

Critical Thinking

Advanced GCE **F494**

Unit 4: Critical Reasoning

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the Report on the Examination.

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	Name	Type	Key
1	Fastest runners	Which is argument?	D
2	Badgers' stripes	Necessary/sufficient	A
3	Fertility	MC	D
4	Fertility	Counter	C
5	All dogs	Pattern of reasoning	B
6	Biofuels	Identify element	B
7	Biofuels	Weakness	A
8	Valid	Which is valid?	B
9	Laptops	Which is argument?	C
10	SpongeBob	Identify element	D
11	SpongeBob	Identify elements	A
12	SpongeBob	Weakness	B
13	Drinking	MC	A
14	Drinking	Principle support	C
15	Street View	MC	B
16	Street View	Weakness	C
17	Street View	Strengthen/weaken	A
18	Vegans	Appeal	B
19	Vegans	NOT weakness	C
20	Vegans	Assess response	C

Question 1**Fastest runners**

Key D

- R Runners from the 1930s might beat today's top runners with modern advances.
 R Grace and elegance of style, or consistent high speed might count towards being the best of all time.
 C The fastest runner in the world today might not be the best of all time.

A is an explanation of a fact.

B just gives information.

C just gives information.

Question 2**Badgers' stripes**

Key A

If all badgers have stripes, stripes are a necessary condition for being a badger. If skunks have stripes but are not a kind of badger, then stripes are not sufficient for being a badger.

Questions 3 and 4**Fertility**

- Context There is a growing problem with infertility, which can be caused by smoking, obesity, pollution and some common chemicals.
 Ev 1 in 7 people experiences problems with infertility.
 R1 Infertility will be a problem to more people than teenage pregnancy.
 R2 If teenagers were taught about infertility treatments, they would be better able to make choices in their adult lives.
 Ex For example, many women who want IVF do not realise how invasive and unpleasant it is, or how low the chances of success are.

- C Teenagers should be taught about problems with infertility at school as well as about unwanted pregnancies.
- 3 Key D see analysis
- 4 Key C
Teaching teenagers that becoming pregnant may be difficult could lead to careless sexual behaviour and unwanted pregnancies.

This would counter the argument that teenagers should be taught about infertility by showing a negative consequence of doing so. (This may or may not outweigh the advantages – but that's a matter for assessment and doesn't affect the fact that this would counter the argument at least to some extent. The argument doesn't consider any negative consequences.)

- A Not all infertility problems are caused by environmental factors such as smoking or pollution.
This is irrelevant to whether children should be taught about infertility, how to avoid it and the choices available to them if they do have problems conceiving.
- B Obesity reduces the chances of conceiving and increases the risk of complications during pregnancy.
If anything, this would very slightly support the argument, as people would be able to avoid this problem (perhaps) if they knew about it. But mostly this just gives one more cause of infertility.
- D Teenagers might not pay any attention to lessons about infertility.
The argument does not suggest that it will. It suggests that people will be better prepared/better able to deal with the problem. So this does not counter the argument.

Question 5

All dogs

Key B

All A contain B. C contains B. Therefore C is A.

A

(All A sell B. B contains C. A must contain C.)

C

(Only As sing B. C sings B. Therefore C is A. Because of the 'only' this is valid and not flawed.)

D

(Only As wear B. C is A. Therefore C wears B. This is a different form and also valid.)

Questions 6 and 7

Biofuels

- R1 Food has never previously been used for fuel.
- R2 The respected Food Policy Research Institute believes that biofuels are responsible for 30% of the rise in grain prices.
- R3 According to Friends of the Earth, rainforests are being cut down to grow biofuel crops.
- IC So biofuels are actually making climate change worse.
- IC a go slow on biofuels would have a real impact on the current food crisis
- C Ministers at the UN food conference should call for a go slow on biofuels.

