

Cambridge International AS & A Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/02

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

For examination from 2028

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 45 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)
Insert (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 [].
- The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Study the Section A evidence in the insert and then answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

- 1 (a) Is Source A an argument? Justify your answer. [2]
- (b) Source A regards planned obsolescence as a good thing, whereas Source B takes a more negative attitude towards it.
- Explain how the different perspectives of these sources have caused these different attitudes. [2]
- (c) Source B states that 'Domestic appliances such as washing machines often develop faults much sooner than they used to.'
- This may be to encourage consumers to buy new products more frequently. Suggest **one** alternative explanation for this phenomenon. [2]
- (d) Explain **three** ways in which the reliability of Source C is affected by **vested interest**. [3]
- (e) How significant is Source C in relation to the claim that manufacturers of electronic communication products use planned obsolescence to exploit their customers? [3]
- (f) Suggest **two** reasons why the law case reported in Source D may **not** deter manufacturers of electronic communication products from incorporating planned obsolescence in their products. [2]
- 2 'Legal restrictions should be placed on planned obsolescence.'
- To what extent do you agree with this claim?
Write a reasoned explanation to support your opinion.
Your answer should use and evaluate evidence from the sources provided. [8]

Section B

Read the Section B passage in the insert and then answer **Question 3** and **Question 4**.

3 (a) State the **main conclusion** of the argument. [2]

(b) State the **intermediate conclusion** in paragraph 5. [2]

(c) Analyse the structure of the reasoning in paragraph 3 by identifying the **argument elements**. [4]

(d) The passage contains this piece of reasoning:

Some actions cause offence because they go against generally accepted standards of behaviour. Everyone should follow these standards.

This piece of reasoning relies on an assumption which is **not** stated in the passage. Identify this **unstated assumption**. [2]

4 (a) Identify and explain **two fallacies** or **weaknesses** in paragraph 1. [4]

(b) Identify and evaluate the **analogy** in paragraph 2. [3]

(c) Identify and evaluate an **appeal** in paragraph 3. [3]

5 Write a short argument to support **or** challenge **one** of the following claims:

- In today's world it is difficult to know when adulthood begins.
- Dangerous sports should be banned.
- It is always wrong to tell lies in personal relationships.

Your argument should have a clear structure and make use of various argument elements. You must state the conclusion of your argument.

[8]

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