

Victorian Certificate of Education  
2019

## EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

### Structure of test

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<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
10	10	40

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- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

#### Materials supplied

- The Critical Thinking Test
- Student instructions

#### Instructions

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

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

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**Question 1** (4 marks)

Consider the following proposition:

**The advertising of gambling should be banned.**

Read the following four statements.

**Almost everything can be destructive in one way or another.**

**Gambling can be dangerous for many people, so it should not be advertised.**

**The effect of advertising gambling is to promote gambling itself.**

**Gambling is not bad in itself and it can be harmless entertainment.**

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

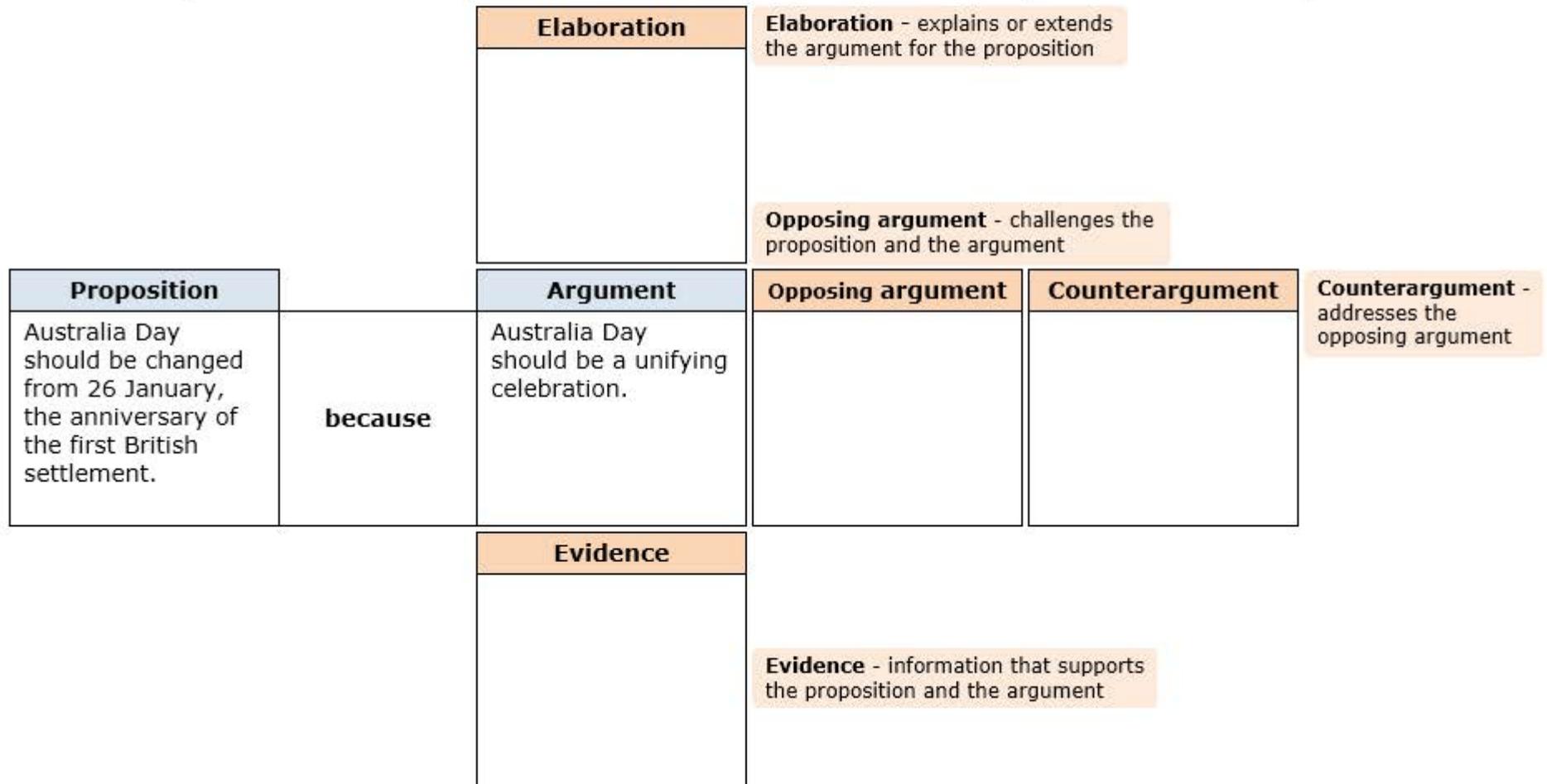
Drag each statement and drop it into the most appropriate empty cell in the table.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
The advertising of gambling triggers the behaviour of gambling addicts.	
Advertising makes gambling seem normal and acceptable.	
	Most people can gamble without problems.
	Different forms of gambling compete for the attention of those who wish to gamble.
Gambling is a very serious problem for some people.	