- 6 Key B
7 Key A

Question 8
Valid

Key B

Question 9
Laptops

Key C

This persuades us to accept that the price difference between black and white laptops is not unfair. It gives the reasons that consumers have a choice, they don't have to pay the higher price.

The other texts all explain a fact which is established.

Questions 10, 11 and 12
SpongeBob

- R When teenagers are online, their parents worry about grooming, drugs, violent games and unsuitably explicit sites.
R Most teenagers have the wisdom to avoid the obvious hazards on the net,
R are basically sensible individuals and
R cope better than their parents with the virtual worlds they encounter.
IC Parents should not fear so much for their internet-savvy teenagers.
- R Very young children are being lured by cartoon characters like SpongeBob into virtual worlds which combine the appeal of popular TV characters, social networking and gaming.
IC Companies can therefore load these worlds with subtle marketing messages.
Ev These worlds are, according to in-game advertising specialist Double Fusion, 'a place where advertisers can develop powerful interactions with their teen audiences.'
R This sort of social indoctrination is not so obviously risky as hard drugs,
IC and is therefore more difficult to avoid.
- C Parents should be much more worried about SpongeBob SquarePants.
- 10 Key D see analysis
11 Key A see analysis
12 Key B

Questions 13 and 14
Drinking

- R When young people drink in a pub surrounded by adults, because they are afraid of being thrown out.
IC they are forced to behave quite sensibly
R They also learn from those around them about civilised, companionable drinking.
R If they are banned from pubs, adolescents end up drinking in parks in groups of their peers.
IC This means that, far from drinking becoming a rite of passage into the adulthood, it becomes a destructive activity. This reinforces their sense of isolation from the adult world they are so keen to join.

- IC It is therefore necessary to go to extremes to prove oneself as an adult, rather than simply being accepted.
- C It is entirely counter-productive to prevent fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds from drinking in pubs.
- 13 Key A see analysis.
- 14 Which of the following is a principle that would support a policy of preventing fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds from drinking in pubs?

Key C

People who are still developing should not risk their health by drinking alcohol.

This would support banning drinking in pubs (and also other measures to prevent teenage drunkenness, which is not inevitable, if teenagers cannot buy alcohol).

- A It is damaging if young people believe that some laws do not have to be obeyed. This is not a principle but it would support the policy of preventing fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds from drinking in pubs.
- B Not all adults drink companionably or in a civilised way in pubs. This is not a principle, but it would support a policy of preventing fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds from drinking in pubs.
- D Responsible adults have a duty to introduce teenagers to sensible drinking in pubs. This is a principle, and one that they should be familiar with. It may take some thought to work this out, but the principle does not support a policy of preventing fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds from drinking in pubs.

Questions 15, 16 and 17

Street View

Counter argument

- R It allows users to see an all-round photographic view of buildings, roads and other features of a neighbourhood.
- R People who struggle with flat maps can visualise their route more clearly when they need to go somewhere new.
- C Google's Street View has many advantages.
- R Real people have been caught on camera doing embarrassing things, (ex) including sunbathing naked in parks or entering adult shops.
- R Others have been photographed doing illegal things, (ex) such as burgling a house.
- R Our privacy is too valuable to sacrifice to an online map.
- CA It may currently be legal to publish these images,
- IC but it is wrong
- IC Yet the costs of Street View far outweigh the benefits.
- C Google should be prevented from expanding Street View to the UK.
- 15 Key B see analysis
- 16 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the support for the conclusion?

Key C

Privacy laws state that a person has no reasonable expectation of privacy in a public place. This somewhat weakens the argument by strengthening support for the counter assertion that publishing these images may be legal. It also seems to have a moral element in the distinction between private and public places.

