost everyone – especially parents – agreed that it was perfectly acceptable for parents to slap their children, but children must never hurt a parent. We now realise that previous generations got this the wrong way round. It is quite right that many countries have introduced laws forbidding parents to hit their children.
- 2 What parents do influences their children far more than what they say. Very few parents want to teach their children that might is right or that the way to win an argument is to commit violence on your opponent; but if they slap their children, that is the message which will be learned. It is therefore far better to teach children by example to resolve disputes by means of reason, discussion and negotiation.
- 3 According to the 6th century philosopher Boethius, rationality is the defining quality of human beings, which separates us from the animals. Since even babies have this rational nature, they should be approached by means of reason, not fear. When children behave badly, parents should explain calmly what was wrong with what they have done, and once they understand they will not repeat it.
- 4 If a child is violent towards another child or towards a parent, some parents believe that the appropriate response is to retaliate in the same way – inflicting a slap for a slap, a bite for a bite, a kick for a kick. But children will never learn how to express their anger in a civilized way if their parents do not set them an example. So adults should show that they have been hurt and appeal to the child's love for them. Children do not really want to hurt their parent, and they need to learn to control their violent instincts.
- 5 We all long for a world in which disputes between individuals and nations are settled peacefully. The only way to achieve this is by transforming individual persons, and the people who can do most towards this goal are parents.

- (a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the main conclusion. [2]
- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify **three** reasons which directly support the main conclusion. [3]
- (c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]
- (d) 'Improved parenting skills are the key to a better world.'

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]

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge International Examinations Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cie.org.uk after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Examinations is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.