



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

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## THINKING SKILLS

9694/41

Paper 4 Applied Reasoning

May/June 2020

1 hour 45 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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This document has **8** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

- 1 The main conclusion of the argument in Document 1 is:

“Tennis, and other sports, should reconsider their equal prize-money policies.”

(a) Analyse the structure of the reasoning in paragraph 2 of Document 1. [5]

(b) Identify **three** intermediate conclusions in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the argument in Document 1. [3]

- 2 (a) Identify and explain **three** flaws and/or weaknesses in the reasoning in paragraphs 1 to 4 of Document 1. [6]

(b) Assess the extent to which the reasoning in paragraph 5 of Document 1 supports the argument as a whole. [3]

- 3 Identify and explain **three** reasons why the support given, in Document 4, to the claim “at least 80% of sportsmen and sportswomen are rewarded equally” is weak. [6]

- 4 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*

‘Men and women should compete against one another on equal terms in sport.’

Construct a reasoned argument to support **or** challenge this claim. In your answer you should make critical use of the documents provided. [27]

**DOCUMENT 1****Equal playing field?**

- 1 It is now ten years since the Wimbledon Tennis Championship became the last of the big four tennis competitions to award equal prize money to men and women. Was this a major milestone in gender equality, or was it political correctness gone mad?
- 2 Not so long ago, society considered women too frail even to compete in many sports – women were not allowed to compete in athletics events at the Olympics until 1928 and, even then, events in which they took part were severely limited. If we had been having this discussion 100 years ago we would have thought the idea of equal financial reward for men and women in sport was ridiculous. Women's bodies have not changed since 1928 so it is still ridiculous now.
- 3 'We must strive towards gender equality' is the cry of the political correctness (PC) lobby, but the existence of equal pay in many sports amounts to discrimination against men. Men train for longer, compete harder and, in many cases, compete for longer. In tennis, for example, women get a higher hourly rate of pay than men for doing, at best, the same job. In many tournaments, Wimbledon included, men's matches are decided over the best of five sets, while women's are best of three. This means that men's matches last longer. Longer working hours should be rewarded with more pay, so if sportswomen work shorter hours than men they should receive less pay.
- 4 In business, executives that generate more money for their company tend to get paid more. Male athletes draw in more spectators and more interest from TV and sponsors than female athletes. Because men generate more money for their respective sports, they should be paid more money. The world's most popular sport – soccer – maintains a gender pay gap. The team winning the women's World Cup receives only \$2 million while their male equivalent gets as much as \$35 million. If the system works for the most popular sport, the others should not dismiss it merely to jump on the PC bandwagon. Tennis, and other sports, should reconsider their equal prize-money policies.
- 5 The main argument we hear from the gender equality lobby is that there should be equal pay for men and women doing the same job. Well – OK – if we pay them equally they will have to compete with and against each other on equal terms. If women are required to compete against men then all the pay and prize money will end up with the male athletes once again. It is no wonder those calling for equal pay are often silent on the idea of equal competition.

## DOCUMENT 2

### Opinion of a female sports writer

In only a very few sports, such as equestrianism and rifle shooting, do men and women compete together on equal terms. But is that about to change?

I used to run middle distance at college. One time, only two female athletes turned up to compete so, to save time and embarrassment, we ran with the men's race. I came last, but I felt like I had tried harder and run faster than I would have done in a girls-only race.

Traditionally, women have been held back in sport because of false preconceptions about fragility, infertility and premature ageing. Now that these have been dismissed there is no logical reason why we can't compete on equal terms.

Have you ever been told that you do something 'like a girl'? There is no real evidence that very young boys are better at sports than girls. Girls' overall interest in sports seems to decline as they get older for a variety of social reasons – parental expectations, peer pressure, opportunities etc. I am not totally naïve and am aware of the very real physical differences: men have higher levels of testosterone and hence, on average, more muscle mass and more red blood cells, giving them greater strength, speed and endurance. However, women have more flexible joints and a wider pelvis, allowing greater suppleness and flexibility. Whatever the average differences, variation within one sex is greater than variation between sexes: a tall, fit woman will likely outperform a short, overweight man at basketball.

Running is a good example of where men and women training, if not yet competing, together regularly occurs and is successful. You have a different mindset when running with men and you have different paces, which encourages you to run faster. Women might naturally gravitate towards events where a light body frame is less of a disadvantage, such as distance running, but that would always be their choice.

Currently, men outperform women in most sports. Men's Olympic track records average around 10% faster than women's. The differences are declining, but could the gap ever be closed? Women's 100 metre performances improved greatly in the years after they were allowed to run in the Olympics in 1928, probably because of the increased profile and openness of the event to women. With more opportunities we might see improvements in women's performance across all sports.

Sports with which we are currently familiar have evolved to suit the men that have traditionally taken part in them. It is possible that sports could adapt, or new ones could emerge that afford success to the skills at which women excel.

We're breaking all sorts of barriers in gender discrimination, so let's take it to sport too.

