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General Certificate of Education (A-level) June 2012

Critical Thinking

CRIT2

(Specification 2770)

Unit 2: Information, Inference and Explanation.

Final



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Unit 2 Information, Inference, Explanation

Section A

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
Ques	tions 1 to 3 refer to Document A			
1	Identify the 'fundamental flaw at the heart of [Ken Clarke's] reasoning' (Paragraph 2). (2 marks)	2		
	The flaw is Clarke 'Dismissing this correlation between the prison population and the crime rate' [2].			
	Accept paraphrases, for example:			
	 Ignores prison population and crime rate relationship [2] That if the country's prison population was reduced, then crime rates wouldn't rise [1] Ignores link between prison and low crime [1] Dismisses correlation [1] 			

) .	Question		AO:	1	2	
	This question ref	ers to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Document A.				
		arolina Bracken uses Italy as an example of umbers and crime.	a link			
	In doing so, does answer.	she commit the <i>post hoc</i> fallacy? Explain y	/our			
		(4 /	marks)	2	2	
	whether the fallacy	lable for the (possibly implicit) judgement about is committed. Award marks for the adequacy e reasons for the judgement.				
	Answers should sh	now clear understanding of the post hoc fallacy.				
	GOOD	The fallacy is understood well. One or more reasons are given for judging that the fallacy is (or is not) present in the reasoning in question and explained, or illustrated with an example.	4			
	INTERMEDIATE	The understanding of the fallacy is generally clear. One or more reasons are given for judging that the fallacy is (or is not) present in the reasoning in question.	2–3			
	BASIC	Understanding of the fallacy is evident but it may be inaccurate or incomplete. A reason for judging that the fallacy is (or is not) present in the reasoning in question may not be clear.	1			
	For example:					
	Bracken does com	mit the post hoc fallacy because:				
	crime rate t change in t supporting	that Italy's 'mass pardon of prisoners' caused to to rise simply because the rise occurred <i>after</i> th he prison population. The timing is the only reason given, but it could be a coincidence. Th ue to another factor such as policing levels (or a ample).	e ne rise			
	Bracken does not	commit the post hoc fallacy because:				
	following an crime follow illustrates a	an example. The <i>post hoc</i> fallacy is about <i>one</i> nother but Italy is one of <i>several</i> cases where hived a reduction in the prison population. So, Ita <i>trend</i> , including Denmark and Portugal (which s her causal claim plausible).	igh aly			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
3	Give <u>two</u> reasons why a high rate of imprisonment could cause the crime rate to fall.			
	(4 marks)	4		
	Credit any adequate and non-trivial reason according to detail and development. Allow up to 3 marks for one reason.			
	For example:			
	 Imprisoned offenders cannot commit crime (except against prisoners or prison staff). 			
	 Increasing the number of criminals in prison (for longer sentences) acts as a deterrent to would be offenders. 			
Quest	ions 4 to 7 refer to Document B			
4	This question refers to Graph 1.			
	If you wanted to work out the risk of being a victim of crime, why should you look at the dotted line and not the solid one? <i>(2 marks)</i>	2		
	Credit any adequate reason according to its accuracy and development.			
	Examples for 1 mark :			
	 The dotted line shows recorded offences per 100 000 population. 			
	 The dotted line shows crime linked to number of people but the solid one doesn't. 			
	Example for 2 marks :			
	 Because the dotted line shows crimes compared to population, you could work out the percentage chance of being a victim. 			
	No credit for mentioning accuracy or specificity – <i>both</i> lines are accurate and specific.			
	Answers which focus on the dashed line at the bottom of the graph showing violent offences against the person should not be credited because it cannot show the risk of being a victim of crime in general.			

