

**EXTENDED INVESTIGATION
CRITICAL THINKING TEST**

Thursday 5 August 2021

Reading and writing time: 10.00 am to 11.10 am (1 hour 10 minutes)

Structure of test*Number of questions**Number of questions to be
answered**Number of marks*

10

10

40

- Students are permitted to bring pens and pencils into the examination room.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring blank sheets of paper into the examination room.

Materials supplied

- The Critical Thinking Test
- Student instructions

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the test provided.
- All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

Question 1	3 marks
Question 2	4 marks
Question 3	6 marks
Question 4	6 marks
Question 5	6 marks
Question 6	3 marks
Question 7	3 marks
Question 8	3 marks
Question 9	3 marks
Question 10	3 marks

Question 1 (3 marks)

Australia is a constitutional monarchy. This means that our head of state is the British monarch (a king or a queen), whose role is limited by the Constitution and who is represented in Australia by a governor-general.

Consider the following proposition:

Australia should be a republic, with no constitutional role for a monarch.

Below is a table with some arguments for and against the proposition.

Read the three statements below the table.

Drag each statement and drop it into the most appropriate empty cell in the table.

For	Against
<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; height: 47px; width: 273px;"></div>	British heritage is an important part of Australian culture.
A mature nation should take full responsibility for its own directions and decisions.	<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; height: 47px; width: 273px;"></div>
<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; height: 47px; width: 273px;"></div>	A monarch is above party politics and is therefore a symbol of national unity.
<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; height: 47px; width: 273px;"></div>	Australia is located in Oceania but, culturally, it has a Western European background.
Declaring a republic would be a breath of fresh air for Australians.	<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; height: 47px; width: 273px;"></div>

It is better to leave things the way they are
:: than to invite instability.

Internationally, Australia is recognised as
:: an independent country with a British heritage.

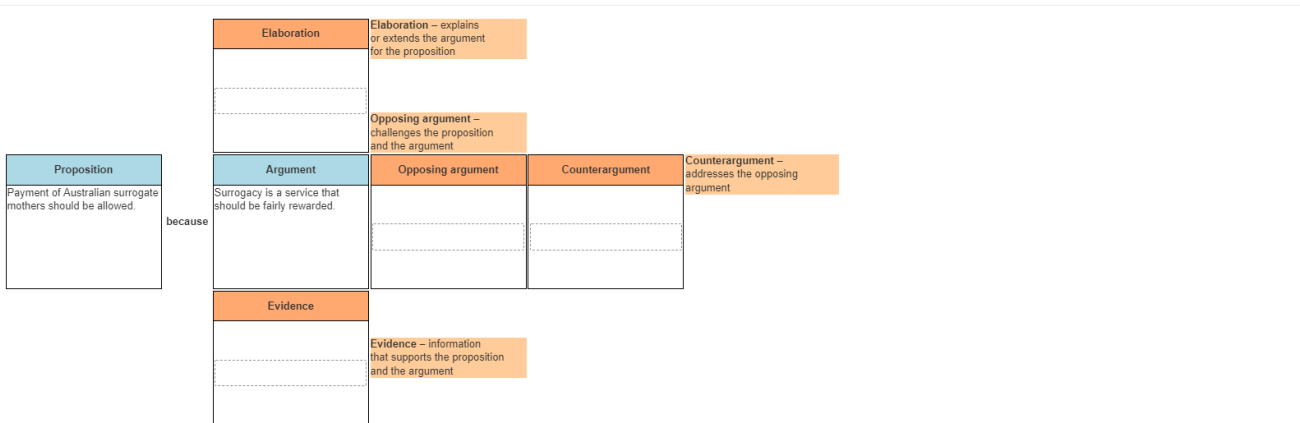
Many Australians have no association, or have
:: a negative association, with the United Kingdom.

Question 2 (4 marks)

The diagram below represents a line of reasoning about the payment of Australian surrogate mothers (women who bear a child for others). Currently, Australian surrogate mothers are not paid: they receive only enough money to cover their medical expenses. The proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown.

Read the six statements below the diagram.

Drag four of the statements into the most appropriate empty cell in the diagram.



In 2019, the birth rate in Australia dropped to its lowest rate ever.

⚡

The surrogacy process can be effectively regulated.

⚡

In most cases, surrogacy involves many expenses other than just the cost of medical care.

⚡

The sacrifices and risks involved in bearing a child are significant.

⚡

Using a surrogate mother is not good for family relationships.

⚡

Commercialisation of surrogacy leads to exploitation of vulnerable women.

⚡

Question 3 (6 marks)

The Australian live animal export industry (which ships livestock such as cattle, sheep and goats to overseas markets) is subject to government and industry regulation.

