



# **Cambridge International AS & A Level**

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## **THINKING SKILLS**

**9694/41**

Paper 4 Applied Reasoning

**May/June 2023**

**1 hour 45 minutes**



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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### **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 [ ].

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

Questions 1 and 2 refer to Document 1.

- 1 (a) State the main conclusion of the argument. [1]
- (b) Identify **two** intermediate conclusions in paragraphs 2 to 3. [2]
- (c) Analyse the structure of the reasoning in paragraph 4. [5]
- 2 (a) Identify and explain **three** flaws and/or weaknesses in the reasoning in paragraphs 2 to 4. [6]
- (b) Assess the extent to which paragraph 6 supports the argument as a whole. [3]
- 3 Document 5 contains some statistical information.
- (a) Give **four** reasons why the support given by the graph in Document 5A to the claim that 'Greta Thunberg has persuaded people to fly less' is weak. [4]
- (b) Give **two** reasons why the support given by the table in Document 5B to the claim that 'US adults trust teenagers on climate change more than church leaders or politicians' is weak. [2]
- 4 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*  
'Teenage political activism is a force for good.'
- Construct a reasoned argument to support **or** challenge this claim. In your answer you should make critical use of the documents provided. [27]

## DOCUMENT 1

- 1 Since Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg began skipping school and protesting against so-called climate change, millions of feckless teenagers around the world have imitated her. *Time* magazine even named her ‘Person of the Year’ in 2019. Should we see Thunberg’s behaviour as a harmless letting off of teenage steam, or is it something more serious that could influence people? Being cited in a magazine comes with no official authority, but the award does encourage the idea that Thunberg is someone whose opinion should be taken seriously. However, the public adulation of this teenager is dangerous.
- 2 The opinions of young people should not determine government policy. Traditionally, the media ignored the views of children, but now too much weight is given to the opinions of a small group of young activists, particularly when they protest about trendy issues, like climate change. Those who shout loudest do not generally have special insights or strong knowledge about public policy. In fact, as a general rule, the young know less about such issues than other age groups. In any case, teenagers make up only 16% of the world’s population and we should not base decisions about government policy on the view of a small minority.
- 3 Teenagers are particularly unqualified to comment on politics. They have not had enough education or life experience to form a valid opinion on most issues. 16-year-olds have had, at most, 12 years of formal education but most of that has probably been spent playing with their mobile phones. They are also notoriously ‘hormonal and angry’, which impairs their ability to make rational decisions. So the fact that large numbers of young people support a political cause adds little, if anything, to its merits.
- 4 Greta herself is a very unusual teenager. She describes herself as a ‘16-year-old climate activist with Asperger’s'; she also frequently refers to herself as a ‘child’, which is the last thing most 16-year-olds would do. So it is probable that her views don’t even represent the majority of teenagers.
- 5 The radical approach of Thunberg and those like her undermines democracy. Public policy should not be decided by who is most popular, let alone who is the most popular teenager. It should be decided by elected representatives chosen by informed adults on the basis of their policies, expertise and reputation.
- 6 Finally, Greta Thunberg preaches an unrealistic message of doom and gloom. She imagines devastating consequences if we continue to use fossil fuels at the present rate. However, we can dismiss her views on the basis that she is never explicit about the alternatives. If civilization is left in the hands of Thunberg’s supporters, we will soon be back in the Stone Age, living in caves, fighting to find food and being under constant threat of attack by wild animals.

## DOCUMENT 2

### Respected broadcaster praises Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg yesterday had a video call with Sir David Attenborough. During the call, the 93-year-old naturalist and broadcaster told the teenager her climate change protests were having an ‘astonishing’ impact and that she had ‘woken up the world’ to climate change.

Somewhat bizarrely, the video call was first broadcast on the radio. BBC Radio 4 invited the Swedish schoolgirl to edit *Today*, its weighty morning news and current affairs programme, that has a history of inviting prominent people to guest-edit the show. Speaking to Greta during the *Today* programme, Sir David praised her for waking up the world by delivering ‘a very powerful message’ and told her, ‘You have made it an argument that people have not been able to dodge. We don’t want to spend our time marching through the streets, but we have to. People of my generation should be very grateful to you.’

The respected film maker, who was on the show to promote his opposition to a house-building project on an ecologically important area of peat bog, said it was depressing when governments in some countries took no notice of what needed to be done, and continued: ‘It needs a real electric shock – such as you have produced socially – to bring them to their senses, and let’s hope that shock will go on.’ He added that no one had taken the slightest notice twenty years ago, when he stressed the need for changes to our daily lives to halt global warming.

The 16-year-old thanked Sir David for his documentaries about the natural world, which she said had ‘opened her eyes’ to what was happening in the environment. She went on to say that certain world leaders, some of whom had attacked her personally on social media, ought to watch some of his programmes themselves.

Research suggests that Greta is not alone in being concerned about the climate crisis. A recent survey showed that 61% of US adults born after 1981 supported climate change activists, and the figure for those born before 1981 was 49%.

**DOCUMENT 3****Newspaper article**

19-year-old Naomi Seibt styles herself as a ‘climate realist’ and has been hailed by some as their answer to Greta Thunberg.

The ‘darling of climate change deniers’ recently spoke in the US at the annual meeting of the high profile Conservative Political Action Conference, albeit at a small side meeting. She has been called a young, fresh voice for free markets and climate realism, primarily for questioning the scientific consensus on climate change. Seibt has said, ‘Climate change science really is not science at all,’ and that the goal of climate scientists is to shame humanity. Meanwhile, she has highlighted the many ‘benefits we have achieved by using fossil fuels as our main energy source.’