Question		AO:	1	2	
For this question,	compare Graph 1 with Graph 2.				
Can it be inferred f population causes	rom these graphs that an increase in the p a fall in crime?	rison			
	(4 n	narks)		4	
whether the inference	ble for the (possibly implicit) judgement about ce can be made. Award marks for the adequa the reasons for the judgement.				
GOOD	The answer engages critically with the evidence to give a plausible justification for a clear (possibly implicit) judgement about the degree of evidential support.	4			
INTERMEDIATE	The answer engages critically with the evidence to give some justification for a (possibly implicit) judgement about the degree of evidential support.	2–3			
BASIC	A minor strength or weakness of the evidence may be identified or answers may assert the strength or weakness of evidence with only very limited	1			
	justification.				
fall in crime because	I that an increase in the prison population cau s	ses a			
It cannot be inferred fall in crime because • This could on	I that an increase in the prison population cau				
It cannot be inferred fall in crime because • This could on establish cau cause. • There is no o <i>before</i> prisor crime rose fr	I that an increase in the prison population cau se e nly show correlation, which is not sufficient to	mmon 9 1993 4 OR			
It cannot be inferred fall in crime because This could on establish cau cause. There is no of before prison crime rose fr remained roo Violent crime	I that an increase in the prison population caus e nly show correlation, which is not sufficient to usation as it could be coincidence or hide a co clear correlation because crime falls in 1992 to n numbers start to rise between 1993 and 1994 om 1998/9 to 2002/3 yet prison numbers rose	mmon 9 1993 4 OR (or			

Question		AO:	1	2	3
	rs to Graph 3 that the police and criminal ju as effective at bringing criminals to justice 2010?	stice			
	(3 n	narks)		3	
whether we should i	ble for the (possibly implicit) judgement about nfer loss of effectiveness. Award marks for the opment of the reasons for the judgement.				
GOOD	The answer engages critically with the evidence to give a plausible justification for a clear (possibly implicit) judgement about the degree of evidential support.	3			
INTERMEDIATE	The answer engages critically with the evidence to give some justification for a (possibly implicit) judgement about the degree of evidential support.	2			
BASIC	A minor strength or weakness of the evidence may be identified or answers may assert the strength or weakness of evidence with only very limited justification.	1			
effectiveness. Cred define it in their answ	uestion depends on what is meant by it candidates who explicitly discuss its meaning wer. ers need not be given in a yes or no format):	g or			
Yes, we may infer re	educed effectiveness because:				
The effective measured by convictions. offences betw		əd			
The effective measured by convictions. offences betw system failed	educed effectiveness because: eness of the police and criminal justice system what proportion of known crimes lead to Whatever the cause of the increase in recorde ween 1955 and 1993, the police and criminal justice	əd			

Question		AO:	1	2	
	wing claim: 'If we want to reduce crime, w unity punishments, not prison.'	е			
To what extent is t	his claim justified by Graph 4? (4	marks)		4	
extent to which the	able for the (possibly implicit) judgement about claim is justified. Award marks for the adequent is for the fudgement.	ut the			
GOOD	The answer engages critically with the evidence to give a plausible justification for a clear (possibly implicit) judgement about the degree of evidential support.	4			
INTERMEDIATE	The answer engages critically with the evidence to give some justification for a (possibly implicit) judgement about the degree of evidential support.	2–3			
BASIC	A minor strength or weakness of the evidence may be identified or answers may assert the strength or weakness of evidence with only very limited justification.	1			
 For example: Although in t same rate for community s 	tified (to some extent / slightly) because: the early 1990s re-offending was at roughly t or prison and community sentences, by 2006 sentences led to 10% <i>less</i> re-offending. How e than 50% of offenders still reoffend.				
The judgment is not	justified (at all / with certainty) because:				
For example:					
and if <i>repeat</i> of re-offendi	information about the <i>type of offenders</i> punis t offenders tend to be sent to prison, the high ng would not show that prison is less effectiv uture crime because <i>repeat offenders</i> would	er rate e at			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
Ques	tion 8 refers to Document C			
8	Look at Table 1. Assume that the information it contains is entirely accurate.			
	Explain whether or not the following statements may be safely inferred from the information in Table 1.			
8(a)	At least 4 in 10 ex-prisoners will re-offend within one year of being released from prison. (2 marks)	1	1	
	No marks are available for the (possibly implicit) judgement about the safety of the inference itself. Award marks for the adequacy and development of the reasons for the judgement (including showing mathematical workings).			
	Judgement: This is a safe inference			
	Examples for 2 marks :			
	 because the Reconviction Rate after one year is 43% (which is more than 4 in 10). 			
	•since not all offences end in conviction, the 43% Reconviction Rate suggests that the number who will re-offend may be much higher than 4 in 10.			
	Example for 1 mark :			
	•43%.			
	Judgement: This inference is not certain			
	Examples for 2 marks :			
	 because data from 2001–10 might not be a good guide to the future if changes were made to prison rehabilitation programmes 			
	•because it is possible that some of the re-convicted exprisoners could have suffered miscarriages of justice.			
	 Example for 1 mark: because data from 2001–10 might not be a good guide to the future. 			

