

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2013 series

9694 THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 (Critical Thinking), maximum raw mark 45

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

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1 (a) How reliable is the evidence from Mr Duncan Dresden (Source C)? [3]

Unreliable [1], because he has a strong vested interest to deny that he had advised his client to commit theft [1] because of the professional implications for him [1].

Reliable [1], plausible, because a solicitor is unlikely to have advised Brain to break the law when he has little to gain and his reputation to lose [1].

(b) How useful is the evidence given by Emily Brain (Source D)? [3]

(Very) useful [1]. It is almost certain that if Uncle Alf really had given any items to his nephew, she would have known. Her evidence is very reliable [1], because she does not lie in order to support her husband [1] **despite** having a strong vested interest to do so [1]. Conversely, she is unlikely to lie in order to make him appear guilty [1].

The fact that Barry expected to benefit from his aunt's will provides a plausible motive for taking some items [1].

The fact that her statement is so unsupportive suggests there may be some discord between them, or that Emily has an ulterior motive [1], making her statement less useful [1].

1 mark for any valid inference from the content of Emily's evidence.

(c) How useful would a statement from Mr Barry Brain be in helping to establish whether he stole items from his aunt's house? [3]

Not very useful [1], because he would be almost certain to deny it, whether guilty or not [1], and it would be impossible to prove whether he was telling the truth or lying about having been given the items by his uncle [1]. His evidence would be of some minor significance [1], inasmuch as it would confirm (or conceivably call into question) the evidence given in the other sources [1].

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- (d) Do you think Barry Brain stole items from his aunt's house? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and with consideration of any plausible alternative scenarios. [6]

Level 3 5–6 marks	A strong answer, which provides a reasoned argument including thorough evaluation of the evidence to support an acceptable conclusion in terms of probability and evaluates the plausibility of at least one different possible course of events.
Level 2 3–4 marks	A reasonable answer, which evaluates the evidence, draws an acceptable conclusion and may mention the plausibility of at least one different course of events.
Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which refers to 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

It is highly likely, although not certain, that Mr Brain did steal items from his aunt's house. Some might argue that he had some moral entitlement to do so, having being treated somewhat shabbily in her will. Although it is possible that his uncle really had given him these items (or some of them), the fact that his wife says she knew nothing about such gifts (Source D) counts strongly against the claim. Even if Uncle Alf had given him the items, the gifts were probably invalid because he was not of sound mind at the time. Although it is quite plausible that his solicitor really did advise him to remove some items from the house, he will not admit it and it cannot be proved; in any case, he cannot blame the adviser for his own illegal acts.

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- 2 (a) Sources A and B assume that a rise in the number of prescriptions of anti-depressant drugs indicates an increase in the number of patients with depression. Suggest two alternative explanations of your own for the rise in the number of prescriptions. [4]

For each of 2 answers:

2 marks for a clear statement of a valid alternative explanation.

1 mark for a vague or marginal alternative explanation.

Indicative Content

- Doctors may have become more likely to diagnose depression.
- Doctors may have become more inclined to treat depression by medication rather than some other treatment.
- Doctors may have discovered that longer courses of medication give better outcomes.
- Anti-depressant drugs may have become more affordable.
- Anti-depressant drugs may have become less clinically effective with long-term use.
- Some patients who have been cured of their depression may have become addicted to the medication.
- Patients may be more inclined to seek medical help for depression.
- Anti-depressant drugs may have begun to be used to treat (an)other condition(s).

- (b) Source A claims that economic prosperity causes depression, while Source B claims that economic hardship has the same effect. Do these claims contradict one another? Briefly explain your answer. [3]

No, these claims do not contradict one another [1]. Prosperity can cause stress because of pressure of work, competitiveness and/or the fear of losing what one has [1], whereas under conditions of hardship, people fear being unable to pay their bills or meet their basic needs [1]. Both are departures from moderation/the norm [1]. The explanations in Sources A and B do not claim to be the **only** causes [1].

- (c) How are the facts reported in Source C likely to affect the amount of anti-depressant medication sold? [2]

In the long term, the use of CBT will reduce the amount of medication prescribed and sold [1], but in the short term the lack of counsellors is likely to increase/not to increase the use of anti-depressant medication [1].

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(d) 'Economic factors are a major cause of depression.'

