

General Certificate of Education (A-level) January 2012

Critical Thinking

CRIT1

(Specification 2770)

Unit 1: Foundation Unit

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all examiners participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Critical Thinking Mark Scheme

INTRODUCTION

The nationally agreed assessment objectives in the QCA Subject Criteria for Critical Thinking are:

- **AO1** Analyse critically the use of different kinds of reasoning in a wide range of contexts.
- **AO2** Evaluate critically the use of different kinds of reasoning in a wide range of contexts.
- **AO3** Develop and communicate relevant and coherent arguments clearly and accurately in a concise and logical manner.
- Marks are allocated to the assessment objectives according to the nature of each question and what it is intended to test.
- For Section A, Examiners need only provide a total mark for each of the candidates' answers. They do not need to provide a breakdown by Assessment Objective.
- For Section B, marks should be awarded according to the generic marking grid.
- Candidates should be able to achieve the highest marks with a selection of relevant points, not necessarily the complete range.
- Indicative content is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and other valid points must be credited.

Unit 1 Critical Thinking Foundation Unit

Section A

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3	
Quest	estions 1 and 2 refer to Document A.						
1	How good following		ipport provided in the document for each of the				
1(a)	It is still q	It is still quicker to read the print version of a book (paragraph 1). (4 marks)					
	Award as	follows:					
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors				
	Level 3	4	Clear judgement (explicitly made or very obviously implied), well-supported with reference to the text, and strengths and weaknesses of the justification clearly identified and articulated.				
	Level 2	2 – 3	Clear judgement with adequate to good support; or: reasonable analysis of strengths and weaknesses but overall judgement unclear.				
	Level 1	1	Limited attempt to comment critically and / or answer the question.				
	Bare judgr	ment gets	0 marks.				
	(candidate	s could de	recognise that this claim is at best partly justified etermine this as being partially or poorly or not at all claim too strong).				
	further tha	n the evid	evidence in support of this claim, the claim goes ence warrants / there are numerous problems in the laim as it stands.				
	Why there insufficient		ems with justification / why the justification is				
	There is a	problem v	vith generalisation.				
	moreover	there are p	arity about what is meant by 'the same story' and presumably problems with reading the same story a lit make you speed up / slow down?).				

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3
	electronic would cea Candidate seen mere However, those who provided in	readers we see to be so see to be	s' IT skills / lack of expertise at handling the carped the data (i.e. with some further practice it lower). Sint out that in a sense the claim is justified if it is indirect quote from/ summary of the report itself. The conclusion was drawn by the journalist or by report, there are still problems given the support e. Therefore this line of discussion, if comprising should be restricted to [2] marks maximum.			
1(b)	iPads & K		ere 'more satisfying' (paragraph 3). (4 marks)		4	
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors			
	Level 3	4	Clear judgement (explicitly made or very obviously implied), well-supported with reference to the text, and strengths and weaknesses of the justification clearly identified and articulated.			
	Level 2	2 – 3	Clear judgement with adequate to good support; or: reasonable analysis of strengths and weaknesses but overall judgement unclear.			
	Level 1	1	Limited attempt to comment critically and / or answer the question.			
		•	dge this as (fairly) well supported, since the claim simple summary of what was found.			
	are also po	ossible pro	ill a possible problem with generalisation, and there oblems to do with the subjectivity and / or ring – also with the closeness of the results.			
			pt 'not well justified / 'not justified' (or the claim is dates provide a satisfactory case.			
	unclear wh	nether or r	ise the possible generalisation problem. It is not the claim is supposed to apply generally; or people surveyed – if the former, then a problem; if			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
	Candidates could point to the subjectivity of 'satisfying', and the consequent problems of making any firm judgment.			
	On the other hand, candidates could argue that it is not unreasonable (and indeed common practice) to ask consumers about their degree of satisfaction – and this is as good a way as any / all such attempts will necessarily be subjective.			
	Candidates could ask whether the average difference (0.1 out of 7) is sufficient given the size of the overall sample (24) to warrant any sort of definitive claim – i.e. even as a judgement applying only to the people surveyed, the claim is still too strong.			
	As above, candidates could point out that the journalist could simply be reporting the report's conclusion – award as above.			
2	Given the evidence in paragraphs 2 and 3, identify one implicit assumption upon which the title of the article depends. (2 marks)	2		
	N.B. If a candidate offers two or more implicit assumptions, only mark the first one. If it is wrong the candidate gets zero, even if their second attempt is correct.			
	Speed is more important than satisfaction when it comes to winning / Speed is important for something to be the future of literature; if something is to be the future of literature it cannot be slower to read.			
	For a clear / precise articulation of an implicit assumption [2]			
	For an unclear / imprecise expression (e.g. over-/ under-statement) [1]			
	Speed and satisfaction are important when judging what medium for reading is best [1]			

