



Cambridge International AS & A Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

May/June 2023

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 50

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2023 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level and Cambridge Pre-U components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Annotations

	In Qs 1, 3 and 4 use to indicate where marks have been awarded.
	Use to indicate an answer or element that is wrong.
	Not good enough. Use wherever such a judgment has been made.
	Benefit of doubt.
	In Q3 use to indicate 'significant additional element'. In Q5 use to indicate creditworthy other argument element.
	In Qs 2 and 5 use to indicate 'conclusion'.
	In Qs 2 and 5 and in short questions where indicated, use to indicate that marks have been capped because an essential element of the answer is absent.
	In Q2 use to indicate creditworthy evaluation of a source.
	In Q5 use to indicate creditworthy intermediate conclusion.
	In Q2 use to indicate creditworthy personal thinking. In Q3 use to indicate paraphrase.
	In Q2 use to indicate creditworthy inferential reasoning. In Q5 use to indicate creditworthy reason used to support a conclusion.
	In Q2 use to indicate creditworthy use of a source. In Q5 use to indicate distinct strand of reasoning.
	In Q3 use to indicate 'significant omission'. In other appropriate cases, use to indicate significant omission.
	Use in answers when no other annotations have been used. Use on blank pages.
Highlight	Use to draw attention to part of an answer. In Q5, use to indicate irrelevant material or material derived from the passage used for Qs 3 and 4.

There must be at least one annotation on each page of the answer booklet.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	<i>2 marks for a correct answer with accurate explanation</i> <i>1 mark for a correct answer with vague, incomplete or generic explanation</i> <i>0 marks for a correct answer without explanation</i> <i>0 marks for an incorrect answer with or without explanation</i> <i>2-mark answer (3 ticks)</i> Source A is an argument (✓). The second sentence is the conclusion (✓), which is supported by (a chain of) reasoning in the remainder of the extract (✓). <i>1-mark answers (2 ticks)</i> Source A is an argument (✓), because it includes a persuasive conclusion supported by reasons (✓). Source A is an argument (✓). The first sentence is the conclusion, which is supported by (a chain of) reasoning in the remainder of the extract. (✓) Source A is an argument (✓). The second sentence is the conclusion (✓). <i>0-mark answer (1 tick or 0 ticks)</i> Source A is an argument (✓), because it involves somebody making a case for something. Source A is not an argument (X)	2
1(b)	<i>1 mark each for up to two valid answers, for example:</i> - Source A interprets planned obsolescence from the perspective of economics, whereas Source B approaches it from the point of view of consumers. <i>This point can be expressed in terms of vested interest.</i> - Source A refers to minor/cosmetic changes, whereas Source B refers to items becoming unusable. - Source A refers to encouraging people to make a voluntary choice to replace a possession, whereas Source B refers to manipulation/compulsion.	2
1(c)	<i>Up to 2 marks for any one valid answer, for example:</i> - Manufacturers might have reduced the quality of appliances [1] in order to reduce prices and/or make more profit [1]. - People might use appliances more frequently than they used to [1], so they would have endured the same amount of use in a shorter space of time / would wear out more quickly [1]. - Modern appliances might have more complicated components [1] that might break more easily / so there are more things that can go wrong with the appliance / so users are more likely to misuse them [1].	2

Question	Answer	Marks		
1(d)(i)	<table><tr><td> • The lawyers have a VI to say whatever their clients want them to say / to defend their clients / to deny that the producers have incorporated planned obsolescence into their products in order to increase sales, • however, they also have a VI not to lose credibility / imperil their own reputation/professional standing • The producers of electronic devices have a VI to misrepresent the truth if necessary • but also a VI to protect their reputation/sales </td><td> in order to earn their fees / because that is their job [1]; by making statements which can be proved to be untrue [1]. in order to protect their reputation/sales [1] by not making claims which can be proved to be untrue [1]. </td></tr></table>	• The lawyers have a VI to say whatever their clients want them to say / to defend their clients / to deny that the producers have incorporated planned obsolescence into their products in order to increase sales, • however, they also have a VI not to lose credibility / imperil their own reputation/professional standing • The producers of electronic devices have a VI to misrepresent the truth if necessary • but also a VI to protect their reputation/sales	in order to earn their fees / because that is their job [1]; by making statements which can be proved to be untrue [1]. in order to protect their reputation/sales [1] by not making claims which can be proved to be untrue [1].	3
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1(d)(ii)	• Moderately significant [1]. • It confirms that manufacturers do use planned obsolescence [1]. • It shows that at least some of the allegations are susceptible of a plausible innocent explanation [1], • but it does not prove that these explanations are the manufacturers' real motives / that consumers are not being harmed [1] • and it does not answer all of the allegations / it may be that other allegations cannot be explained innocently [1]. <i>Award judgement mark <u>only</u> if points have been made on both sides. If the content is too weak to deserve a mark in its own right, but is an attempt at a correct answer, the judgement mark may be awarded, but if the content is incorrect, the judgement mark must not be awarded.</i>	3		
1(e)	1 mark each for up to two valid answers, for example: • Because the fine is relatively small by comparison with the size of the company's profit. • Because the company was able to make a defence of its actions. • Because their activities may not be subject to similar regulation in other jurisdictions. • Because the regulation applies only to deliberately shortening the lifespan of products, and not to small changes in design, as mentioned approvingly in Source A.	2		