0.	Question		AO:	1	2	
(b)		stay out of jail long enough are no more like In the general population.	-			
		(3 m	arks)	1	2	
	safety of the inferen	able for the (possibly implicit) judgement about the ce itself. Award marks for the adequacy and reasons for the judgement (including showing ngs).	he			
	GOOD	The candidate's (possibly implicit) judgment is clear, accompanied by strong grounds for accepting or rejecting the safety of the inference OR a careful discussion of the pros and cons of the inference.	3			
	INTERMEDIATE	The candidate gives a (possibly implicit) judgement supported by one or more reasons for accepting or rejecting the safety of the inference OR a discussion of the pros and cons, which may be incomplete.	2			
	BASIC	The candidate offers one or more reasons for accepting or rejecting the safety of the inference which would give only minimal support to a judgment, which may not be given.	1			
	 Explanation: Explanation: convicted ea years (from 1 of reduced r 	The percentage of ex-prisoners who are re- ach year falls and, while the fall slows over nine (2.2% to 1%), it is consistent with a long-term tre- isk of re-offending which would eventually reach ulation's average if continued.				
	Judgement: The inf	erence is unsafe because				
	ex-prisoners unrepresent detection be	the Reconviction Rate may not tell us how like are to commit crime (ie it could be ative) since those skilled enough at avoiding cause of skills that they learned during their pris- eing caught.	-			
		t know the general population's risk of criminality ing to compare ex-prisoners' risk of re-offending				

No.	Question		AO:	1	2	3
8(c)		nost likely to commit a serious offence (such nother person) in the third year after being	as			
	(3 marks)					
	safety of the inferen	ble for the (possibly implicit) judgement about th ce itself. Award marks for the adequacy and reasons for the judgement (including showing ngs).	ne			
	GOOD	The candidate's (possibly implicit) judgment is clear, accompanied by strong grounds for accepting or rejecting the safety of the inference OR a careful discussion of the pros and cons of the inference.	3			
	INTERMEDIATE	The candidate gives a (possibly implicit) judgement supported by one or more reasons for accepting or rejecting the safety of the inference OR a discussion of the pros and cons, which may be incomplete.	2			
	BASIC	The candidate offers one or more reasons for accepting or rejecting the safety of the inference which would give only minimal support to a judgment, which may not be given.	1			
	For example:					
	• Explanation: because the is 0.9 (ie 2.5 other consec	a safe inference because the re-conviction severity rate for year 3 is 0. severity rate is cumulative and <u>Year 3</u> less <u>Yea</u> -1.6 = 0.9) and the greatest difference betwee cutive years is only 0.8 (or other years are less the second secon	<u>r 2</u> n			
	Judgement: This inf	erence is not safe because				
	 Explanation: the latest. T most likely to 	the data was collected for years 2001–2010, hus all we can infer <i>safely</i> is that ex-prisoners w commit a serious offence in the third year after ed during 2001–2010.	/ere			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
Ques	stions 9 and 10 refer to Document D			
9	Identify the argument's main conclusion and one intermediate conclusion.			
	(4 marks)	4		
	 Accept paraphrases. Award one or two marks for each conclusion, according to accuracy. The conclusions may come in any order and need not be named to be credited. Main conclusion: I disagree that increasing the number of prisoners works (ie reduces crime) 			
	 Intermediate conclusion: Imprisoning more would actually 			
	increase crime, for places that already lock up a lot of people			
	Intermediate conclusion: Putting a lot of people in prison does not mean automatic security			
	Intermediate conclusion: A less punitive system would work			

