

Cambridge International AS & A Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/04

Paper 4 Applied Reasoning

For examination from 2028

SPECIMEN PAPER

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.

Questions 1, 2 and 3 refer to specific documents. You should study those documents carefully to answer those questions. You do not need to study the other documents in as much detail, but you should read them to find material to use in your answer to Question 4.

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 by identifying the **argument elements** and explaining their function. [5]
- (d) Identify **one unstated assumption** in paragraph 5 upon which the reasoning relies. [2]
- 2** (a) Identify and explain **three fallacies** and/or **weaknesses** in the reasoning in paragraphs 2 to 3. [6]
- (b) Explain the **inconsistency** between paragraphs 3 and 4. [2]
- (c) Identify and explain the **counter-attack (tu quoque)** fallacy in paragraph 5. [2]
- 3** Question 3 refers to Document 5.
- (a) The graph given in Document 5A is intended to support the claim that 'Greta Thunberg has persuaded people to fly less'.
Suggest **three** reasons why the support given by the graph is weak. [3]
- (b) The table given in Document 5B is intended to support the claim that 'US adults trust teenagers on climate change more than they trust church leaders or politicians'.
Suggest **three** reasons why the support given by the table is weak. [3]
- 4** 'Teenage political activism is a force for good.'
- Construct a reasoned argument to support **or** challenge this claim.
Your argument should:
- have a clear structure and make use of various argument elements
 - use and evaluate evidence from Documents 1 to 5
 - respond to significant counter-positions.
- [24]

Document 1

- 1 Since Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg began skipping school to protest against climate change, millions of other teenagers around the world have imitated her. *Time* magazine even named her ‘Person of the Year’ in 2019. Is Thunberg’s behaviour a harmless release of teenage emotion, or could it have more serious consequences? 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 misguided and 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 people, particularly when they protest about fashionable issues, such as climate change. Those who shout loudest are not generally the most knowledgeable about public policy. In fact, the young usually know less about such issues than other age groups. Anyway, 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 especially unqualified to comment on politics. They have not had enough education or experience to form valid opinions on most issues. Sixteen-year-olds have had, at most, 12 years of formal education, much of which will have been spent playing on their phones. In addition, their hormones make them angry about a lot of things. So the fact that large numbers of young people support a political cause adds little to its merits.
- 4 Greta herself is a very unusual teenager. She frequently refers to herself as a ‘child’. This is something most 16-year-olds would never do. So it is probable that her views do not even represent the majority of teenagers.
- 5 It is somewhat ironic that, for this teenager to make her views heard around the world, she has crossed the Atlantic more than once. Most of us would be reluctant to reduce our air miles because a transatlantic flyer has told us it is necessary to do so. So there is no need for us to drastically reduce our use of air travel.
- 6 Finally, Greta Thunberg preaches an unrealistic message of doom. She imagines devastating consequences if fossil fuel use is not drastically reduced, but she is never explicit about the alternatives, any of which could have serious negative economic consequences.

Document 2

Newspaper report from 2019

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

Surprisingly, the video call was first broadcast on the radio. BBC Radio 4 invited the Swedish schoolgirl to edit *Today*, its influential morning news and current affairs programme, which 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 to climate change 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 was on the show to promote his opposition to a house-building project on an ecologically important area of land. He said it was depressing when governments in some countries took no notice of what needed to be done. He 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 20 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**Magazine article from 2019**

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. Naomi 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’.

Naomi has been hired by a US think tank known for pushing radical alternative theories about climate change. The think tank 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 think tank 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 Naomi is not going to win hearts and minds the way Greta has.’ The think tank did not respond to this paper’s request for comment.

Naomi 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 might reach for words like ‘apathetic’ and ‘self-centred’. In most countries, teenagers above the legal voting age 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 joined, walking out of their classrooms to protest against climate change inaction. Greta has become a leading voice for climate change activism.

Memorable 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 the US magazine *Time*, and in 2014 she became the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Memorable 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

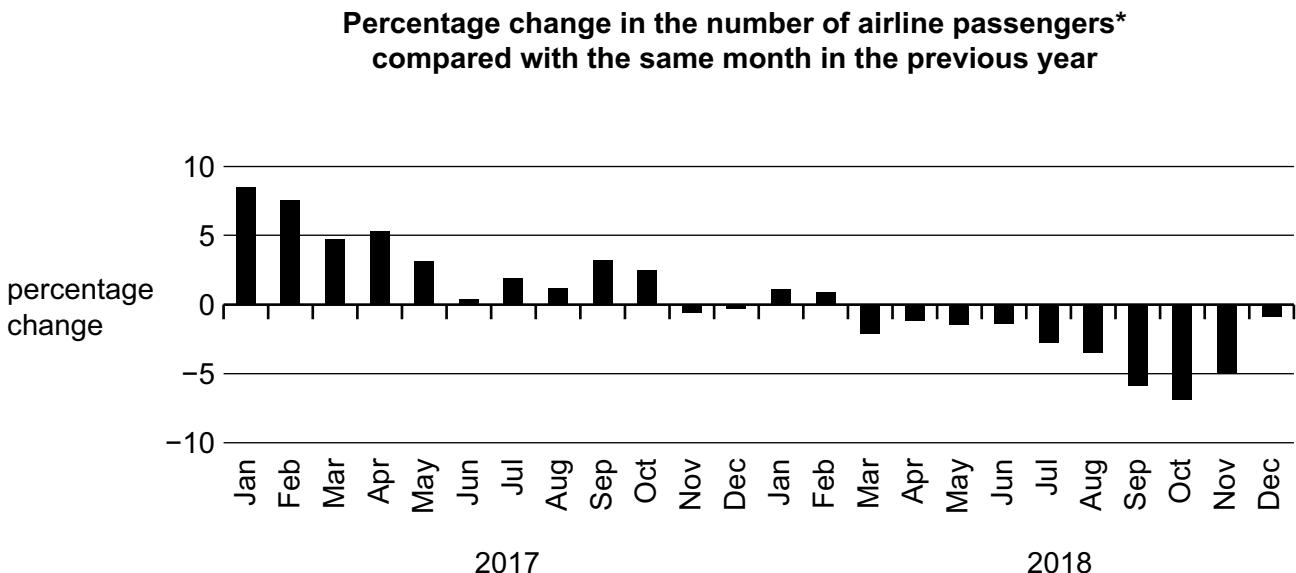
In response to a perceived increase in Islamophobia, US teenager Ziad founded ReDefy in 2013 – a for-teenagers, by-teenagers, non-profit organisation that focuses on breaking down stereotypes. In 2016, while still only 16, he set up his own ‘Gen Z’ consultancy company with a mission to bridge the gap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

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

Document 5A

The graph 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 they trust church leaders or politicians

activist	percentage who trust each activist for information about global warming*
Bill Nye ¹	76
Greta Thunberg ²	67
Pope Francis ³	64
Leonardo DiCaprio ⁴	58
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ⁵	51

¹Veteran science broadcaster

²Young climate change activist

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

⁴Hollywood actor who takes an interest in conservation issues

⁵US politician known for speaking on issues surrounding climate change

*survey conducted in 2018

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Copyright acknowledgements

Document 3	© Stephanie Kirchgaessner, Emily Holden; <i>Naomi Seibt: 'anti-Greta' activist called white nationalist an inspiration</i> ; 28 February 2020; Guardian News & Media Ltd 2025
Document 5A	© <i>The Greta effect</i> ; The Economist Group Limited, London 19 August 2019.

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