



Cambridge International AS & A Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/22

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2022

1 hour 45 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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 [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Study the evidence and then answer Questions 1 and 2.

Source A**Extract from public information website**

Wolves became extinct in Britain about three centuries ago. This was probably caused by hunting, because their natural habitat was plentiful and their natural prey were in good supply. These conditions still exist today.

There is one major advantage of a proposed reintroduction of wolves to remote parts of Britain, particularly in Scotland. They prey on deer, who tend to damage tree-seedlings by overgrazing. The presence of wolves would keep herds of deer more mobile. This would greatly reduce the risk to tree growth, resulting in larger forests, which in turn would increase the habitats available to vulnerable species.

Despite their reputation, wolves are actually shy animals that pose very little danger to humans. True, they do pose a risk to farm animals – sheep and cows, for example. Were wolves to be reintroduced, there would need to be schemes set up to compensate farmers for losses.

Source B**Extract from UK university website**

Recent research shows that wolves could safely be reintroduced to parts of rural Scotland if they were put into very large, fenced-off reserves. This would enable them to reduce the numbers of red deer that make regeneration of woodland so ineffective, and which limit the restoration of ecosystems. In some areas, the average deer density is 40 per km². Even a wolf density of 80 grey wolves per 1000 km² would be enough to make a substantial impact on the excessive deer population.

Keeping the wolves in controlled areas would make it easier to monitor the overall success of the project and greatly reduce the danger of encounters between wolves and people.

Source C**Extract from article published by organisation representing Scottish farmers**

A study has shown that, in 2016, the authorities in Norway paid out compensation to farmers for almost 20 000 sheep killed by predators, of which 34% were killed by wolves. Although the overall predation figure had been declining over the previous decade, this was because around 1000 hill farmers had stopped keeping sheep due to the high numbers of animals killed by predators.

Scottish farmers are willing to consider the proposal under discussion, but believe that, if we are thinking about introducing wolves to selected parts of Scotland, it would be foolish to ignore the experiences of our neighbours across the North Sea.

Source D

Extract from statement made by recreational walkers' association*Reintroduction of wolves to Glen Lervie Estate*

While it may seem sensible to confine the wolves to a large enclosed area of land (200 km²), thereby keeping some measure of control on their location, many miles of high, strong fencing will be needed. No matter how it is built, this will be an unsightly scar on the landscape.

However, the main concern is that a huge area of countryside will become much less accessible to walkers, whose rights to 'roam' were legally established by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. No proposal has yet been made to permit free access to the fenced-off area to the general public. Even if gates were provided, walkers' level of access to the area would still be greatly reduced. Walkers must be able to retain free access to the enclosed area.

Source E

Extract from letter written by Scottish hill farmer published in local newspaper

My family has been farming remote areas of Scotland for generations, much of it involving the rearing of sheep. It's a tough and thankless way to earn a living, but we gladly do it without complaint. However, we can't be expected to remain silent about the proposal to bring wolves back to parts of Scotland. This suggestion is a serious threat to the existence of sheep farms in affected areas, and talk of 'compensation payments' is missing the point. Why bother to raise the animals at all, if they're to be easy prey for wolves? Wolves that don't need to be there in the first place. Nobody knows better than farmers what a menace red deer can be, but surely it's better to use professional marksmen to shoot some of the deer rather than having hungry wolves prowling across the land once again?

- 1 (a) Is Source A an argument? Explain your answer. [2]
- (b) How much support does the evidence presented in the first paragraph of Source C provide to concerns that Scottish farmers may have about wolves killing their sheep? [4]
- (c) How plausible is Source D's claim that "Even if gates were provided, walkers' level of access to the area would still be greatly reduced"? [4]
- (d) How credible is Source E? Explain your answer. [4]

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

'Wolves should be reintroduced to Scotland.'

To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the evidence provided. [8]

Section B

Read the following passage and then answer Questions 3, 4 and 5.

- 1 The expression 'exotic pets' usually refers to birds or animals other than the common pets such as cats and dogs. In recent years, around the world it has become much less unusual to keep exotic pets. During the same time period, social media websites have made people more aware of the range of animals available, and e-commerce has made it easier than ever to buy them. These factors must be the cause of the increased popularity of unusual pets.
- 2 Keeping such creatures may seem like a harmless pastime. However, people should be discouraged from keeping exotic pets. Some owners are unaware of what their pets require for safety and good health. So it is not surprising that animals' needs are often neglected. For example, it is not well known that frogs have very sensitive skin, which means that they should be handled rarely, and always with great care.
- 3 People very often underestimate the risks posed by exotic pets. Some of these pets may look cute and cuddly, especially when young, but appearances are often misleading. There have been many cases of owners or other members of the public being injured by an exotic pet – for example, by being scratched or bitten. Some people have even died. No matter how tame these pets may seem, they remain animals and never lose instincts that can result in unpredictable behaviour and harm to human beings.
- 4 Some exotic pets are bred in captivity, but many are seized from their natural homes in the wild and smuggled abroad for sale. The smuggling often involves long, hazardous and uncomfortable journeys for captured animals. An international agreement to prevent these activities has been signed by 183 countries; so this poor treatment is clearly viewed as a serious problem by the international community and action should be taken. The people who buy animals obtained in this way should be held responsible for the suffering these animals endure.
- 5 Seizing exotic animals from the wild has devastating effects on the planet's ecosystems. There has been a dramatic decline in numbers of radiated tortoises and African grey parrots. This proves that many species have been pushed to the verge of extinction by the trade in exotic animals.

- 3 (a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the *main conclusion*. [2]
- (b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify **two** *intermediate conclusions* in paragraphs 3 to 4. [4]
- (c) Identify the argument element and explain the function of the following words from paragraph 2:
- ‘Some owners are unaware of what their pets require for safety and good health.’ [2]
- (d) Identify **one** *unstated assumption* required by the reasoning in paragraph 4. [2]
- 4 (a) Identify and explain **one** flaw or weakness in the reasoning in paragraph 1. [3]
- (b) Identify and explain an objection that could be raised against the argument in paragraph 3. [2]
- (c) Identify and evaluate an *appeal* in paragraph 4. [2]
- (d) Evaluate the reasoning in paragraph 5. [3]
- 5 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*
- ‘Pet owners should be legally responsible for all of the damage or harm caused by their animals.’
- Write your own short argument to support **or** challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. Credit will not be given for repeating ideas from the passage. [8]

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.