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3
Ques	tions 3 to 6	refer to [Document B.			
3	Antonio	of ne powe Anyo great	k a lot of people in the art world are frightened we technologies because they threaten the er and status of the so-called creative industries. One can make a film now; anyone can take the expicture; anyone can publish their writing on the net. And this is a great thing.			
	Sue		urely that cheapens it. If anyone can do these s, then they are no longer special.			
	Nigel	or fo	s a stupid argument. It's like saying that water od has become less valuable because it is more able to people.			
	Comment	critically	on the analogy Nigel gives. (4 marks)	1	3	
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors			
	Level 3	4	Accurate and convincing critical comment on the analogy.			
	Level 2	2-3	Reasonable and plausible critical comment on the analogy with explanation that it is relevant.			
	Level 1	1	Candidate shows some understanding of how to assess the analogy OR limited but reasonable critical comment on terms of this analogy.			
	understan	ding of ho	credited with a mark if their answer shows some w to go about assessing an analogy – even if their or unconvincing.			
	N.B. Do no	ot credit <u>m</u>	<u>ere</u> explanation of what analogy <u>is</u> .			
			s can be awarded a mark for effective critical y do not tackle the analogy.			
	N.B. Do no argument"		ritical comments on Nigel's claim "That's a stupid			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
	Relevant lines of assessment could include:			
	 In a sense his analogy is good, in that water does not become less valuable in the (biological) sense of sustaining life just because it is easily available [1–2] 			
	 However, in another (economic) sense, water, just like any resource, does become more valuable when it is scarce (e.g. threat of water wars etc) [1–2] 			
	 Could point out that more food / water is wasted now as a result of its increased availability – therefore it's not a 'stupid argument, and his analogy supports / does not weaken Sue's point [1–2] 			
	 Relies on an equivocation / ambiguity of word 'valuable' (and / or 'cheapens'?) [1] (ie 'value' in the sense of economic cost and 'value' in the sense of aesthetic value or 'needed for life') 			
	 Candidates could earn [1] for questioning the truth of water becoming more valuable (although not really a problem with the analogy, since he's only saying it's 'like saying that') 			
	 Weak analogy in the sense that water and food are essentials of life / survival but music, art and literature are not; water and food will retain their value for this always, but art won't, because of their very different qualities. Hence analogy could be seen as unfair 			
	Any reasonable critical comment on terms of analogy [1]			
	 Can award and extra mark if accompanied with a relevant explanation 			
	Award up to maximum [4] marks.			

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3
4	Consider	the follow	ving contribution from <u>Antonio:</u>			
	-	ıt digital p	pishness to say that what they make is no good, pictures, for example, are less valuable because ake.'			
	Does Ante	<u>onio's</u> res	ponse to <u>Sue</u> commit <u>either</u> of the following			
4(a)	Ad Homin	nem				
4(b)	Straw Ma	n				
	Give reas	ons for yo	our judgements. (8 marks)	4	4	
	For each p	oart:				
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors			
	Level 3	4	A convincing case either way; OR: a reasonable case put forward for both interpretations with clear and precise reference to the text.			
	Level 2	2–3	A partly convincing case, but with some simplicity / reference to text.			
	Level 1	1	For knowledge of what the terms straw man / ad hominem mean, but with no link to context.			
	There is a	case eithe	er way for both.			
	(a) Ad I	hominem				
	valu as 's pers Sue equi diffe she have look	e judgements in object of the saying ivocation of the secribes of the view and the saying in object.	way: someone (here Sue) is entitled to make a ent (!); dismissing the fact someone has done this ess' is arguably dismissing it on grounds of their hich makes it ad hominem; on the other hand, what is almost a self-evident truism because of an en "special". 'Special' can mean individual / can mean 'higher quality' eg special guest — what is a clear-cut case of snobbishness — IF people she describes it is fair to label it as 'snobbishness'; is way there is nothing necessarily ad hominem's comment.			