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

Level 3 5–6 marks	A strong, reasoned argument, which uses and evaluates all or most of the evidence provided.
Level 2 3–4 marks	A reasonable, simple argument, which uses and/or evaluates evidence.
Level 1 1–2 marks	A weak answer, which makes some reference to evidence but consists of opinion and/or assertion rather than argument or an argument that makes no reference to evidence.
Level 0 0 marks	No credit-worthy material.

Indicative Content

The claim is plausible, for roughly the reasons stated in the indicative content for question (b), but the sources do not give much evidence to support it. As the answer to question (a) indicates, it is not certain that there was a rise in the occurrence of depression during the boom years or during the recession at all, and even if there was, the data in Source D are consistent with a general rise over time, unconnected with the economic situation.

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

2 marks: The advice that you should never believe what you read in the newspapers is more true today than it has ever been.

1 mark: You should never believe what you read in the newspapers.

- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify three reasons used to support the main conclusion. [3]**

1 mark each for the following, to a maximum of 3 marks:

- (So) (naturally) their reports show political bias.
- The threat to withdraw advertising, (therefore,) gives commercial companies the power to influence the editorial policy.
- Readers need to realise that what they think are news reports are often disguised attempts to influence their political views or buying habits.
- The main motive behind most news stories is to put politicians under an obligation.

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- (c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]

Level 3 4–5 marks	Evaluation of strength of argument with critical reference to strength/weakness, including some of: flaws, support given by reasons to intermediate conclusions, use of evidence, inconsistency, analogies, assumptions.
Level 2 2–3 marks	Single point of evaluation only (2 or 3 marks). Relevant extended counter-argument / Specific counter-assertions/agreements (2 marks).
Level 1 1 mark	General counter/agreement. Single specific counter/agreement. Weak attempt at a valid point of evaluation.
Level 0 0 marks	Invalid points of evaluation only. Discussion of the topic without specific reference to the passage. Summary/paraphrase of the passage. No relevant comments.

Indicative Content

- The slogan contained in the MC is overstated.
- The precise MC is inadequately supported, because there is no evidence concerning the past.
- Para 3 overstates its case. Very few potential news stories consist of reports that products being advertised in the paper are “useless, dangerous or over-priced.”
- Para 3 assumes that newspapers have no source of revenue apart from sales and advertising.
- Para 4 assumes that because it is cheaper to reproduce ready-made articles, newspapers will always or typically do so.
- Para 4 conflates the desire to reduce costs with wanting to fill the pages of the newspaper as cheaply as possible.
- Para 5 includes an exaggerated ad hominem argument against newspaper proprietors. This is also an unjustified generalisation.
- The claim in para 5 that newspaper owners no longer influence editorial policy in favour of their own political beliefs contradicts the claim in para 2 that they still do so.

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(d) 'Profit is the only good.'

Write your own argument to support or challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. [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 if conclusion is implied but not stated.

Maximum 3 marks if argued to wrong conclusions.

Maximum 3 marks if argument refers only to newspapers.

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Indicative Content (specimen level 3 answers)

Support (145 words)

Companies do good by employing workers and by supplying products and services which improve the lives of those who buy them, but neither of these would be possible if the company did not make a profit. Profit should therefore, be regarded as the fundamental good of commercial life.

More broadly, in modern society it is not true that "The best things in life are free." Without money, we could not engage in any of the activities which give meaning to our lives. As individuals, we may gain money from salary or wages, but the ultimate source of our income is the profit earned by industry and commerce. As the underlying precondition on which all other goods depend, profit can reasonably be identified as "the only good".

Both in the narrow context of business and in the whole of life, therefore, profit is the only good.

Challenge (168 words)

Although it is certainly true that businesses must make a profit in order to survive, that is not all that a successful business achieves. It also provides employment and supplies a product or service. Although cynics may deny it, the last of these is morally the most important. There would be something seriously wrong with a company which earned its profit by supplying a product or service which did not benefit the purchasers. So profit is an essential element of commercial life, but not the only good.

Furthermore, business is neither the whole of life, nor even its most important part. Personal development and relationships are what give meaning to life, and profit has nothing to do with either of these. All sane people hope that at the end of their lives they will be remembered for their personality, their relationships and their achievements, not for the amount of money they have left to their heirs.

For both of these reasons, profit is certainly not the only good.