**Question 2** (4 marks)

The diagram below represents a line of reasoning about the date of Australia Day. The proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown in the diagram below. The diagram contains empty cells labelled 'Elaboration', 'Evidence', 'Opposing argument' and 'Counterargument'. Drag four of the following statements into the most appropriate empty cell in the diagram.

There were over 500 different Indigenous nations in Australia, many with distinctive cultures, beliefs and languages.	Indigenous Australians have reason to mourn the arrival of Europeans.	Changing the date of Australia Day would acknowledge the dispossession of Indigenous Australians.	Indigenous Australians came to Australia about 65 000 years ago.	An Indigenous population of up to 750 000 in 1788 declined to as little as 50 000 by 1930.	Modern Australia began, and can be appropriately celebrated as beginning, on 26 January 1788.
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**Question 3** (6 marks)

Judges usually decide sentences for crimes based on the specific circumstances of a case. Alternatively, parliament can make laws that set a minimum sentence for a crime, which judges must impose. This is called mandatory sentencing.

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

**Judges should have discretion in sentencing criminals; sentences for crimes should not be mandatory.**

For the proposition	Against the proposition
<p><b>A.</b> Judges should determine sentences in accordance with principles of the law.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Mandatory sentencing has the greatest impact on already disadvantaged members of the community.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Mandatory sentencing does not take into account individual circumstances.</p> <p><b>D.</b> Early intervention is more effective in reducing crime than mandatory sentencing.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Judges should not be forced to impose sentences that go against their conscience.</p>	<p><b>F.</b> Mandatory sentencing makes it easier for judges to sentence criminals.</p> <p><b>G.</b> Reducing crime and protecting the community is the responsibility of parliament, which is elected by the people.</p> <p><b>H.</b> Having consistent penalties for crimes creates stability and confidence in the fairness of the legal system.</p> <p><b>I.</b> Mandatory sentencing ensures that there is no bias or favouritism in penalising crime.</p> <p><b>J.</b> The purpose of mandatory sentencing is the protection of society by discouraging crime.</p>

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

Analyse the arguments presented rather than offering your own opinion about the proposition.

**B** *I* U

**Question 4** (6 marks)

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

**Superheroes are good role models for young people.**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
<p>There always have been and there always will be stories about superheroes.</p> <p>It is healthy for young people to dream about being superhuman and larger than life.</p> <p>Superheroes are admirable because they fight evil.</p> <p>Escapist fantasies such as superheroes are simple and innocent entertainment.</p> <p>Superheroes can help people understand social issues, such as racism and sexism.</p>	<p>What is presented to young people and taken to be heroic is an important influence.</p> <p>Fantasies and myths can damage young people's minds.</p> <p>Stories about superheroes trivialise important issues.</p> <p>True heroism lies in qualities such as persistence, unselfishness and humility.</p> <p>Young people learn best from their family and peers.</p>

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

**B** *I* U

**Question 5** (6 marks)

Research is needed to inform debate about the advertising of gambling, the date of Australia Day, mandatory sentencing and superheroes as role models.

Select **one** of these issues 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.** Why is Australian women's football experiencing growth and success at this time?
- B.** What are the most effective ways of controlling the genetic modification of food?
- C.** What environmental impacts have resulted from the introduction, in the 1920s, of a non-native frog species to the banks of a small lake in central Victoria?
- D.** What is the best way for parents to limit the time spent by their children looking at screens?
- E.** Which of two anti-bullying programs is more effective in reducing the incidence of bullying?

**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.

BIU



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

- A.** Why is Australian women's football experiencing growth and success at this time?
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- D.** What is the best way for parents to limit the time spent by their children looking at screens?
- E.** Which of two anti-bullying programs is more effective in reducing the incidence of bullying?

**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.

BIU

*The following information is repeated for Questions 8 and 9.*

An optimist hopes for the best and tends to look on the bright side of things. A pessimist fears for the worst and tends to look on the gloomy side of things.

**Question 8** (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that optimism is better than pessimism.

Explain why it is the strongest argument **for** optimism.

**B** *I* U

*The following information is repeated for Questions 8 and 9.*

An optimist hopes for the best and tends to look on the bright side of things. A pessimist fears for the worst and tends to look on the gloomy side of things.

**Question 9** (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that pessimism is better than optimism.

Explain why it is the strongest argument **for** pessimism.

**B** *I* U

**Question 10** (2 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.

Proposition		Argument
Prison conditions should be unpleasant.	<b>because</b>	Prison should be a threat that deters crime.

**B** *I* U Opposing argument