No.	Ques	stion	AO:	1	2	3
		(i)	Students could argue it is ad hominem if they think the accusation of <u>in itself</u> is the <u>basis</u> of Antonio's point.			
		(ii)	Students could argue that it is not ad hominem because the claim that Sue's view <u>is</u> snobbish is <u>justified</u> and so Antonio's point is reasonable – if candidates argue that it <u>is</u> ad hominem for this reason, then this part of their answer gets zero marks.			
	(b)	Straw	Man			
		a case for yes, as certainly some sense that Sue's point has been exaggerated: there is a difference between no longer special and no good. Also his saying it is just snobbishness may distort or limit the plurality of interpretations of 'special'.				
	not n	Also, going by Antonio's original comment, saying anyone can do it did not necessarily mean it meant easier – could have just been accessibility his point was describing.				
	it, it b	ecome: geratior	ue does say something along these lines (If anyone can do s less special etc); therefore it's arguably not a great n, more just spelling out the possible implications of her therefore a case for 'No' also.			

Nigel: thing then I not just the ble object I nelves. u listen to gital is and 0s. It			
not just the ble object I nelves. I listen to gital Is and 0s. It			
gital Is and 0s. It			
t the			
me.			
e above. (6 <i>mark</i> s)	2	4	
tical thinking cording to the			
soning is or deploy nption); onvincing.			
accuracies uative upported.			
ly with the e mostly unclear or			
	coning is or deploy nption); convincing. accuracies active upported.	tical thinking cording to the cording is or deploy aption); convincing. accuracies active apported. by with the emostly	tical thinking cording to the cording is or deploy nption); convincing. accuracies active upported.

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
	NB although candidates can be credited for both analytical and evaluative comments, there is no need for candidates to offer analytica comments to gain full marks – if the evaluation is clear and convincing then that will suffice; similarly, there is no need for candidates to comment on all contributions Steve makes, they can focus their response on what they see as the problematic parts.	I		
	The following provide examples of relevant lines of discussion:			
	Steve's first comment is largely an expression of personal opinion / where he stands on the issue, and he is perfectly entitled to offer this.			
	(Saying e.g. that it is 'just an opinion and therefore not valid' should not be credited).	:		
	Steve's claim: 'I think that if you just buy the download, not the physica thing, then you are not a fan' however, is more deserving of critical comment.	I		
	Questionable underlying assumptions			
	 It's just an expression of (quite snobbish? Antiquated?) opinion (his, personal, subjective and perhaps leading) definition of a far 	1		
	 Alternatively, candidates could perhaps make the case for this being a reasonable extension / addition to his viewpoint / line of argumentation 			
	 Or: an ad hoc amendment in the light of an intelligent counter- argument / objection from Nigel 			
	 Possible limiting options (either buy a CD or not a true fan) 			
	Steve's final comment is the least reasonable (and could fairly be labelled flawed)			
	Candidates may point to an unfair appeal to popularity and / or authority; an unfair use of leading language / a persuasive definition of 'fan' that arguably begs the question.			

No.	Question	n AO:	1	2	3
6	Conside Sue	There's a deeper point here. There is a real danger that the rush to digitalise music and literature is actually impoverishing rather than enriching our lives. When something is just a package of data, you lose respect for it. Consequently it becomes disposable; something that you just download, then erase. It also encourages people to go for things that are a quick fix. Your relationship with a book or a song; it should be something lasting, perhaps difficult to get on with initially, but then you grow to love it.			
6(a)	Identify soffers.	Sue's conclusion or conclusions and the reasons she (5 marks)	5		
	Main con	clusion, introduced with: 'There's a deeper point here', is:			
		a real danger that the rush to digitalise music and literature is mpoverishing rather than enriching our lives.			
	[NB you of first sente conclusion				
	This is based on two problems that she identifies with turning something into 'just a package of data':				
	R1	When something is just a package of data, you lose respect for it			
	R2/ IC	(Consequently) it becomes disposable, something you just download then erase			
	And				
	R2/ R3	Turning something into just a package of data / It (also) encourages you to go for things which are a quick fix			
	R3/ R4	(Whereas) Your relationship with a book or a song, it should be something lasting, perhaps difficult to get on with initially, then you grow to love it.			

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors			
	Level 3	5	Analysis of the argument into reasons and conclusions is full and accurate.			
	Level 2	3 – 4	Candidate's analysis is largely correct but contains errors or omissions.			
	Level 1	1 – 2	Candidates either offer a full analysis but one that is largely incorrect, or a very incomplete analysis (e.g. one reason and one conclusion)			
		e argumer	or answers which merely list or paraphrase relevant nt without any indication that they are reasons or			
6(b)	Identify <u>o</u> argument		t assumption that is necessary for her (2 marks)	2		
	N.B. No cr	edit for an	ything explicit or that is an implied conclusion.			
		•	clearly stated [2] / unclear or over / understated [1] e worst thing you can have			
	N.B. Do no		We should stop digitalising music / literature", (this sion.			
			sumption about the importance of music / literature has a direct impact on our quality or richness of life			
	_	•	tions include: ach of the following unless only 1 mark is indicated)			
	,		I versions of music / literature enrich our lives			
			d / Respect is a good thing			
		•	is worse than being enriched			
	Quick fixes		•			
	What lasts	is better				
	Persevera	nce is god	od / valuable			
	A lasting r	elationship	o, rather than a quick fix, enriches our lives			
	Losing res	pect is im	poverishing			
	You can h	ave respe	ct for inanimate objects [1]			
	1					

