

Please enter your student number:

EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 2 August 2023**Reading time: 10.00 am to 10.15 am (15 minutes)****Writing time: 10.15 am to 11.30 am (1 hour 15 minutes)**

Structure of test

<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
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 instruction booklet

Instructions

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

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 (3 marks)

Some companies have recently begun trialling a four-day working week, instead of the usual five-day working week, with employees receiving the same pay as for a five-day working week.

Consider the following proposition:

A four-day working week should become the standard employment arrangement in Australia.

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

Read the three statements below. Select the most appropriate of the statements for three of the empty cells in the table (in the correct column **and** in opposition to a relevant argument).

STATEMENT 1	STATEMENT 2	STATEMENT 3
Companies may have to hire extra staff for days when there are too few employees in the workplace.	In the world's most productive countries, a four-day working week is common.	Employers will get less value for the wages they pay their employees.

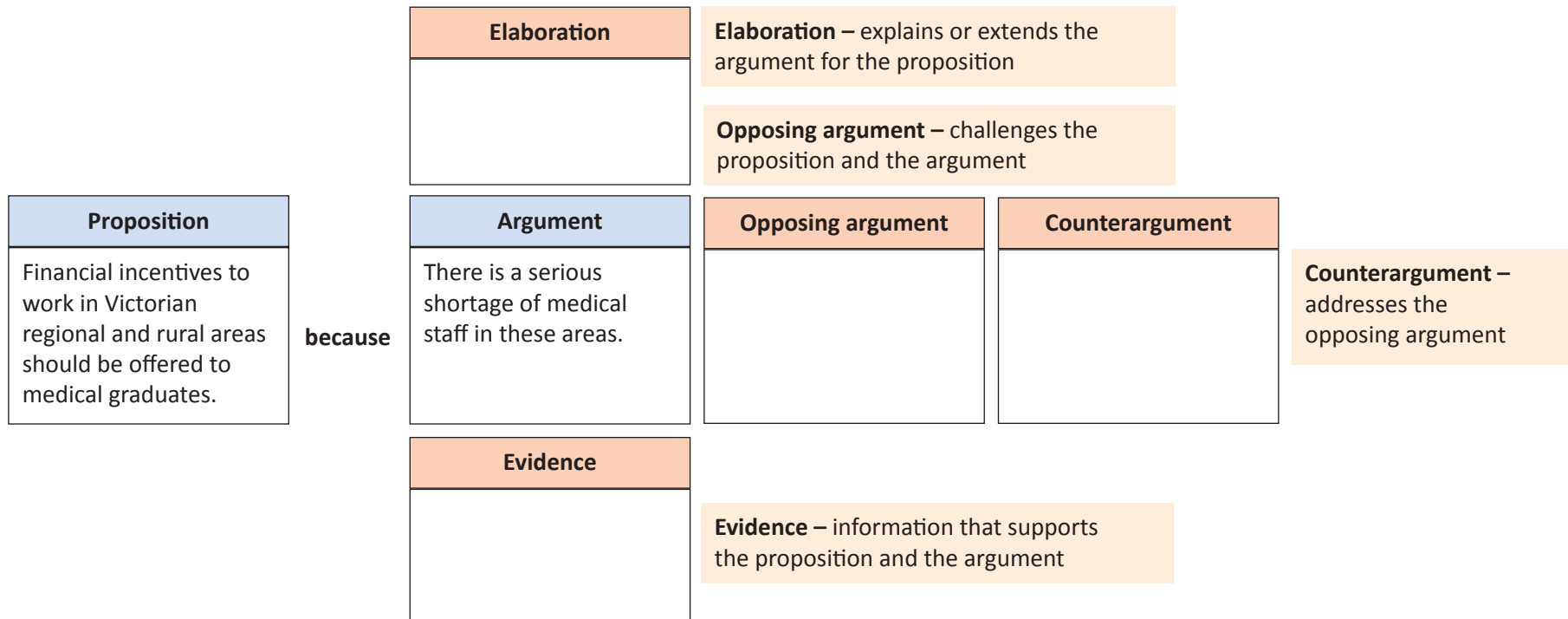
For	Against
Business productivity will improve because people will work more effectively.	
	Working a shorter week does not always improve employee wellbeing, as international experience has shown.
Employees who work fewer hours experience less stress and fatigue.	
Reducing the number of people who travel to work each day is good for the environment.	
	Reducing the working week is risky because the likely economic impact is unknown.
	People take pride in their work and need time to do it thoroughly.

Question 2 (4 marks)

The diagram below represents a line of reasoning about encouraging more medical graduates to choose work in regional and rural locations in Victoria. The proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown.

Read the six statements below and select the most appropriate statement for each empty cell in the diagram.

STATEMENT 1	STATEMENT 2	STATEMENT 3	STATEMENT 4	STATEMENT 5	STATEMENT 6
Working conditions, relationships and work-life balance are the most important factors in choosing a job.	Regional and rural communities are good places to live, and have a lot to offer young people.	Medical training is expensive and young doctors are keen to repay their student loans.	Similar schemes have operated successfully in the past.	It is unacceptable that some Victorians have little or no access to basic health care services.	In the metropolitan area, there are many more opportunities for graduates to gain experience and to specialise.