**DOCUMENT 3****Hands off our sports**

One of the things that make sport popular is the uncertainty of the outcome. Involving women in sport would remove this uncertainty. In swimming and sprinting even the best women will be beaten every time by an average male athlete. The differences in muscle mass, innate strength and testosterone levels are just too great. Allowing women to compete with men would be like allowing a 60 kg boxer to get in the ring with a 120 kg boxer – it wouldn't be fair and the fans would not enjoy it. Imagine if the Olympic gold medal winners were to be known before the Games began – the competitions would just not be as popular.

There are those who claim that, once women are allowed to compete with men, they will gradually catch up with men in terms of performance. This claim is unrealistic: physiologically, the differences are too big. The best women still lag around 10% behind their male counterparts in 100m sprint and long jump. The best times by women don't even get to the top 400 men's times in swimming or athletics. While women's physical abilities will advance and the gap will get narrower, it is highly unlikely to disappear altogether. Perhaps even more important are the psychological issues. In rugby, for example, a male on one team could be conflicted about trying not to hurt the girl on the other team he was attempting to tackle. In one-on-one sports, such as wrestling, the issue of 'not wanting to hurt a girl' will be compounded by the embarrassment of being beaten by a girl.

It might be possible to change the way some sports are structured, in order to facilitate women's involvement. Some suggest introducing height and weight categories in, for example, running and jumping events. But this is artificial tinkering to give an unfair advantage to one group – not the level playing field that sports aspire to. Changing the rules of their beloved sports will also not go down well with the fans.

Women-only sporting competitions allow talented women to flourish. There are many famous and wealthy sportswomen in the world today. Nike recently dubbed tennis player Serena Williams the greatest athlete of all time. If she had had to compete against the likes of Nadal and Federer, we would probably never have heard of her.

For the sake of sport and of women, we should keep single-sex competitions in the vast majority of sports.

## DOCUMENT 4

**The gender prize-money gap is narrowing**

According to a recent study, at least 80% of sportsmen and sportswomen are rewarded equally.

| Sport                | Event                | Prize Money in 2017 (\$) |           |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
|                      |                      | Men                      | Women     |
| Archery              | *WC Final            | 15 000                   | 15 000    |
| Athletics            | **WCh                | 46 512                   | 46 512    |
| Cricket              | WC                   | 3 100 000                | 470 500   |
| Cross-country skiing | WC Final             | 28 574                   | 28 574    |
| Cycling              | WCh – Time Trial     | 3 346                    | 3 346     |
| Cycling              | Tour de France       | 9 603                    | 5 238     |
| Figure Skating       | WCh – Individual     | 45 000                   | 45 000    |
| Football (soccer)    | WC                   | 35 000 000               | 2 000 000 |
| Golf                 | The Open             | 1 170 000                | 487 500   |
| Gymnastics           | WCh – Individual     | 4 053                    | 4 053     |
| Ironman              | WCh                  | 120 000                  | 120 000   |
| Marathon             | New York             | 77 520                   | 77 520    |
| Mountain Biking      | WC                   | 4 505                    | 4 505     |
| Open Water Swimming  | WCh                  | 15 504                   | 15 504    |
| Sailing              | WC Grand Final       | 7 908                    | 7 908     |
| Shooting             | WC Finals            | 966                      | 966       |
| Ski Jumping          | WC                   | 8 049                    | 2 415     |
| Snowboarding         | WC Halfpipe          | 9 055                    | 9 055     |
| Speed Skating        | Sprint Champs        | 15 504                   | 15 504    |
| Squash               | WCh                  | 37 210                   | 37 210    |
| Swimming             | WCh                  | 15 504                   | 15 504    |
| Table Tennis         | World Tour (singles) | 77 520                   | 77 520    |
| Taekwondo            | WTF Grand Prix Final | 4 651                    | 4 651     |
| Tennis               | Australian Open      | 2 240 000                | 2 240 000 |
| Triathlon            | World Series Final   | 23 256                   | 23 256    |
| Water Polo           | WCh                  | 62 016                   | 62 016    |

\*WC = World Cup

\*\*WCh = World Championship

**DOCUMENT 5****Some posts on an online discussion forum about mixed sports**

I don't see what all the fuss is about. Sports should be free to organise themselves however they wish. Women are allowed to enter the world championships in darts and snooker and they never win. However, they also have their own separate competitions, where prize money is a lot less.

*AB, Ireland*

I don't buy this argument about men making more money for the sport so they should be paid more. The US women's soccer team brought in \$20 million more than the men's team in 2015 yet they're paid only 25 percent of what the men are.

*CD, USA*

They don't have separate men's and women's categories in cooking competitions. Milan Fashion Week does not have a special award for the best dress designed by a man. If sexes are not treated separately in spheres of activity traditionally associated with women, why should they be treated differently in sport simply because it was traditionally associated with men?

*EF, Italy*

I don't see what is wrong with rewarding men and women differently in sport. Teams or players that are better at sports receive more money and everyone thinks that is fair. Sports or players that more people are willing to pay to see receive more money, e.g. more people want to watch IPL cricket than Pro kabaddi so it is fair that IPL players get paid more. More people want to watch heavyweight boxing than flyweight boxing so it is right that heavyweight boxers get paid more. If more people want to watch sportsmen than sportswomen then they should get paid more also.

*GH, India*

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