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
6(c)	Explain one possible flaw or weakness in Sue's reasoning. (3 marks)		2	
	Don't credit mere claims that Sue makes assumptions or that Sue does not use examples or rely on other evidence			
	This begs the question: obviously if someone has this attitude, then it is no surprise to say they have lost respect for art!			
	 Questionable assumptions e.g. about significance of art in our lives / Assumption that a 'quick fix' cannot be long lasting? eg digitalisation automatically leads to people losing respect for it (music etc) 			
	 Relies on her own opinion / slightly dubious principle about the value / worth of the reading / listening experience 			
	 Candidates could examine the analogy given / implied, and ask whether it holds 			
	 Candidates could argue that Sue has made a false dichotomy between the old forms of and the new in that only digital is a package of data [NB could be interpreted as a Straw Man, albeit as one of a view not expressed] 			
	 Possible slippery slope from digital media to encouraging quick fixes in general ONLY credit 1 mark maximum if student refers to and explains Sue's use of slippery slope 			
	Limiting options to download and erase; could download and share etc [2]			
	Clear and plausible explanation of flaw with accurate reference to the text [3]			
	Correct flaw partially explained and reference to text is vague [2]			
	Flaw seems correct but is not clearly enough explained and only vague reference to the text [1]			
	Simply mentioning name of flaw [0]			

No.	Question AO:				2	3
Quest	tions 7 and 8 refer to Document C.					
7	Critically assess the following claim which is implied by the author as a reason for 'going back to film'					
	_	•	gital cameras are more fragile or vulnerable to iges on a film camera.			
	How justified is the claim; and are the assumptions that it makes warranted?					
	(6 marks)					
	Levels ma	ark schem	ne			
	For each of	claim:				
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors			
	Level 3	5 – 6	Candidates' assessment shows that they have understood the grounds the author has given for their implied claim, and they support their implied claim, and they support their evaluative judgments with relevant and effective critical comment.			
	Level 2	3 – 4	Candidates' assessment shows that they have understood the grounds the author has given for their implied claim, and they support their evaluative judgements with relevant critical comment.			
	Level 1	1 – 2	Candidates make critical comment but their criticisms lack relevance or bite. There may be confusion regarding the actual grounds for the implied claims.			
			answers which <u>confine</u> themselves to merely the ferences between digital cameras and film cameras.			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
	Suggested answers			
	Reasons for the implied claim:			
	the story about her finding an old negative and being able to develop it; and the claim, implied through rhetorical question, that people would not be able to do the same thing with their current digitally stored images (presumably since they are now so prevalent as to be not deemed worth looking after / because people don't care about them or value them enough to do so).			
	Candidates could point out that the claim being implied is a general one, and the use of a single personal anecdote is poor / insufficient support.			
	Candidates may also want to target some of the problematic implicit assumptions here.			
	For example, that when something is more abundant/likely to break / fragile it (immediately) becomes less valuable. Or that people will automatically value their images less due to the way they are stored. Candidates could question these, e.g. the second assumption could be challenged by arguing that the medium is hardly relevant to the interest value or likelihood of loss – a digital photo of something interesting must surely be greater than that of a boring paper photograph.			
	There is also a hint of circularity: people will not allocate their current digital images with the same sense of worth because they think they are less valuable.			
	On the other hand, candidates could argue e.g. that there is a plausibility in the notion that when something is abundant it becomes less valuable (support this with suitable examples or analogies).			
	Candidates could decide that the overall comparison is unfair: obviously an old film from long ago will have an inherent value that is nothing to do with the medium.			

