
THINKING SKILLS

9694/23

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2014

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** the questions.

Start each question on a new answer sheet.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

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



1 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

Report

from Eastland Gazette
25 January 2013

According to the Ministry of Defence, satellite observations have revealed that large numbers of Westland troops have taken up positions close to the frontier with Eastland. The Ministry regards this as a provocative action. In response to a protest from the Eastland ambassador, the Westland Government has replied that nothing sinister lies behind the move, which is part of the annual training exercise for reserve troops.

Source B

Report

from Eastland Gazette
30 January 2013

Military sources have announced that three Eastland soldiers stationed near the frontier with Westland have disappeared from their barracks. It is believed that they were kidnapped by a raiding party from Westland. The Foreign Minister has issued a strong note of protest to the Westland Ambassador.

Source C

Report

from Westland News
31 January 2013

Three spies from Eastland have been captured deep within Westland territory. They were carrying cameras and transmitters. The three men appeared on Westland television last night. Speaking through an interpreter, they confessed to their crimes and expressed sorrow at having taken such provocative actions against the peace-loving Westland nation. Equipment suitable for spying, which had been captured with the men, was on display. The Minister of Defence has stated that under international law the penalty for spying is death.

Source D

Report

from Red Cross observer in Westland
2 February 2013

After repeated requests, the Westland authorities allowed us to interview the three alleged Eastland spies who were being held in detention after being captured. The conditions of their detention were fully in accordance with international conventions for the treatment of prisoners of war. The prisoners told us that they had been treated humanely. They denied being spies, but claimed that they had accidentally strayed into Westland territory while on a training exercise.

Source E**Report**

from Eastland Gazette
4 February 2013

Following intensive diplomatic efforts, the three kidnapped Eastland soldiers have been released and welcomed home by their worried families. At a press conference, the three men said they had been forced to appear on Westland television, but they had not made any confession. They did not know how accurately their statements had been translated. The spying equipment which they were accused of carrying had been supplied by Westland soldiers. A statement from the Eastland government has again claimed that the soldiers were kidnapped from their barracks by Westland commandos in order to heighten tensions between the two nations. They described the raid as a flagrant and provocative breach of Eastland's sovereignty.

- (a) Suggest **two** ways in which Source A could be relevant in deciding whether the three Eastland soldiers were guilty of spying in Westland territory. [4]
- (b) How reliable is Source B in deciding whether the Eastland soldiers were spies? [2]
- (c) How useful is the evidence in Source D in deciding whether the soldiers were spying? [3]
- (d) Do you think the Eastland soldiers were guilty of spying? 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

Advertising leaflet

The Dangers of Drinking Coffee

Why would you drink something that is so hot that if you stuck your finger in it, it would cause a painful burn? If it burns your finger, what do you think it does to your tissues and cells throughout your body? Hot beverages destroy your cells, i.e. cancer!

Coffee contains the stimulant caffeine. Caffeine is a central nervous system stimulant that is followed by a depressed phase resulting in exhaustion, nervousness, irritability, fatigue, and often headache. Caffeine constricts blood vessels of the brain and causes decreased flow of blood, which cuts the oxygen supply to the brain, resulting in gradual brain damage. It also increases your heartbeat 15% and makes your lungs work 13 times harder than normal. It greatly plays a role in fatigue as well.

The volatile oil in caffeine called caffeol is an irritant to the lining of the stomach and causes poor digestion. Another chemical in this liquid drug is caffee-tannic acid. This chemical is used in tanning leather. It is an irritating astringent to the cells lining the stomach and intestines and also destroys the pepsin in the gastric (stomach) juice needed to digest protein.

A great alternative to drinking coffee is our herbal drink, made of roasted carob, barley, chicory root, figs, dates, orange peel and almonds. It is very delicious and tastes just like coffee if not better.

Source B

Illustration

from magazine article

The Health Benefits of Drinking Coffee

Cups of coffee per day



Reduced risk of advanced prostate cancer
50 000 men (20 years)



Reduced risk of Alzheimer's Disease by 65%
1400 middle-aged Finns



Reduced risk of stroke by 43%
83 000 nurses who had never smoked



Reduced risk of gallstones by 20%
127 000 health professionals



Reduced risk of suicide by 60%
86 000 women (10 years)



Reduced risk of Type 2 diabetes by 7%
Review of 18 studies

Sources: Information taken from professional medical journals. All comparisons are with those who drink no coffee.

Source C**News report****Coffee link in depression research**

Drinking several cups of coffee a day could help to prevent depression in women, a study has shown. Four or more cups of caffeinated coffee cut the risk of clinical depression by 20% when compared with drinking one cup per week or less.

The US researchers say they cannot be sure of a causal link between coffee consumption and avoiding depression. However, they adjusted the results to take account of a multitude of other risk factors, such as medical conditions, marital status, smoking and activity levels.

They also found no similar association with decaffeinated coffee or other sources of caffeine, including soft drinks, tea and chocolate.

The research involved 50 739 women who participated in the Nurses' Health Study, a major US investigation exploring links between health and lifestyle. None of the women, who had an average age of 63, had depression at the start of the 10-year study.

Source D**Background information**

The Nurses' Health Study, established in 1976, and the Nurses' Health Study II, established in 1989, are the most definitive long-term investigations into risk factors for major chronic diseases in women ever conducted. The study has followed 121 700 female registered nurses in the United States since the mid-1970s to assess risk factors for cancer and cardiovascular disease. Assessments of other factors, including diet and aspirin use, have subsequently been added to the original study.

- (a) Suggest **two** reasons why Source B is more reliable than Source A. [3]
- (b) Is Source C an argument? Briefly explain your answer. [2]
- (c) Suggest **two** ways in which the sample used for the research in Source C might not be representative. Briefly explain the significance of your answers. [4]
- (d) 'Everyone should drink more coffee for the sake of their health.'

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

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

- 1 Who would you prefer as your teacher? Someone who just managed to pass a degree examination thirty years ago and has never opened a book since, or someone who is fascinated by his subject and has read widely in it, but left university without taking a degree because the teaching and the course were boring? This shows that possession of a university degree is no guarantee that someone will be a good teacher.
 - 2 The rapid changes in knowledge mean that a university education quickly becomes out of date. The only way a degree could be a reliable indication of competence in a subject would be if degrees had a time limit built in to them and needed to be updated every five years in order to remain valid. Under the present system, they mean nothing.
 - 3 In addition, experts are often bad teachers, because they think that their task is to pass on their knowledge to their students. That approach to education belongs firmly in the past. Education is about learning, not teaching, and the knowledge required to pass an exam is more reliably available from textbooks specially written for the exam and from the Internet than from the memory of the teacher.
 - 4 Some people may suggest that teachers need paper qualifications in order to show that they have been taught how to teach, but any teacher knows that is not true. If you can teach, you don't need anyone to show you how to do it, and if you cannot, then no amount of guidance or instruction will turn you into an effective teacher.
 - 5 The only qualification required to be a teacher should, therefore, be the ability to enable students to pass their exams. Such a change would be consistent with current trends, since most employers now want recruits to have relevant skills rather than academic qualifications.
- (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 used to 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) 'Gaining qualifications is the main purpose of education.'

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]

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Question 2 Source C © <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15059266>.

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