Question	Answer		Marks
2	Conclusion	1 mark for an explicit supported conclusion <i>Cap at 7 if conclusion is absent or implicit</i>	
	Use of sources	2 marks for use of at least 3 sources 1 mark for use of at least 1 source	
	Evaluation of sources	1 mark for each valid evaluation of the credibility or quality of reasoning in sources <i>Maximum 3 marks</i>	
	Inferential reasoning from sources	1 mark each <i>Maximum 3 marks</i> <i>Source must be mentioned for this to be credited</i>	
	Personal thinking	1 mark each <i>Maximum 2 marks</i>	
	Annotate answers as follows: CON To indicate ‘conclusion’. S To indicate creditworthy use of source. EVAL To indicate creditworthy evaluation of source. R To indicate creditworthy inferential reasoning. P To indicate creditworthy personal thinking. C To indicate that mark has been capped. X To indicate incorrect material. Indicative content • Source A shows that some planned obsolescence can be regarded as beneficial. • Source B explains how most planned obsolescence exploits consumers • and in some cases is also bad for the environment. • However, Source B is biased / has a VI to emphasise risks to consumers. • Source C shows that there may be innocent explanations for some instances which have been criticised as planned obsolescence. • However, Source C has VI to present evidence in such a way as to exculpate producers of software and electronic devices, • albeit only within limits. • Source D shows that at least one jurisdiction has imposed legal restrictions on planned obsolescence, • which have been successful to some extent.		

Question	Answer	Marks
2	Example 8-mark answer (282 words) S Source A shows that some planned obsolescence can be regarded as beneficial. However, S Source B explains how most planned obsolescence exploits consumers and is often also bad for the environment. This source has considerable EVAL ability to see the complaints which are reported to the consumer protection organisation and the responses made by companies, but the nature of its work also gives it a vested interest to R emphasize risks to consumers. These examples of planned obsolescence are significantly different from the kind described in Source A. S Source C shows that there may be innocent explanations for some instances which have been criticised as planned obsolescence. The reliability of Source C is greatly EVAL reduced by its vested interest to present evidence in such a way as to exculpate producers of software and electronic devices, but the lawyers also have a vested interest not to misrepresent the truth so badly as to damage their own professional standing. S Source D shows that at least one jurisdiction has imposed legal restrictions on planned obsolescence. Although the fine imposed in the case mentioned is R unlikely to have been significant to the company, it appears to have prompted them to undertake a reform. This suggests that it would be good for other countries to introduce similar laws. However, the comment about the cost of the fine and the link to the R reduction in price of replacement batteries may have been due to the newspaper's EVAL vested interest to make the story more controversial and thus more interesting to readers. If a government were to ban planned obsolescence R entirely, the economy would lose the benefits identified in Source A, but I CON agree that legal restrictions should be placed on the practice.	

Question	Answer	Marks
In Q3, annotate as follows: AE Significant additional element ^ Significant omission P Paraphrase <i>In Q3 (a) and (d), if two answers are given, one of which is correct, award 1 mark.</i> <i>In all parts of Q3, apply guidance relating to additional material only if it constitutes an additional part of an answer or an alternative answer.</i>		
3(a)	<i>2 marks for an exact answer</i> <i>1 mark for a paraphrase, or for one additional element or omission</i> The best policy in life is (therefore) to imitate the actions and opinions of the majority.	2
3(b)	<i>For up to 2 of the following:</i> <i>2 marks for an exact answer</i> <i>1 mark for a paraphrase, or for one additional element or omission</i> • That [to watch what everyone else does and do the same] was good advice. • Everyone should follow these standards (whether they agree with them or not). • (but in practice) it is better to ignore this possibility [that an accepted opinion or customary behaviour may be proved wrong].	4
3(c)	An example [1] of / to illustrate behaviour which may cause offence (even though there is nothing intrinsically wrong with it) [1] .	2
3(d)	<i>2 marks for an exact version of the following:</i> <i>1 mark for an incomplete or vague version of the following:</i> • Everyone should avoid behaviour which would cause offence to many. <i>Accept for full credit:</i> • The fact that an action is not intrinsically wrong does not necessarily justify doing it. <i>Accept for 1 mark:</i> • Everyone knows what the standards are. • No one wants to cause offence.	2

