

EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 9 September 2020

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)

Consider the following proposition:

Society should offer financial support to people who are raising children.

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
The first priority for humanity is the continuation of the species.	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	People have children for personal reasons and should not expect support from others to raise their children.
If we want more children, we should support those who accept the challenge of raising them.	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
We should offer financial support to families so that children do not grow up in poverty.	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	Migration is a good way of sustaining our current population and of assisting those who are less fortunate.

The current birth rate is below the replacement
:: rate of 2.1 children per woman.

Parents make great sacrifices to have children
:: and this benefits society as a whole.

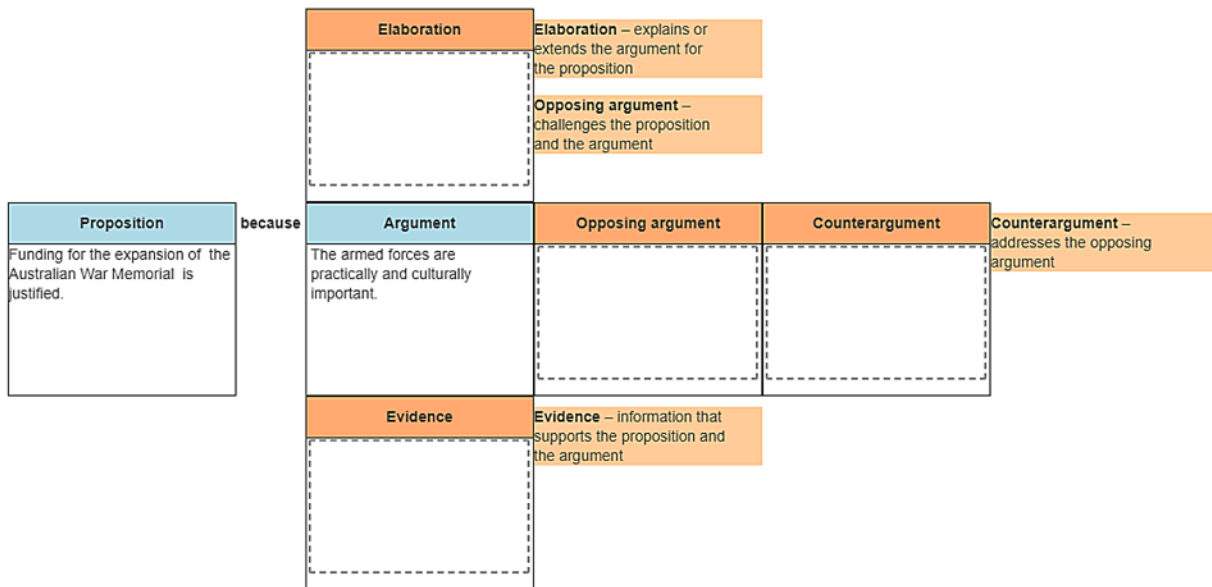
Raising a family is a matter of individual choice
:: and responsibility.

Question 2 (4 marks)

The diagram below represents a line of reasoning about funding for the expansion of the Australian War Memorial. 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'.

Read the six statements below the diagram.

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



⋮
An expanded Australian War Memorial will be a meaningful acknowledgment of all who recently served.

⋮
Helping veterans damaged by war is more important than symbolic gestures.

⋮ War should be mourned rather than celebrated.

⋮
More than 100 000 Australians who died in military service are remembered at the Australian War Memorial.

⋮
More Australian soldiers died in World War I (61 566) than in World War II (39 655).

⋮
Military service involves sacrifice that must be recognised.

Question 3 (6 marks)

Ownership of news media networks (which may include such media as television, radio, news websites and streaming services) is subject to government regulation in Australia.

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

Media organisations should be allowed to own more than one national news media network.

For		Against	
A.	Restricting media ownership is unnecessary because the changing media landscape has made such restrictions irrelevant.	F.	Ownership of traditional news media is currently concentrated in very few hands.
B.	Restricting media ownership interferes with what should be a free market.	G.	Like other businesses, news media networks should have to obey the rules and sink or swim in a free market.
C.	The reporting of news is not determined by the owners of news media.	H.	News media owners always want as much freedom as they can get.
D.	Because traditional news media are being challenged, they need to make their businesses as efficient as possible to compete.	I.	News media owners currently use their outlets for political and social influence, and to further their own business interests.
E.	A free media is an essential element of a strong democracy.	J.	The community has the right to regulate ownership of news networks so as to be fully informed.

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

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

B *I* U | ☰ ☷

Question 4 (6 marks)

There has been debate about the use of mobile phones by students in class and at other times during the school day. Some schools have banned mobile phone use during the school day.

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

Banning mobile phones in schools will improve student learning and wellbeing.

For	Against
Mobile phones distract students from their learning.	Having a mobile phone on hand allows students and their parents to feel more secure about students' welfare.
The incidence of cyberbullying will decrease when students do not have access to mobile phones during the school day.	Technology is now fundamental to education and it is better for students to learn on their own devices.
Students rely too much on looking up answers on the internet instead of trying to work out answers themselves.	Using mobile phones responsibly at school teaches students about appropriate social interaction.
A ban on mobile phone use will make students more manageable for many teachers.	Mobile phones are integrated into all aspects of society, so banning them at school is pointless.
Students use text messaging and social media as an alternative to meaningful face-to-face interaction.	The ease of getting information on a mobile phone allows students more time to focus on thinking and problem-solving.

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:

- A. financial support for people who are raising children.
- B. funding for the expansion of the Australian War Memorial to include recent wars.
- C. regulation of ownership of national news networks.
- D. banning the use of mobile phones at school.

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?

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The following information is repeated for Questions 6 and 7.

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

A. What are the main causes of the decline in the vaccination rate of Victorian children over the last 10 years?

B. Which would be more effective in reducing the rate of staff turnover at the Epwick Early Learning Centre – raising the hourly wage or awarding one day of paid leave per month?

C. What contributes to a happy life?

D. How successful has a primary school been at reducing waste over the last two years by banning the use of plastic packaging in school lunches?

E. Why have some small butcher shops continued to trade in a specific suburb, while others in the suburb have closed down?

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.

B *I* U | ☰ ☷

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The following information is repeated for Questions 6 and 7.

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

A.What are the main causes of the decline in the vaccination rate of Victorian children over the last 10 years?

B.Which would be more effective in reducing the rate of staff turnover at the Epwick Early Learning Centre – raising the hourly wage or awarding one day of paid leave per month?

C.What contributes to a happy life?

D.How successful has a primary school been at reducing waste over the last two years by banning the use of plastic packaging in school lunches?

E.Why have some small butcher shops continued to trade in a specific suburb, while others in the suburb have closed down?

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.

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The following information is repeated for Questions 8 and 9.

Some people believe that, to become Australian citizens, immigrants should have to pass a test of their knowledge about Australia conducted in English.

Question 8 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument for the proposition that applicants for Australian citizenship should have to pass a test of their knowledge about Australia conducted in English.

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

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The following information is repeated for Questions 8 and 9.

Some people believe that, to become Australian citizens, immigrants should have to pass a test of their knowledge about Australia conducted in English.

Question 9 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that applicants for Australian citizenship should have to pass a test of their knowledge about Australia conducted in English.

Explain why it is the strongest 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 and why the opposing argument directly addresses the proposition and the argument.

Proposition		Argument
Wearing a helmet when cycling should not be compulsory.	because	Bicycle helmet laws discourage cycling.

Opposing argument

B *I* u | ☰ ☷