- A House hunters have found Street View very useful to explore neighbourhoods they might like to live in.
This adds another example of an advantage to Street View, but the CA already shows that there are many advantages. This extra example does nothing to show that the practical advantages of Street View outweigh the moral disadvantages. So it doesn't weaken the argument which relies on this claim.
- B People post embarrassing images of themselves on the internet all the time.
This doesn't weaken the argument because people who post images of themselves have a choice about publication or privacy. It is the lack of choice that makes this problematic.
- D The law should reflect our views of right and wrong.
This would probably strengthen the argument because it would bridge the gap between 'this may be legal' and 'but it is wrong' and make the case for the law to change to reflect this wrongness.
- 17 'The American Government has been banned from publishing close-up images of military bases because images of the Fort Sam Houston in Texas included potentially risky details.'

How does this additional information affect the strength of the argument?

Key A

Information about what the American Government has done in specific instances should have no bearing on whether the British Government decides to prevent Google from expanding Street View to the UK. (Assuming that this prevention is to happen by the law rather than by mass vigilante action against Google's vans and websites).

- B It strengthens the argument because it would set a precedent for banning some images. The argument is not about whether 'some' images should be banned, but about whether the whole application should be banned.
- C It strengthens the argument because the Government ought to apply the same rules to itself as to the people.
The Government ought indeed, but this does not necessarily strengthen the argument – the reasoning would also support the idea that Street View should stay, including images of military bases that can be seen from the street.
- D It weakens the argument because there is an important difference between publishing military secrets online and images of people in the street.
Google was not publishing military information, but images of a military base which can be seen by anyone from the street. And even if it were military secrets, that would not weaken the case for images of us not to be published.

Questions 18, 19 and 20**Vegans**

CA

(Opinion) Vegans have utterly lost the plot.

- (R) They are now telling us eating meat every day is the biggest environmental danger of all,
 (C) so we should all become vegans and save the planet.
- R Cows and sheep eat grass, which people can't eat, and turn it into meat, which people can eat.
 R Grazing land is often in hilly regions with poor soil, where crops such as wheat could not grow.
 IC This argument is ridiculous.
 R These vegans would want us to starve our children rather than accepting that eating meat is normal, human behaviour.
 C We should ignore them and carry on as we are.

18 Which of the following is used in the argument?

Key B

Appeal to emotion

The language is emotive, and our desire to feed our children (emotion) is appealed to.

Authority, history and popularity are not appealed to.

19 Which of the following is NOT a weakness in the argument?

Key C

The argument does attack vegans for personal qualities (lentil munching, nutty, lost the plot), it does distort their argument, moving from the idea of not eating meat every day to 'become vegans' and 'starve our children' which most vegans would not advocate, and it does move from an argument which shows that there are some good reasons to keep eating meat (in circumstances where the best / only way to get food from the soil is via grazing animals) to the claim that we should carry on as we are (which includes eating meat every day (perhaps) and all the other circumstances in which animals are kept. It does not rant giving NO reasons to support any of its opinions. There is some argument.

20 'We must support hill farmers in the UK by eating their produce. It doesn't make sense to make them unemployed while we eat imported lentils.'

This response to the argument

Key C

Supports the conclusion to a limited extent because it raises an additional, important consideration, even though it restricts the options.

The issue of unemployed meat farmers is important in decisions about whether to stop eating meat. However, the argument restricts the options, and is weak. Meat farmers might be able to do other kinds of farming or even other jobs. So the support given by this argument to the conclusion of the original argument is very limited.

- A Restricts the options between employing farmers and eating lentils, so is very weak and offers no support at all to the argument.
 This overstates the weakness of the response.
- B Supports the conclusion quite a lot because meat is much nicer than lentils, so we should carry on as we are.
 Completely misses the point.
- D Very strongly supports the conclusion because it answers the vegans' argument precisely.

This is totally wrong. The response functions by bringing in an additional consideration (which might be thought to outweigh the vegans' argument) rather than by answering their argument.

Section B Mark Scheme

Question 21

Name the following elements and briefly explain their function in the structure of the argument:

- a **'Many recent discoveries are beginning to make the prospect of radical human enhancement a reality.'** (paragraph 4) [2]

Reason to support the claim that, 'now is the time to try to answer this question' [about whether or not we should make improvements to human beings.] Supported by examples of such recent discoveries.