Consider the following arguments **for** and **against** the proposition below:

The Australian Government should phase out the live animal export industry.

For		Against	
A.	It is difficult to ensure that animal welfare standards will be met during transportation.	F.	The operations of the market should determine whether an industry continues, not government intervention.
B.	Overseas governments are unpredictable and therefore expose farmers to sudden changes.	G.	Most Australians are not opposed to the live animal export trade.
C.	Phasing out the live export industry would create local jobs in meat processing and packaging.	H.	This is a multimillion dollar industry employing thousands of people in rural and regional Australia.
D.	Properly protecting livestock during transportation makes the trade uneconomic.	I.	If Australian live animal exports stopped, other countries would export more live animals to fill the gap.
E.	It is impossible to regulate humane treatment of exported animals in other countries.	J.	The live animal export industry helps to feed millions of people across the planet.

Which **one** of the arguments (**A.–J.**) do you find most convincing and why?

Analyse the arguments presented. Do not offer your own opinion about the proposition.

B *I* U | ☰ ☰

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Question 4 (6 marks)

Widespread use of online learning has shown that there is unequal access to the internet at home among Australian children.

Consider the following arguments **for** and **against** the proposition below:

Free internet access should be provided to all low-income households with school-aged children.

For	Against
Without free internet at home, access to education is limited for many students.	There is no such thing as 'free' internet because Australian taxpayers would be carrying the cost.
Financial stress on low-income households with school-aged children would be reduced.	The provision of free internet access would be open to misuse.
Eventually, the whole Australian community would benefit from all children having access to online learning.	The current need for online learning is temporary.
Australia is a wealthy country that can afford to help children in low-income households.	It would be unfair to offer low-income households with school-aged children a benefit that is not available to low-income households without school-aged children.
Free internet plans and suitable hardware could be supplied quickly and efficiently.	The cost of the scheme would outweigh the likely benefits.

Having considered the arguments, offer your position for or against the proposition.

Which **one** of the arguments (**A.–J.**) do you find most convincing and why?

Analyse the arguments presented. Do not offer your own opinion about the proposition.

B *I* U | ☰ ☰

Question 5 (6 marks)

Research is needed to inform debate about:

- A.** Australia becoming a republic.
- B.** payment of Australian surrogate mothers.
- C.** phasing out the live animal export industry.
- D.** free internet access for low-income households with school-aged children.

Select **one** of these issues (**A.–D.**) to research.

What would be a good research question to explore the issue you have selected?

How might good data be collected to address this research question?

B *I* U | ☰ ☷

The following information is repeated for Questions 6 and 7.

Below are five possible research questions (**A.–E.**).

- A.** Has a local government program been effective in encouraging the creation of good street art and in reducing the incidence of ugly graffiti in a specific area?
- B.** To what extent can improvements in reading, writing and mathematics in five urban and regional primary schools be linked to student participation in an intensive two-year program in choral singing?
- C.** Is there any relationship between the risky or selfish behaviour of drivers on a specific section of a Melbourne freeway and the brand and model of the car they are driving?
- D.** Why have some Australian governments reduced Australia's contribution to foreign aid and development over the past 20 years?
- E.** What would be the most effective strategy that a local council could apply to ease traffic congestion in an inner-city suburb during peak hours?

Question 6 (3 marks)

Which research question (**A.–E.**) would be the **most** manageable in practice?

Explain why the question would be the most manageable.

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- E.** What would be the most effective strategy that a local council could apply to ease traffic congestion in an inner-city suburb during peak hours?

Question 7 (3 marks)

Which research question (**A.–E.**) would be the **least** manageable in practice?

Explain why the question would be the least manageable.

B *I* U |  

The following information is repeated for Questions 8 and 9.

Some people believe that the school leaving age should be raised.

Question 8 (3 marks)

Present a strong argument for the proposition that the school leaving age should be raised.

Explain why it is a strong argument **for** the proposition.

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The following information is repeated for Questions 8 and 9.

Some people believe that the school leaving age should be raised.

Question 9 (3 marks)

Present a strong argument against the proposition that the school leaving age should be raised.

Explain why it is a strong argument **against** the proposition.

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Question 10 (3 marks)

A proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown in the diagram below.

Write an opposing argument that directly challenges the proposition and the argument.

Do not merely state the opposite of the proposition or the argument.

Explain how the opposing argument directly addresses the proposition and the argument.

Proposition		Argument
Schools should not ban the sale of junk food.	because	Students will continue to make unhealthy food choices outside school hours.

Opposing argument

B *I* U | ☰ ☷