lo.	Question		AO: 1	2	3
10	"The article makes suffer when punish to hurt innocent vie punishment. We s	er's response to Document D: a disgusting appeal for us to pity criminals w ned. But criminals are people who have chos ctims. Prison is supposed to hurt because it' hould jail criminals because they deserve it, well it prevents crime."	sen		
		ive this response is as a counter-argument to	b		
	the main text of Do	(5 mar	rks)	5	
	effective the counter	ble for the (possibly implicit) judgement about ho r-argument is. Award marks for the adequacy an reasons for the judgement.			
	GOOD	Comments engage with the argument critically, concentrating on its most important features. The fallacies, strengths and weaknesses identified strongly support a clear (possibly implicit) judgment. The answer clearly explains why the reasoning in question is strong, weak or fallacious, often using clear illustrations.	-5		
	INTERMEDIATE		2-3		
	BASIC	Comments engage with the argument but1evaluation is limited either to identifying aminor flaw or strength, eg an emotive useof a term, or largely to assertion withlimited justification, eg that the argument isclear.			
	It (implicitly)	for the counter-argument's effectiveness: reveals a questionable assumption made in that less imprisonment is compatible with justice	 e.		
	It (implicitly)	reveals a value judgement made in the text that t policy should be to reduce crime above punishm	the		
	in the article' on criminals, that such an since the bes appeal, and	what could be interpreted as an appeal to sympats s final sentence about the pain punishment inflict their families and community. It could be argued appeal is not reasonable. (This is a weaker poin st interpretation of the final paragraph is not as an so should be treated as identifying a minor streng er-argument.)	nt,		

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
	Examples of points against the counter-argument's effectiveness:			
	• It attacks a straw man when it accuses the article of an appeal to pity criminals because the article actually draws attention to the <i>consequences</i> of the criminals' pain for us ('it makes us bad' and increases crime).			
	• It is an over-generalisation to assert that all criminals have chosen to hurt innocent victims because not all crimes are committed by choice, eg those committed under duress or by the mentally disordered and not all victims of crime are themselves innocent, eg in gang warfare.			
	 It confuses punishment with being hurt or causing pain (or it is a questionable assumption that punishment needs to hurt, eg restorative justice where perpetrators meet victims). 			
	 It uses provocative / persuasive / emotional language by asserting that an appeal to pity is 'disgusting'. 			
	• The counter-argument commits the tu quoque fallacy by reasoning that criminals deserve to be hurt when punished because they hurt their victims.			
	• The counter-argument is based on strong value judgements, which makes it less effective as a counter- <i>argument</i> since it cannot persuade those who start from different values.			

Section B	(See Generic	mark-grid	Page 14)
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No.	Question AO:	1	2	3
11	'Despite its faults, a community sentence is a better way to punish most criminals than a prison sentence.'			
	(30 marks)			30
	Reward skilful critical reasoning highly.			
	 For example, an answer with some skilful strong reasoning and some weak reasoning may score more highly than an answer with consistent but moderately skilful reasoning. 			
	Concise answers may score more highly than longer ones.			
	 Answers with skilful reasoning may contain insight, or consider assumptions, or appreciate appropriate standards to use in a fair evaluation of the issues, or use conditional reasoning. 			
	Reward answers that use information from the documents skilfully.			
	• For example, candidates who draw careful inferences from data, compare and contrast information, consider the credibility of sources, how representative evidence may be, or carefully decide how much support evidence gives, should be credited under both Use of Information and Reasoning criteria on the marking grid.			
	Reward answers that pay careful attention to the wording of the question.			
	• For example, it is significant that the statement is about punishing most criminals rather than all criminals or serious criminals. Answers which take this into account explicitly should be rewarded for doing so. There is no penalty for not doing so.			
	Given the source documents, some answers may concentrate on arguing that prison does not work. They should not be penalised.			
	Some use of principles in arguments will be implicit but may still be rewarded.			
	When marking answers to this question, award marks for the quality of the reasoning, rather than for knowledge about criminal justice.			
	• Credit answers according to how well the ideas are used to build a reasoned argument, rather than whether the ideas are accurate. For example, candidates may have inaccurate ideas about what community sentences typically involve.			