One mark for the name, one mark for an explanation of the function.

- b **'Contemporary and future biological enhancements may create problems of injustice.'** (paragraph 9) [2]

Conclusion of a counter argument (1 mark), supported by two reasons (unfair advantages and unfair pressures)(1 mark) / responded to (rejected in the second part of the paragraph).

Question 22

Analyse in detail the structure of the reasoning in paragraph 7 by identifying elements of argument such as reasons, intermediate conclusions etc and showing their relationships to each other. [13]

Analysis of Reasoning AO1

In all cases performance descriptors refer to candidates performing at the top of the band. Any candidate performing above the descriptor enters the bottom of the next band.

Candidates should demonstrate understanding of argument structure.

Candidates should identify elements of subtle and complex arguments using appropriate terminology.

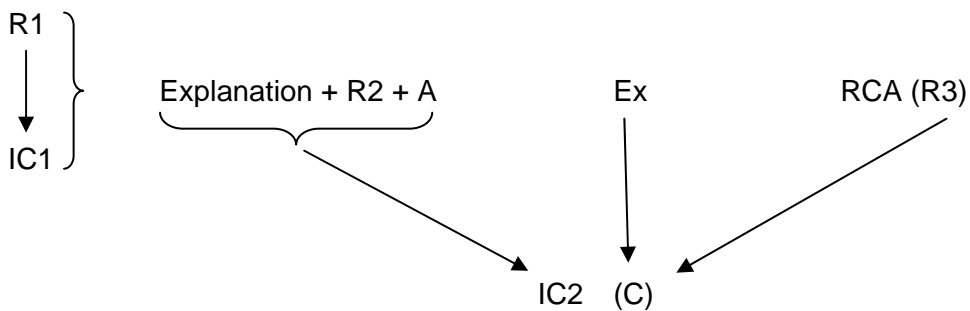
	Performance descriptors
Level 4 10 - 13	Candidates demonstrate thorough understanding of argument structure, including some complexity. Candidates are able to identify elements of complex reasoning accurately using appropriate terminology. Mistakes are rare and not serious.
Level 3 7 - 9	Candidates demonstrate a clear understanding of argument structure. Candidates are able to identify most elements of reasoning accurately using appropriate terminology. They may make mistakes, occasionally serious ones.
Level 2 4 - 6	Candidates demonstrate basic understanding of argument structure. Candidates are able to identify some elements of reasoning accurately using appropriate terminology. They may mix this with gist and misunderstanding.
Level 1 1 - 3	Candidates demonstrate limited understanding of argument structure. Candidates may provide poor paraphrases of isolated elements of arguments or give overall gist.
0	No creditworthy material.

Explanation (but accept at IC1 and R1):

(IC1) Synthetic biology has caught the imagination not least because (R1) it marks the beginnings of potentially creating tailor-made creatures in our own image.

R2 if it works [synthetic biology] this may give us unprecedented powers.

- A These powers would [be used to] make 'better' creatures
 Examples of how creatures might be 'better' than ourselves:
 longer-lived, more resistant to disease and injury, healthier and better adapted to a
 changing environment
- CA Enhancement technologies give those who can use them an edge and have often been
 criticised for the injustice that this supposedly creates.
- RCA (and R3 for IC2):
 But we have always enhanced ourselves and our environment in ways that are not
 immediately available to all.
- IC2 (C) If we can try to understand how to make better creatures than ourselves, we should
 surely do so.



Counter arguments are not normally shown in argument diagrams.

Question 23 ‘In the future there will be no more human beings. This is not something we should worry about.’ (paragraph 1)

Evaluate the support given to this claim by the reasoning throughout the article. [30]

Performance descriptors refer to candidates performing at the top of the band. Any candidate performing above the descriptor enters the bottom of the next band.