The teenager has been hired by a US thinktank known for pushing radical alternative theories about climate change, which has been criticised for sending up to a million ‘educational’ pamphlets that promoted false ideas about global warming to schools across the country. In the past the thinktank was financed by fossil fuel companies but is now considered so extreme in Washington that many US oil companies have refused to continue funding. A spokesman for an organisation that investigates climate-denying groups said, ‘They are trying to ride Greta’s bandwagon, but this person is not going to win hearts and minds the way she has’. The thinktank did not respond to this paper’s request for comment.

The German teenager has been criticised in the past because some of her comments have been interpreted as supporting the views of political extremists.

## DOCUMENT 4

### Teens trying to change the world

When asked to list words that describe teenagers, many of us would reach for words like ‘apathetic’ and ‘self-centred’. Indeed, teenagers above the legal voting age in most countries are notoriously unlikely to vote in elections compared to their more senior compatriots. But some remarkable individuals have demonstrated that teenagers are actually deeply concerned about social, political and environmental issues – and they’re ready to do something about it!

#### Greta Thunberg

In 2018, this teen activist from Sweden staged her first, solitary, protest on the steps of the Swedish parliament building. She later translated this into the school strike movement that more than a million students have joined, walking out of their classrooms to protest against climate change inaction. Greta has become a leading voice for climate change activism.

*Quotable quotes:* ‘Since our leaders are behaving like children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago,’ and ‘We have to understand what a mess the older generation have created that we have to clean up and live with. We have to make our voices heard.’

#### Malala Yousafzai

From the age of 11, Malala was speaking out publicly about the need for girls to have proper access to education, having written and published a diary about her life in an area of Pakistan controlled by the Taliban. In retaliation for her activism, she was shot in the head by a gunman on a school bus.

She recovered and, since then, her profile has risen. She appeared on the front cover of *Time* magazine and in 2014 became the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

*Quotable quote:* ‘This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change. I am here to stand up for their rights, to raise their voice.’

#### Ziad Ahmed

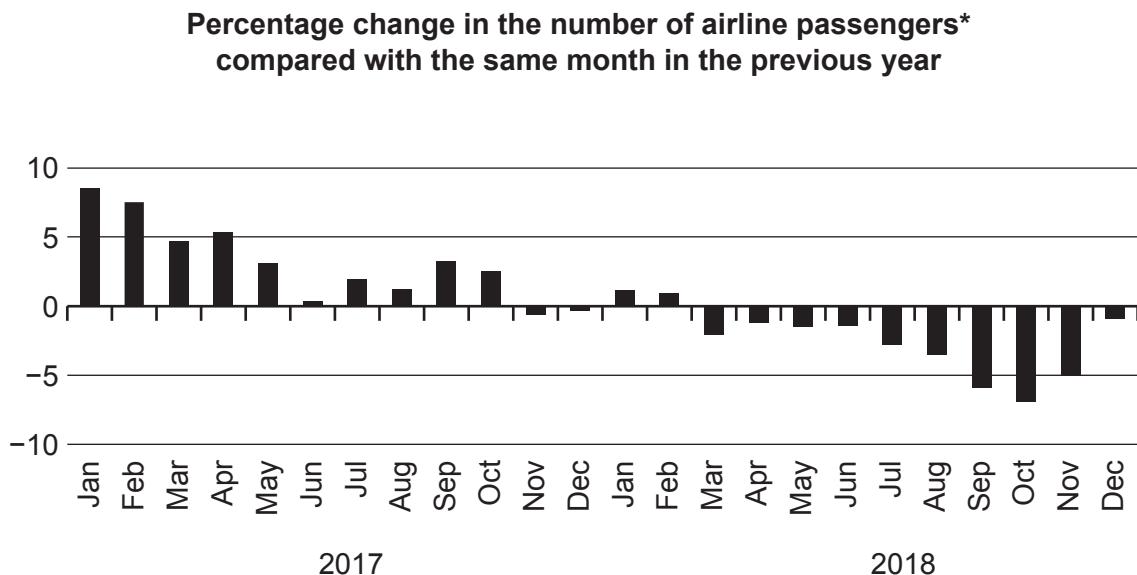
In response to a perceived increase in Islamophobia, US teenager Ziad founded ReDefy in 2013 – a for-teenagers, by-teenagers, non-profit organisation that focuses on breaking down stereotypes. In 2016, while still only 16, he set up his own ‘generation Z’ consultancy company with a mission to bridge the gap between brand managers and the young people they target.

Ziad has been invited to meet many high-profile political leaders and has received awards and recognition around the world. He has also delivered several TEDx Talks that examine the way society views and makes generalisations about certain groups of people, with a particular focus on the stereotypes people make about teenagers.

*Quotable quote:* ‘I am many things, but I am an unapologetic progressive activist first and foremost.’

## DOCUMENT 5A

The graph below shows that Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg has persuaded people to fly less.



\* at Sweden's 10 busiest airports

## DOCUMENT 5B

**US adults trust teenagers on climate change more than church leaders or politicians**

Activist	Percentage who trust each activist for information about global warming
Bill Nye <sup>1</sup>	76
Greta Thunberg <sup>2</sup>	67
Pope Francis <sup>3</sup>	64
Leonardo Di Caprio <sup>4</sup>	58
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez <sup>5</sup>	51

<sup>1</sup> Veteran science broadcaster

<sup>2</sup> Teenage climate change activist

<sup>3</sup> Leader of the Roman Catholic Church, who has urged governments to combat climate change

<sup>4</sup> Hollywood actor who takes an interest in conservation issues

<sup>5</sup> US politician known for speaking on issues surrounding climate change

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