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	<i>2 marks for each valid answer, clearly expressed; 1 mark for each weak attempt at a valid answer.</i> • <i>Rash/hasty generalisation</i> – The claim in the first sentence is supported by a hypothetical extreme case (the second sentence). • <i>Restricting the options / false dichotomy</i> – The third sentence concludes that you should accept the majority view on everything on the grounds that it is unrealistic to form your own opinion about everything. It ignores the possibility of forming one's own opinion on some matters but not others.	4
4(b)	• Building a house is compared to building students' knowledge of a subject [1]. • Although it is vitally important to have sound foundations in both cases [1], • constantly inspecting the foundations of a house or a subject would distract attention from making progress [1]. • However, there is probably more room for reasonable disagreement over the foundations of a subject than of a house [1].	3
4(c)	• The final sentence is an appeal to emotion/fear (<i>accept</i> pity/pathos) [1]. • It strengthens the reasoning inasmuch as bullying can have these extreme consequences for its victims / people do not want to end up in despair [1], • but the advice to be and do the same as everyone else is an exaggerated inference to be drawn from this appeal [1], • because being different from co-workers or neighbours will not necessarily lead to these extreme consequences / this part of the reasoning is a slippery slope argument [1].	3

Question	Answer		Marks
5	Reasons	2 marks for three or more reasons supporting conclusions 1 mark for one or two reasons supporting conclusions	8
	Inferential reasoning	1 mark for each use of an intermediate conclusion or chain of intermediate conclusions (including if used in a response to a counter) Maximum 3 marks	
	Argument elements	1 mark for each use of other argument elements that strengthens the reasoning: counter with response, example, evidence, analogy, hypothetical reasoning Credit each type only once per strand of reasoning Maximum 3 marks	
	Structure	1 mark for two or more distinct strands of reasoning	
	Each component of a candidate response may score only once. Where there is more than one possibility, use the classification which leads to the higher total mark. Maximum 6 marks for no conclusion or wrong conclusion, or a conclusion that does not follow from the reasoning, or if both sides are argued without a resolution. 0 marks for answer unrelated to the claim given. No credit for material merely reproduced from the passage. Annotate answers as follows: CON To indicate main conclusion. R To indicate creditworthy reason used to support a conclusion. I To indicate creditworthy intermediate conclusion. AE To indicate creditworthy other argument element. S To indicate distinct strand of reasoning. C To indicate that mark has been capped. X To indicate material that is judged not to have a structural function the argument. Use highlighter to indicate material which is not relevant to the stated claim or is derived from the passage.		

Question	Answer	Marks
5	Example 8-mark answers <i>Support (139 words)</i> Children ^Rbelieve what their parents tell them and imitate their behaviour, but as adults ^Rthey follow their own life choices with regard to such ^{AE}issues as religion, politics and sex. ^IThey therefore need an intermediate period of exploration, in which to navigate the transition from childhood to adult status. ^SBy the age of 25, most people ^Rhave adopted the most important elements in the remainder of their life, such as ^{AE}a career, an intimate ^{AE}relationship and their own home. These commitments are likely to be ^Idisastrous if they are not based on freely chosen fundamental values and attitudes. ^ISo men and women in their late teens and early twenties need opportunities to get to know people from a wide variety of background and beliefs. Therefore everyone ^{CON}should use the period of adolescence to develop their own opinions and values. <i>Challenge (148 words)</i> Some people ^{AE}imagine that adolescence is a universal experience, but in fact people in most cultures ^Rmove immediately from childhood to adult status, taking on such responsibilities ^{AE}as marriage and work. ^RMost societies ^Iexpect all their members to conform to behavioural norms. ^ISo for very many people a period of exploration and choice is neither necessary nor feasible. ^SEven in more developed cultures, ^{AE}if young people are comfortable with the way they have been brought up, there will be no need for them to explore ^Ralternatives to the standards and beliefs of their parents. Many young ^Ipeople are happy to ^Iprogress unquestioningly from schooldays into the world of work and adult responsibilities. So they can treat adolescence as an opportunity for pleasure and freedom from responsibility rather than introspection and philosophical debates. Therefore ^{CON}not everyone should use the period of adolescence to develop their own opinions and values.	

Question	Answer	Marks
5	<i>Acceptable 'challenge' conclusions:</i> • Not everyone should (necessarily) use the period of adolescence to develop their own opinions and values. • Everyone should not use (only) the period of adolescence to develop their own opinions and values.	