Question 3 (3 marks)

A proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown in the diagram below. In the proposition, 'animal shelters' refers to organisations that provide a temporary home for lost animals, or animals whose owners do not wish to keep them.

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
People who give up their pets to animal shelters should be prohibited from pet ownership in the future.	because	This would encourage pet owners to be more responsible.

Opposing argument

Question 4 (6 marks)

In the past, space exploration was conducted and paid for solely by governments for scientific and technical reasons, as well as military advantage. More recently, private companies have begun to develop space exploration projects, with their own commercial goals.

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

Private companies should be encouraged to develop space exploration projects.

The arguments in each column are in random order and are not intended to represent pairs of arguments matched against each other.

For	Against
<p>A. It is too expensive for taxpayers to continue funding the development of space technologies.</p> <p>B. Earth needs access to new supplies of scarce resources.</p> <p>C. Letting business get involved often leads to better outcomes.</p> <p>D. Explorers can never achieve anything if they are blocked by government interference.</p> <p>E. A new approach might result in some unexpected benefits for our planet.</p>	<p>F. There should be some regulations imposed by international agencies, such as the United Nations.</p> <p>G. Private companies will want to keep new discoveries for their own advantage.</p> <p>H. Creative and enterprising people should be encouraged to work on solving the immediate problems on Earth, rather than exploring space.</p> <p>I. Such projects will lead to exploitation of rare natural resources for profit, rather than for the benefit of humanity.</p> <p>J. Space exploration projects should be managed by responsible science agencies, not private business owners.</p>

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.

Question 5 (6 marks)

More than one million homes in Australia are unoccupied at a time when there is a significant housing shortage and rent has become unaffordable for many people.

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

Owners of housing properties that are kept vacant should have to pay extra taxes.

The arguments in each column are in random order and are not intended to represent pairs of arguments matched against each other.

For	Against
A. Owners would be more likely to sell or rent their unoccupied property if they had to pay extra taxes.	F. People have the right to use their property as they wish, without any penalty.
B. The revenue raised from such taxes could be used to supply new housing for those who cannot afford high rents.	G. Owners may have a lot of financial commitments and may not be able to pay more.
C. There are good environmental reasons to use housing that is already built, rather than expanding the number of new apartments and houses.	H. Many properties are empty for good reasons, as they may require major renovation or be needed by the family in the future.
D. Encouraging owners to make their property available promotes positive community values.	I. Many holiday homes are in coastal areas, not in the big cities where the housing shortage is most severe.
E. Owners of multiple properties can probably afford additional taxes.	J. Imposing extra taxes would discourage valuable investment in Australian properties.

Having considered the arguments (A.–J.), offer **your position** for or against the proposition.

Question 6 (6 marks)

Research is needed to inform debate about:

- A.** reducing the standard working week.
- B.** encouraging medical graduates to work in regional and rural areas of Victoria.
- C.** encouraging private companies to develop space exploration projects.
- D.** reducing the number of vacant housing properties.

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?

The following information is repeated for Questions 7 and 8.

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

- A.** How would Year 10 students in two schools be affected if they stopped all activity on social media platforms for three months?
- B.** To what extent does handwriting indicate personality characteristics?
- C.** Among young people who have committed minor crimes, how effective is a sentence of community service in preventing re-offending?
- D.** Has the statewide television advertising campaign 'eSafe and eSound' had any effect in protecting older internet users against online fraud?
- E.** Among those who have purchased a fully electric car in Victoria, what were the main reasons for their choice?

Question 7 (3 marks)

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

Explain why the question would be most manageable.

The following information is repeated for Questions 7 and 8.

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

- A.** How would Year 10 students in two schools be affected if they stopped all activity on social media platforms for three months?
- B.** To what extent does handwriting indicate personality characteristics?
- C.** Among young people who have committed minor crimes, how effective is a sentence of community service in preventing re-offending?
- D.** Has the statewide television advertising campaign 'eSafe and eSound' had any effect in protecting older internet users against online fraud?
- E.** Among those who have purchased a fully electric car in Victoria, what were the main reasons for their choice?

Question 8 (3 marks)

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

Explain why the question would be least manageable.

The following information is repeated for Questions 9 and 10.

Following violent or destructive behaviour by spectators at sporting matches, penalties have been imposed on the relevant sporting clubs. Penalties may include fines, loss of match points and the banning of all spectators from certain matches.

Question 9 (3 marks)

Present a strong argument for the proposition that sporting clubs should be penalised for the unacceptable behaviour of their supporters.

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

The following information is repeated for Questions 9 and 10.

Following violent or destructive behaviour by spectators at sporting matches, penalties have been imposed on the relevant sporting clubs. Penalties may include fines, loss of match points and the banning of all spectators from certain matches.

Question 10 (3 marks)

Present a strong argument against the proposition that sporting clubs should be penalised for the unacceptable behaviour of their supporters.

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