



Cambridge International AS & A Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/23

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2025

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

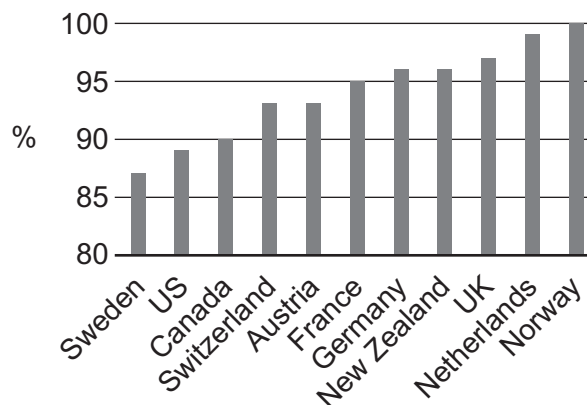
International variations in primary care medicine

'Primary care physicians' are doctors who can be consulted directly by patients, without being referred by another doctor. In the UK, all primary care physicians are 'General Practitioners' (GPs); specialists are all located in hospitals and the only way to see a specialist is to be referred by a GP. In the US, primary care physicians may be 'family practitioners' or may specialise in internal medicine, child health or women's health, pregnancy and childbirth; most of them are located in the community and patients consult whichever they consider most appropriate, according to their symptoms.

Most primary care physicians in the US are sole practitioners. Nearly all GPs in the UK now work in groups, based in health centres, alongside other medical professionals, such as nurses, physiotherapists and counsellors. Many of them work part-time, dividing their time with childcare, other medical work or leisure activities.

Source B

Percentage of adults who have a regular doctor or place of care



Source C

Notice on website of UK medical practice

All of our GPs work part time, so it is not possible to see the same doctor every day. There are times when it is really useful to maintain continuity of care by seeing the same doctor regularly. We have a timetable on this website and in the porch at the surgery so that you can check when the doctor of your choice will be at work.

We are required to give all our patients a named GP, and have chosen to allocate them by the initial letter of their surname. However, you are entitled to see whichever GP you choose.

Source D

Research report

It has long been known that continuity of medical care leads to higher satisfaction rates among patients. Research from a leading university medical school has now revealed that patients who see the same doctor every time have lower death rates than those who see different doctors on different occasions. The research analysed the published findings of 22 studies, covering more than 1.4 million patients from several different countries. Eighteen of the studies showed that patients were significantly more likely to die in a given period if they were treated by different primary care doctors or hospital consultants. Possible explanations for these results are that patients are more open about their symptoms when speaking to a doctor whom they know, more trusting of the advice such a doctor gives them and more likely to take the treatment they are prescribed.

Source E

Speech to medical conference by retired Professor of General Medical Practice

Over my many years' experience, I have observed that continuity of care enables doctors to understand the context behind patients' symptoms, including family and social and psychological factors. These can be important factors in making the right decisions about investigation, referral or treatment. However, I have also observed that after many years a doctor might fail to notice new things, and sometimes the relationship can become so comfortable that neither the doctor nor the patient mentions something which really requires investigation. In addition, some patients don't feel a need to see the same doctor, or may even prefer to talk to a stranger about a sensitive or embarrassing issue.

- 1 (a) Is Source E an argument? Justify your answer. [2]
- (b) Assess the reliability of Source E. [4]
- (c) How is the reliability of Source D affected by **ability to see**? [2]
- (d) Look at Source C. Suggest **two** reasons why a patient might prefer to consult a doctor **other** than their named GP. [2]
- (e) 'Access to healthcare in the US is among the worst in the world.'
- Give **two** reasons why this **cannot** be reliably concluded from the evidence in Source B. [2]
- (f) Source D suggests three possible explanations for why patients were more likely to die if they were 'treated by different primary care doctors or hospital consultants'.
- Suggest **one alternative** explanation for this statistical correlation. [2]
- 2 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*
- 'Patients should be able to see the same doctor on every visit.'
- 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 'Social mobility' is the ability of people to improve their social and economic status. In a socially mobile society, people from a background of poverty and disadvantage can achieve positions of wealth and power. All reliable experts in sociology and politics now consider social mobility to be a mark of a progressive and humane society. In order to be socially mobile, it is necessary for young people to believe in their own potential for success.
- 2 The life stories of everyone who has reached the height of achievement and influence in science, industry or culture have one thing in common. They tell how these people developed a vision of what they could achieve and remained true to that vision despite opposition and disappointments. These stories show that anyone can succeed if they have an ambition.
- 3 Parents and teachers sometimes tell children that hard work is the most important ingredient for success, but no young person should believe this. The adults who give this advice are motivated solely by a desire to make their own lives easier. In fact, hard work does not always produce success: young people who want to succeed should therefore focus their hard work precisely on a clearly-defined ambition.
- 4 Being committed to an ambition gives people confidence. This increases their chances of fulfilling their dreams, because their air of confidence is like a superpower, which impresses those who can give them opportunities and discourages possible rivals.
- 5 Everyone encounters failures and disappointments from time to time. Unless someone is committed to an ambition, even a minor failure is disastrous. It causes people to disbelieve in their own abilities and discourages them from attempting further challenges, leading inevitably to a life of unemployment, poverty and misery.
- 6 However, it would be misleading to tell young people that they can become whoever they want to be and achieve whatever they want to do. Everyone has different skills and different levels of competence. Young people should therefore devote themselves to achieving optimistic but realistic ambitions.

- 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** from paragraphs 4 to 6. [4]
- (c) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify **one counter-assertion**. [2]
- (d) Identify **one unstated assumption** required by the argument in paragraph 3. [2]
- 4 (a) Identify and evaluate an *appeal* in paragraph 1. [3]
- (b) Identify and explain **one** flaw or weakness in the reasoning in paragraph 2. [2]
- (c) Evaluate an *analogy* in paragraph 4. [3]
- (d) Explain how the reasoning in paragraph 5 is weakened by the flaw of *slippery slope*. [2]
- 5 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*

‘Relationships are more important than work.’

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]

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