No.	Question AO:	1	2	3	
	Possible lines of argument				
	Community sentences are better because:				
	 Prisons are 'schools for crime' that will turn prisoners into more serious criminals, while community sentences have lower re- offending rates 				
	They allow offenders to contribute positively to their community				
	They challenge the social exclusion that leads to crime				
	• They offer greater opportunities for effective rehabilitation, such as teaching numeracy, literacy, and employment skills				
	• They are cheaper at a time when money is in short supply				
	Prison sentences are better because:				
	They are a punishment that reflects the harm criminals cause to victims				
	Society is protected from criminals while they are in prison				
	Prisoners could be compelled to undergo intensive rehabilitation work				
	Prison is a strong deterrent				
	Punishment is harsher but re-offending rates are only higher because we currently send only the most serious prisoners to jail				

Generic mark-grid for Section B:

Criteria	Award level			
	Level 3: Good response	Level 2: Reasonable response	Level 1: Basic response	
Conclusion	4	2-3	1	
	A conclusion is clearly stated that is supported by all the reasoning, and directly responds to the question.	A conclusion is clearly stated that is supported by most of the reasoning, and responds to the question.	A conclusion is stated that is supported by some reasoning, and responds to the question in part.	
Reasoning	9 –12	5 – 8	1-4	
	The conclusion is strongly supported with reasons, contributory arguments, examples, clarification of terms, etc.	The conclusion is supported with reasons, contributory arguments, examples, clarification of terms, etc.	The conclusion is weakly supported with reasons, contributory arguments, examples, clarification of terms, etc which may be imprecise.	
Use of	5 – 6	3 – 4	1-2	
information From Source Documents and / or to other relevant information or experience.*	Information (<i>must</i> include Source Documents) supports reasoning strongly. Information is interpreted carefully and inferences drawn from it are evaluated.	Information supports reasoning. Information is interpreted and inferences drawn may not be evaluated.	Information supports reasoning weakly. Information is not interpreted. Inferences drawn may be implicit and are not evaluated.	
Reference to	4	2-3	1	
principle	One or more general principles are introduced and play a significant role in the argument. Justification of the principle may be given.	One or more general principles are introduced and play a role in the argument.	One general principle is introduced and plays a minor or unclear role in the argument.	
Counter-	4	2-3	1	
argument	One or more challenges and objections are anticipated and answered effectively.	One or more challenges and objections are anticipated and answered.	One or more challenges and objections is anticipated and partially answered.	

	Good response	Reasonable response	Basic response
QWC Quality of Written Communication	Consistently communicates clearly and appropriately	Generally communicates clearly and appropriately	Communication may impede understanding.

* NB Candidates are not rewarded for exhibiting additional knowledge per se, but for the use they put it to in their reasoning if they choose to introduce it. Conversely, there is no penalty for not exhibiting additional knowledge: use of the documents alone is sufficient for awarding Level 3 'Good response' (5–6).

Distribution of marks across the questions and assessment objectives for Unit 2

AO Balance	AO1	AO2	AO3
Total Section A	17	23	-
Total Section B			30
Paper Total: [70] Marks	17	23	30
Paper Total: [70] Percentage	24%	33%	43%

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