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3
8	paragraph	n about thully do the	on the author's claims in the next to last te beauty and poetry of photography. How ey support her reasoning in favour of sticking (6 marks)	2	4	
	Levels	Marks	Descriptors			
	Level 3	5 – 6	Candidates' assessment shows that they have understood the grounds the author has given for claims, and candidates support their case, and their evaluative judgments with relevant and effective critical comment.			
	Level 2	3 – 4	Candidates' assessment shows that they have understood the grounds the author has given for claims, and candidates support their evaluative judgements with relevant critical comment.			
	Level 1	1 – 2	Candidates make critical comment but their criticisms lack relevance or bite. There may be confusion regarding the actual grounds for the author's claims.			
	was a mor piece of fil this now lot Candidate heavily on it is used to 'actual'. Colight waves In point of captured, matter who really neith	ment that in ment froze m – a reco ong-dead p s could jud personal of personal of o emphasi andidates s'? fact, the p Also 'a lor atever the ner here no	the film-based photo (in contrast to digital) 'really in in time; the actual light waves caught on the ord of the actual light waves that had reflected off person's face.' dge the reasons here to be fairly flimsy, and relying opinion / interpretation, and even use of language: is what are merely assumptions / assertions 'really'; might usefully ask what is meant by 'the actual hysics is much the same – light waves being and dead person's face' could still be the subject technology. Whether captured on screen or film is or there. Therefore the comparison is unconvincing claim poorly supported.			

SECTION B (see Generic Mark Grid) page 19

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
9	To what extent do you agree with the claim below?			
	'In the digital age, libraries, galleries and museums are a waste of money and space.'			
	Write a reasoned argument for your position.			
	In answering this question you should:			
	 state your conclusion (or conclusions) clearly offer effective reasoning to support your conclusions use the information, and respond to issues or arguments, in Documents A – C. 			
	(20 marks)			20
	There are several positions candidates could adopt.			
	 Candidates could take a strong position on this, agreeing largely or completely with the assertion. To do so effectively, since it is a controversial stance, they would really need to consider some of the counter-arguments – at least consider some of the things that public spaces such as these offer. 			
	 Candidates could take a modified position, such that they agree that e.g. libraries could be, but not museums / galleries. 			
	 Candidates could similarly take a modified position whereby they admit that perhaps <i>less</i> money could be spent etc, there is <i>less</i> need for these things, but it would be wrong / a crime to get rid of them completely. 			
	 Candidates could argue strongly against this position. They could argue, for example, that in the digital age, where people are increasingly connected via electronic media, such public spaces as these are of increased importance. 			
	 Any argument on either side of the question of whether or not something should be abolished will presumably need to consider the strengths of the thing that is being abolished. Therefore candidates will need to consider what kind of things libraries etc provide; how important (or obsolete) this is; and whether or not this can usefully be provided elsewhere. 			
	 Candidates could consider the case for the need for the physical spaces themselves and / or for the importance of the physical artefacts. Candidates could consider those who are disadvantaged by the proposal – such as those people who would lose most from the cuts. 			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
	 Candidates could weigh these (and similar) points against e.g. economic arguments; they could take the line that, in the economic climate, cuts need to be made somewhere, and maybe this is something that could go! (Room for some discussion of the inherent value of protecting arts / culture in such a climate). 			
	Candidates could also explore the implications of the alternatives. There are issues of access. Candidates could argue that anyone can walk into a library. Whereas accessing digital			
	records will take IT facilities and perhaps passwords, logins etc. On the other hand, candidates could argue that the physical space advantages the physically able bodied – that there is something even more open and accessible about the digital world. (Candidates could do something here about the democratic nature of the internet compared to e.g. galleries etc which are all owned / curated.)			
	There is the issue of security. Candidates could usefully talk up the dangers of electronic storage – in terms of piracy, theft – and also technical failures; contrasts with the perishability (or otherwise) of physical storage e.g. books could be made.			
	There is the related issue of ownership. It is clear that a library has a (certain kind of) ownership of the objects it holds. But who owns the means of digital storage / the ISP? Is this contracted with a third party? What if the third party prove rogue?			

GENERIC MARKING GUIDE for Question 9

	Award Level			
	Good response	Reasonable response	Limited response	
Descriptor	Criteria well met. Communication is clear and appropriate.	Criteria partially met. Communication is mostly clear and appropriate.	Criteria barely met. Communication errors may impede understanding.	
Conclusion A conclusion is clearly stated that is consistent with the reasoning, and directly responds to the question.	3	2	1	
Reasons / Lines of Reasoning The above conclusion is well supported with reasons, contributory arguments, examples, clarification of terms. Counter-arguments considered and replied to.	9 – 11	5 – 8	1 – 4	
Use of source documents Candidate has engaged critically with source material.	5 – 6	3 – 4	1 – 2	

Distribution of marks across the questions and assessment objectives for Unit 1

AO Balance	AO1	AO2	AO3
i i			
Total Section A	21	29	_
Total Section B	ı	ı	20
Paper Total: [70] Marks	21	29	20
Paper Total: [70] Percentage	30%	41%	29%

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