	Performance Descriptors
Level 4 24 - 30	Candidates demonstrate sound, thorough and perceptive evaluation of strength and weakness in the support for Harris’s claim that, ‘this is not something we should worry about.’ They provide consistent and accomplished evaluation of the impact of this strength and weakness on the overall support given by the reasoning to this claim. Candidates select key points to evaluate. Inappropriate forms of evaluation are rare and not serious. <i>Candidates have evaluated the reasoning, making some relevant points to support their evaluation.</i>
Level 3 16 - 23	Candidates demonstrate a clear understanding of weakness in the support for Harris’s claim that, ‘this is not something we should worry about.’ They consistently evaluate the impact of this on the overall support given by the reasoning to this claim. Candidates begin to evaluate strength more clearly. Candidates select points to evaluate, but not always key points. Inappropriate forms of evaluation (disagreement, counter argument, false attribution of weakness) may occur. <i>Candidates have made a mixture of relevant evaluation and irrelevant or inappropriate points in an attempt to evaluate the reasoning.</i>
Level 2 9 - 15	Candidates demonstrate basic awareness of strength and weakness in the argument generally, with little reference to Harris’s specific claim. Valid points may be isolated, but candidates begin to evaluate the impact of weakness on the strength of the overall argument. Candidates may attribute strength or weakness inappropriately and occasionally disagree with the reasoning or provide counter arguments rather than evaluating it. <i>Candidates make the odd relevant evaluative point amidst description and irrelevance.</i>
Level 1 1 - 8	Candidates demonstrate limited awareness of strength and weakness in the support for Harris’s claim. They make random or isolated valid points, attribute strength and weakness inappropriately and have little awareness of the impact of weakness on the overall strength of the argument. Candidates tend to disagree with the reasoning rather than evaluate it. <i>Candidates’ responses are overwhelmingly irrelevant, descriptive or wrong.</i>
0	No creditworthy material.

The following instruction is given in the rubric of the question:

‘You should **selectively** refer to key strengths and weaknesses which may include:

- *Flaws in the reasoning **and** their impact on the strength of the reasoning.*
- *Assumptions which must be made **and** their impact on the reasoning.*
- *The effectiveness of the use of evidence and examples.*
- *How effectively reasons support intermediate and main conclusions.’*

This rubric is intended to give support to candidates rather than to provide a straitjacket which limits answers. Marks are allocated on the basis of a holistic assessment of the quality of the candidate’s answer. Candidates do not need to refer to all four bullet points to gain good marks. A candidate who writes an answer which indicates good or perceptive understanding of key flaws and how they affect the support for the claim, but who does not refer to assumptions or the use of evidence can still access high marks. Quality not quantity!

Harris gives very little support to his claim that we should not worry about there being no more human beings in the future. On the whole his reasoning consists of giving information and explanation about the ways in which new technologies such as synthetic biology could improve humans. These are often followed by opinions (to some extent based on unstated and challengeable assumptions) or recommendations which are proposed but not really supported. This makes for an interesting and informative read but a weak argument.

Harris proposes two alternatives: humans having died out altogether, or humans having been replaced by our successors. These may be real alternatives rather than a restriction of the options (short of us staying the same which seems unlikely, I can't think of another option but something feels wrong here). However, Harris assumes that using new technologies to create 'a new species which will initially live alongside us' and will be 'better creatures than ourselves' is the way forward. He does not provide support for this. He ignores the possibility that evolution might produce a species 'better than ourselves' and more suited to life on this planet. This possibility would avoid the problems that Harris fails to discuss, of humans and 'enhanced humans' living side by side. These problems potentially go beyond the issues of injustice dealt with towards the end of the article, and it is a weakness that Harris does not adequately deal with this counter position.

