



Cambridge International AS & A Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2023

1 hour 45 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Study the evidence and then answer Questions 1 and 2.

Source A

Newspaper report

Some people appear to value the lives of animals more than the lives of other human beings. In an experiment conducted at an American university, the 573 participants were asked to choose which they would save in a number of imaginary 'runaway vehicle' scenarios involving a person and a dog. The outcome was influenced by (a) the identity of the person (loved one or stranger) and (b) the identity of the dog (family pet or unknown dog). When the choice was between a stranger and a family pet, 40% of participants chose to save the dog, with this dropping to 14% when the animal was an unknown dog. Gender also affected response, with women choosing the dog over the person almost twice as often as men did.

In another academic experiment, conducted in England, participants were given one of four different (fictitious) news stories involving an accidental injury, then asked to rate their sympathy for the victim. The victims were described as either (a) a small child, (b) an adult, (c) a puppy or (d) a fully-grown dog. The difference between the sympathy ratings for the small child and the puppy was very small, but the adult received a much lower rating than either the puppy or the full-grown dog.

Source B

Research report

In a recent study in Australia, a medical research charity found that stories involving injured dogs can attract more generous donations than those involving injured people. During the same week, and for that week only, the charity ran two different versions of an online campaign – one for an injured dog and one for an injured child. Viewers were asked to contribute a small amount of money towards the necessary medical treatment. 358 people contributed for the dog and only 172 for the child.

Source C

Blog by professional psychologist

Why do experiments continually appear to show that we care more about animals than about our fellow human beings?

Most people are kind-hearted and are emotionally moved by vulnerability, whether of animals or humans. Adult human beings in particular are generally viewed as being able to look after themselves. Children, especially very young ones, and animals in domestic settings – again, especially younger ones – are regarded as much less well-equipped to do this. Also, if you consider that many of these experiments involve fictitious scenarios featuring dogs, which are very common family pets in some parts of the world, you can get an idea of why we make some of the choices we do. Of course, it's important to be aware that, for many cultures, people's relationships to these animals are different. Dogs may be regarded only as working animals, and certainly not as integrated into their owning families as they are in, for example, the USA.

Source D**Extract from magazine for members of national dog owners' club**

Our recent survey shows that dogs are highly valued by people in this country. Of course, we already knew this, but it's nice to know just how true it is!

We surveyed 800 of our members, and the results make clear the strength of the bond. Here are a few figures:

- 81% regard their dogs as having the same status within the family unit as the children do.
- 77% talk to their dogs as they would to human family members.
- 81% know their dog's birthday.
- 71% carry a photograph of their dog around with them.

Source E**Extract from journal of psychology**

When investigating likely human behaviour in different situations, research psychologists often use imaginary scenarios. However, a recent study in Belgium found that what subjects in such experiments say that they would do often does not reflect what they *actually* do in a real-life situation.

- 1 (a) How well does Source A support the claim made in its first sentence? [4]
- (b) Identify and explain **one** weakness in the support given in Source B for its claim that 'stories involving injured dogs can attract more generous donations than those involving injured people'. [2]
- (c) Is Source C an argument? Explain your answer. [2]
- (d) Assess the reliability of Source D. [3]
- (e) Look at Source E. Suggest **two** reasons why people might act differently in a real-life situation than they say they would in an imaginary situation. [2]

- 2 You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.

'People put too much value on the lives of dogs.'

To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the evidence provided. [8]

Section B

Read the following passage and then answer Questions 3, 4 and 5.

- 1 Mountain rescue teams operate in many areas of the world where search and rescue activities are likely to be needed in emergency situations. In some countries, people who have been rescued are expected to pay for this service. However, although the costs of such missions can be high, especially if helicopters or planes are involved, mountain rescue should always be a free service. After all, because the rescue teams receive funding from tax revenue, walkers needing help have already paid for them, so it would be unfair to expect walkers to pay again for being rescued.
- 2 Mountains and seas are both dangerous places in which to travel. It would be unfair to charge for mountain rescues, because people are not currently expected to pay the costs of being rescued at sea. In addition, both lifeboat crews and mountain rescue teams have always taken a pride in saving lives at no cost to those who benefit from their activities.
- 3 Charges would damage the economies of mountain areas. Visitors bring revenue into areas that often have few employment opportunities not related to tourism. These visitors spend money and create jobs in local businesses such as cafés and hotels; but they would be deterred from coming by the possibility of having to pay for an expensive rescue. Unless rescue services are free, tourists will not visit, and hence the income gained from tourism will be lost.
- 4 If cost were a factor, people would avoid calling for help, or would refuse to accept it. Such cases have occurred. Recently, in the US, a young woman, despite being lost on a mountain in cold weather at night, refused help until she was told that it would be free.
- 5 It may be claimed that the possibility of free rescue may encourage reckless behaviour by walkers – for example, setting out without proper equipment in difficult terrain. However, it is occasionally hard to draw a line between foolish behaviour and inexperience, so it is fairer to give walkers the benefit of the doubt and not to penalise them financially for needing to be rescued.

3 (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 **two** *intermediate conclusions* from paragraphs 2 to 3. [4]

(c) Identify the argument element and explain the function of the following words from paragraph 4:
'Recently, in the US, a young woman, despite being lost on a mountain in cold weather at night, refused help until she was told that it would be free.' [2]

(d) Identify **one** *unstated assumption* required by the argument in paragraph 1. [2]

4 (a) Identify an *appeal* in paragraph 2. [2]

(b) (i) Identify the flaw of *restricting the options* in paragraph 3. [1]

(ii) To what extent does this flaw weaken the argument as a whole? [3]

(c) Identify and explain **one** flaw or weakness in the reasoning in paragraph 4. [2]

(d) How effective is the response to the *counter-assertion* in paragraph 5? [3]

5 You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.

'Dangerous sports should be banned.'

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. [8]

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