

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2015 series

9694 THINKING SKILLS

9694/22

Paper 2 (Critical Thinking), maximum raw mark 45

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Page 2	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

- 1 (a) How relevant is the information in Source A in assessing the motives of the hotel owner in the advice he gave to the walkers? [4]

It suggests a general background where hotel owners might be desperate to retain guests [1]. However, these guests will probably have already paid [1] and the Hotel Splendide may be one of the hotels that is offering a range of 'in-house' attractions. [1]. However, the hotel owner may still lose revenue if the guests leave [1] as they will not be buying drinks etc [1] and, if the guests are thinking of leaving, then it suggests either the Hotel Splendide hasn't got 'in-house' attractions [1] or, if they do, they are not sufficiently attractive to retain the guests [1] – but there is no evidence that he was aware that they were thinking of cutting their holiday short [1].

- (b) How reliable is the report in Source B? [2]

It is a local paper which could suggest bias/vested interest to support local businesses [1]. However, it reports the facts neutrally with no obvious bias [1]. Indeed the last sentence seems to show sympathy with the walkers' position [1]. It is therefore reliable [1]. Good local knowledge increases reliability [1].

- (c) How significant is the statement on the walker's degree of experience in the last sentence in Source E? [3]

It confirms the statements in Sources B and C that they were experienced winter walkers [1]. However, the final part of the sentence suggests that this might not have involved experience of avalanche risk as such [1] as the walker says 'not as much snow as they have here' [1]. This would mean that they lacked relevant experience to assess the avalanche risk for themselves [1]. Moreover, the evidence in Source D suggests winter walking experience doesn't help very much in actually avoiding avalanches once one is walking in these conditions [1].

Page 3	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

(d) To what extent was the hotel owner to blame for the walkers being injured in the avalanche?

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

Possible conclusions:

- The hotel owner is to blame for giving poor advice motivated by a desire to downplay problems in resort
- Walkers to blame for not researching the risks etc. sufficiently
- No one to blame because of the inherent risks of winter mountain walking

The hotel owner seems to have a motive for downplaying the risk in order to retain/please his guests. He admits in the interview that there was an avalanche risk. His point that the paths would have been closed if the risk was serious leaves open the possibility that the risk was rather more than 'slight'. On the other hand, he has little to gain from guests being injured in an avalanche which suggests he genuinely thought the risk was slight. Also, his hotel may have been one of the larger ones with 'in-house' attractions – we have no evidence that he knew that his guests were thinking of leaving. It is not his responsibility to assess how relevant the walkers' winter walking experience is to the specific risk of avalanche. They are ultimately responsible for assessing this for themselves. It is also up to them to find out information from the local tourist office or more specialist sources and not just rely on the opinion of the hotel owner. The evidence of the mountain guide would suggest that a little research would reveal that avalanche risk is considered acceptable/inevitable and even 'adds spice' to walking in these conditions. Whilst the walker in Source E states that the hotel owner said it would be O.K., he does not actually attach any blame to the hotel owner. So, it would appear that either the walkers had done some research and were aware of the risks or had, rather foolhardily, gone walking in these conditions without researching the risks thoroughly.

Page 4	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

- 2 (a) **“This shows that a country does not have to be sunny in order to produce solar power effectively” (Source C). How reliably can this conclusion be drawn?** [3]

Whilst it is a reasonable assumption that Germany has expanded solar power to this extent because it is effective, [1] this is not necessarily so [1]. Germany may be favouring solar power for political/ideological reasons [1] or solar power may be the least bad option for renewable energy [1]. This does not necessarily mean that it is very effective [1]. There is also an assumption that a country with many cloudy days cannot also be sunny [1].

- (b) **“Some of the energy they generate will be lost as it flows through hundreds of kilometres of transmission lines” (Source D). How effective is this statement as an objection to solar energy production?** [3]

Not effective [1]. This is probably a problem with any form of power generation [1], unless it can be shown that transmission lines are shorter in other forms of power production [1]. This seems unlikely [1]. It is not a relevant objection to local/home-based solar power generation [1].