Harris poses the question of whether or not we should make improvements to human beings and ... human nature. However, he assumes that the answer is 'yes'. He gives examples of technologies which could hypothetically enhance humans, and states that these creatures would no longer be 'human.' This is not sufficient support for the next claim, that 'the end of humanity is not in itself a concern.' He moves from hypothetical but unproven benefits, which are selectively chosen, to the certainty of no concern.

Harris misrepresents opposition to synthetic biology (straw person) with his characterisation of opponents as visualising Frankenstein scientists or makers of primeval soup, who restrict the options to monsters or perfect humans, ignoring the middle ground in which synthetic biology operates. This underestimates those who oppose his position as ignorant. It may be that some of his opponents are highly educated, intelligent and informed and still don't support human enhancement through synthetic biology. The explanation he gives of what synthetic biology is does perhaps too little to clarify any confusion amongst non-scientists.

The claim that if synthetic biology works 'it may give us unprecedented powers' is confused and perhaps somewhat contradictory. It is not clear whether it will give us powers to create beings better than us, or whether it will give the beings we create unprecedented powers – if the latter, then it won't be 'us' that get the powers, and this is one of the concerns expressed by opponents of such enhancement. It also assumes that synthetic biology will work. It may, alternatively, produce beings which are more disease resistant but less intelligent, or less capable of adapting to new circumstances. So we can't go from this hypothetical reasoning plus a challengeable assumption to the intermediate conclusion that 'if we can... we should surely do so.' This is a very weak link in the support for the main conclusion that there being no human beings is not something we should worry about.

The claim that we have always enhanced ourselves is an appeal to tradition. It does somewhat defuse concerns based on fear of new technologies by referring to how other technologies have enhanced our lives and not had apocalyptic consequences. However, just because we have done something always does not mean that it is right. Humans have always murdered each other – this is not sufficient grounds for accepting murder as the way forward. So this appeal offers only weak support to the conclusion that we should not worry. This is further weakened

by the conflation between enhancement of humans and enhancements that would render creatures no longer human.

There is an implied appeal to history in the claim as well – Harris implies that we should rely on past positive experience to guide our actions in the future. But just because candles turned out to be a beneficial enhancement in the past does not mean that future enhancements will be as beneficial.

The analogy between synthetic sunlight and synthetic biology is in any case significantly flawed. Humans harnessed fire in their service but did not use it to change themselves fundamentally. The sort of enhancements that Harris is talking about are, by his definition, changes that would make creatures who are 'no longer human' or 'a new species' (related to point about conflation but not quite the same). Candles and fires have essentially been shared between people in communities and brought about group benefits. Enhancement at the biological level would essentially bring about benefits for individuals who would be better able to compete with other individuals. So these situations are significantly different, and Harris's attempt to harness the power of fire to support his claim that we shouldn't worry fails – it provides very little support.

He attempts to respond to the counter argument about injustice by partially accepting it and defusing it by treating it as if the injustice doesn't really matter because there has always been injustice (see analogy etc above). This is weak. He provides no support at all for his 'solution' of a combination of regulation and distributive justice. This is only a proposal. He does not deal with concerns about such a solution, or its incompatibility with his starting point, which is that we can and should use new technologies to create creatures who are 'a new species' or 'no longer human'. What would be the point of creating superior creatures then not allowing them to use their advantages? So this solution weakens the support for the claim that we should not worry by raising a whole number of things that we should reasonably worry about.

Harris suggests – again unfairly misrepresenting the opposition – that opposition to his position is 'a Luddite rejection of technology.' It may not be. He also here restricts the options to accepting his position and his solution, or rejecting the whole thing in a 'Luddite' way. There may be middle ground. We could also counter argue that the Luddites were probably right on their own terms – they lost out. Successive generations may have benefited from the technological changes, but Ludd and co probably lost their livelihood and the ability to support their families. These changes also led to (contributed to) the industrial revolution, which brought material benefits, but perhaps losses for humans in terms of closeness to nature and closeness to what it is to be human. So again, Harris has not strengthened his own position. There are more things to worry about.

Key points	Minor points
Harris gives very little support to his claim that we should not worry about there being no more human beings in the future.	Appeal to tradition
His reasoning consists of giving information and explanation followed by opinions.	Appeal to history
Harris assumes that using new technologies is the way forward. He does not provide support for this.	
He ignores the possibility that evolution might produce a species 'better than ourselves' and more suited to life on this planet.	
Harris poses the question of whether or not we should make improvements to human beings and ... human nature. However, he assumes that the answer is 'yes'. He gives examples of technologies which could hypothetically enhance humans, and states that these creatures would no longer be 'human.' This is not sufficient support for the next claim, that 'the end of humanity is not in itself a concern.' He moves from hypothetical but unproven benefits, which are selectively chosen, to the certainty of no concern.	
Straw Person. Harris misrepresents opposition to synthetic biology.	
If synthetic biology works – weak use of hypothetical reasoning.	
Weak analogy.	

Question 24

The most important change for the better that could be made to the human species would be an improved moral sense.

Write your own argument to support or challenge this claim.

	Performance Descriptors
Level 4 14 - 18	Candidates produce cogent, sound and perceptive reasoning focussed on the claim given in the question. Most importantly, candidates' reasoning demonstrates an accomplished argument structure using strands of reasoning with examples, reasons and intermediate conclusions giving strong support to the conclusion. Candidates define complex or ambiguous terms, and may qualify the conclusion in response to this definition. Candidates anticipate and respond effectively to key counter arguments. Language clear, precise and capable of dealing with complexity. Blips rare.
Level 3 10 - 13	Candidates produce effective reasoning to support their conclusion. Most importantly, arguments will have a clear structure, which may be simple and precise or attempt complexity with some blips. Examples, reasons and intermediate conclusions generally support the conclusion well with occasional irrelevance or reliance on dubious assumptions. Candidates may attempt to define complex or ambiguous terms and may anticipate and respond to counter argument. Language clear and developing complexity.
Level 2 6 - 9	Candidates demonstrate the ability to produce basic reasoning with reasons and examples which give some support to their conclusion but may rely on a number of dubious assumptions. Candidates' reasoning has some relevance to the claim given in the question. Clear, straightforward, perhaps simplistic. Occasionally disjointed. Language simple, clear. Candidates may include a counter argument or counter reason, but respond to it ineffectively if at all.
Level 1 1 - 5	Candidates demonstrate limited ability to reason. They tend to give examples instead of reasoning. Disjointed, incoherent. Reasons often do not support conclusion. There may not even be a stated conclusion. Language vague.
0	No creditworthy material.

Candidates will not have time to produce thorough arguments covering all possible strands of reasoning and responding to all counter arguments. We should reward candidates who have demonstrated the ability to argue cogently, coherently and concisely. We are looking for an intelligent, thoughtful, structured response.

Quality of Written Communication

5	Coherent and competent language capable of dealing with nuance and complexity. Technical terms are used accurately and appropriately.
4	Good use of language to communicate critical thinking points. Tends to use technical terms appropriately. May include slightly stilted note form (omitting subject, for example) providing points are made clearly. May be succinct rather than flowery.
3	Basically ok – grammatically sound but not especially fluent or competent. Possibly inclined to use sophisticated vocabulary in a rhetorical way with little regard to meaning. May misuse technical terms occasionally.
2	Plenty of basic mistakes, including in technical terms, but not so serious that it is incomprehensible. Tends to be vague – for example using 'it' without clear reference.
1	Incoherent, disjointed, grammatically weak and incomprehensible.
0	No creditworthy material.

General guidelines for quality of written communication:

We want to credit language which means something, and which is clear, succinct and precise.

We want to credit communication of good thinking.

We do not want to over-reward flowery or waffly language which says very little.

We do not want to penalise candidates for slips of the pen caused by pressure of time.

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