- (c) **“Countries with a lot of sun will inevitably choose solar power as their main source of energy supply in the future.” Suggest three factors about such a country that, if true, would undermine this claim.** [3]

- Some sunny countries have abundant supplies of cheaper sources of energy.
- Some sunny countries are too poor to develop solar energy.
- Some sunny countries may have powerful vested interests (especially other energy suppliers) which successfully oppose solar power.
- Some sunny countries may have temperatures that are too hot for solar panels to operate effectively.
- Less efficient forms of energy will continue because they provide more employment in some sunny countries.
- Solar power may require resources (e.g. water) which sunny countries may lack

Credit other plausible answers.

Page 5	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

(d) ‘Solar energy will be an important source of renewable energy in the future.’

How justified is this statement? 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

- A number of counter arguments to objections to solar power are raised in the sources e.g. it is suggested that solar can operate in cloudy conditions and that the price is going down.
- However, the efficiency of solar energy in cloudy conditions seems limited and there remains the problem of the intermittency and unpredictability of sunlight in many parts of the world.
- As regards the arguments in Source C about declining costs, many factors could see a reversal of this decline in costs such as shortage of materials/scarcity due to demand for solar power.
- There is an assumption that declining costs are a sufficient condition for the expansion of solar power.
- The evidence in Source C relies on the assumption that efficiency is the major driver of the adoption of solar power in Germany
- In Source D, a number of disadvantages are pointed out including the possibility of damage to natural systems that combat global warming.
- However, most of these objections only apply to large solar schemes.
- The point about the dissipation of energy clearly applies to other renewable energy sources.
- Given the likelihood of global warming continuing in spite of efforts to prevent it, the last point in Source D could be a key problem with any form of solar power.
- We would need to know more about other sources of renewable energy in order to assess the relative worth of solar.

Page 6	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

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

2 marks: (So) you should reject the doubts that doctors have about these medicines.

1 mark: So you should reject the doubts that doctors have about these medicines – this is just professional arrogance.

- (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:

- It is hypocritical of doctors to criticise cough medicines;
- Buying cough medicine makes economic sense.
- This must mean that people are happy to pay for cough medicines and that they think they are good value.
- Anybody taking these medicines can be assured that they will come to no harm as a result.
- this is just professional arrogance.

Page 7	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

- (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

- Tu quoque – this bad thing does not excuse the supposed limitations of cough medicine
- Irrelevance – harmful side effects are not relevant to the issue of how effective a cure a medicine is.
- Conflation of buying cough medicines over the counter with prescribing medicines.

Paragraph 2

- It is not hypocritical to condemn a bad example of a practice that one actually follows. This would be like criticising somebody as hypocritical for driving when some drivers were bad drivers. The cream cake analogy doesn't work – this would be like indulging in a bad driving practice and then condemning people who did the same thing.

Paragraph 3

- We have no way of judging this figure relative to income etc.
- It might be expensive in other countries.
- We need to know the frequency of purchase/how many bottles one needs.
- The cost of lost work hours is not necessarily a cost to the individual employee.
- Begging the question – the whole issue is whether they actually get rid of a cough.
- The price of cough medicine is irrelevant to the question of how effective it is.

Paragraph 4

- Irrelevant appeal to popularity.
- Reliance on one country.
- Assumption that the quantity of sales relates to customer satisfaction.
- Assumption that purchasing something indicates one thinks it is good value.
- Assumption popularity related to medical effectiveness.

Paragraph 5

- Irrelevant point. The doctors' objection to cough medicines is that they are ineffective, not that they are harmful.
- Inconsistency – in para 1 the author makes the point that the medicines prescribed by doctors are harmful in spite of having been tested but then tries to reassure people that cough medicines are OK because they have been tested.
- Ad hominem in reference to "professional arrogance".

Page 8	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge International AS/A Level – May/June 2015	9694	22

(d) 'People should not be able to purchase medicines on the internet.'

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.
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Specimen level 3 answers

Support (70 words)

It is extremely dangerous to purchase medicines over the internet. One does not know if they are genuine and produced according to international safety standards. It is important that a doctor monitors any medical treatment one is having. There have been many cases where people have harmed themselves by taking medicines that they have acquired in this way. Therefore, people should not be able to purchase medicines on the internet.

Challenge (74 words)

There are many reputable companies that offer well-known branded drugs on the internet at a cheaper price than in a shop. It is perfectly safe to acquire such medicines as they would be extremely difficult to fake. A total ban on purchasing medicines on the internet is too extreme and an interference with the individual's right to take advantage of a free market. Therefore people should be able to purchase medicines on the internet.