

Victorian Certificate of Education
2018

EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 1 August 2018

Reading and writing time: 10.00 am to 11.10 am (1 hour 10 minutes)

Structure of test

<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
10	10	38

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- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
 - Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
 - No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- The Critical Thinking Test
- Student instructions

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the test provided.
- All written responses must be in English.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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Question 1 (4 marks)

Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority has rules for the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles known as drones. It has been argued that people who want to fly drones for recreational purposes must demonstrate that they know the rules by passing a test and obtaining a licence.

Consider the following proposition:

Permission to fly any kind of drone should depend on passing a test.

Read the following four statements.

There are laws that restrict and control the use of drones.

Drones can carry cameras or even weapons.

Drone operators must demonstrate that they know all the rules.

Flying a drone is not difficult.

Below is a table with some arguments for and against the proposition.

Drag each statement and drop it into the most appropriate empty cell in the table.

For	Against
Drones can pose a safety risk and can compromise people's privacy.	
	Flying a drone as a hobby is a harmless, enjoyable family activity.
Anyone flying a drone must have the necessary skills.	
	Drones are a smart technology with many valuable uses.
	Restrictions on flying drones should only be introduced if and when there is a problem.



Question 2 (4 marks)

Australia's National Criminal Investigation DNA Database holds records of genetic information from convicted criminals. It has been argued that the genetic information of everyone in Australia should be added to this database.

Consider the following proposition:

There should be a national database of genetic information from everyone in Australia.

Read the following four statements.

Australia currently collects the genetic information of convicted criminals. Why should the innocent object to having their genetic information recorded?

A national database of genetic information would deter crime.

People have a right to privacy.

A national database of genetic information would give too much power to the police.

Below is a table with some arguments for and against the proposition.

Drag each statement and drop it into the most appropriate empty cell in the table.

For	Against
	Law enforcement should be subject to controls and restrictions.
The genetic information of individuals would only be available for purposes approved by parliament.	
The interests of the community are more important than those of the individual.	
	Genetic identification techniques are not perfect.
	Genetic information can be used for purposes that individuals can reasonably reject.



Question 3 (6 marks)

Some countries are currently trialling the replacement of social welfare payments with a universal basic income (UBI) for all citizens. In such an arrangement everyone receives a basic payment, which means that people do not have to find paid employment if they do not want to.

Consider the following arguments **for** and **against** the proposition below:

Australia should trial a universal basic income (UBI).

For the proposition	Against the proposition
<p>A. Some people will want to work to supplement a UBI but, for others, the UBI will mean liberation from having to work.</p> <p>B. Work is not a good thing in itself, and some work is unpleasant and tedious.</p> <p>C. There will be fewer jobs in the future, and automation will supply many of the goods and services we need.</p> <p>D. If they do not have to work, some people will take their leisure activities seriously, so as to enrich themselves and society as a whole.</p> <p>E. Current welfare measures are expensive and ineffective.</p>	<p>F. Living on a UBI will rob people of motivation, and encourage laziness and self-indulgence.</p> <p>G. People gain dignity and respect from work.</p> <p>H. It is better to pay people for contributing to society than to pay them for nothing.</p> <p>I. It would be better to give everyone more leisure time than to give some people too much leisure time.</p> <p>J. A UBI would damage the economy and be unsustainable.</p>

Which **one** of the arguments (**A.–J.**) about trialling a UBI do you find more convincing and why?

Analyse the arguments presented rather than offering your own opinion about the proposition.

B *I* U



Question 4 (6 marks)

Nationalism can be defined as a devotion to the interests of one's own nation beyond the interests of other nations or the common interests of all nations. The word is sometimes used to imply extreme loyalty or a fanatic belief that one's own nation is better or more important than other nations.

Consider the following arguments **for** and **against** the proposition below:

Nationalism should be discouraged in the interests of international harmony.

For	Against
A strong national identity, leading to extreme nationalism, causes conflict and destruction.	It is possible to have both a national identity and international respect and harmony.
Nationalism is an expression of many negative emotions.	To love your own country, that is, to be patriotic, does not mean you hate other countries.
Patriotism is a crude and powerful feeling that is easily manipulated.	Nationalism can be a source of self-sacrifice and noble action.
Nationalism is based on a feeling of 'us' against 'them'.	Like attachment to family, patriotism encourages sympathy and unselfishness.
Nationalism is a form of racism.	People gain security from a national identity.

Having considered the arguments, offer **your position** for or against the proposition.

B *I* U



Below are five possible research questions (**A.–E.**).

- A.** Would consumers pay less for gas and electricity if these commodities were owned and managed by governments?
- B.** What impact has the growth of electronic publishing had on newspaper readership in Melbourne?
- C.** Would abstaining from sugar-sweetened drinks for a year have any effects on the health of students at a regional high school?
- D.** Is music by Mozart more effective than other music in helping babies calm down and go to sleep?
- E.** Is the current population of the common myna bird in northern Melbourne having a negative impact on other bird species?

Question 5 (3 marks)

Which question (**A.–E.**) would be the **most difficult** to answer?

Explain why it would be the most difficult to answer.

B *I* U

Below are five possible research questions (**A.–E.**).

- A.** Would consumers pay less for gas and electricity if these commodities were owned and managed by governments?
- B.** What impact has the growth of electronic publishing had on newspaper readership in Melbourne?
- C.** Would abstaining from sugar-sweetened drinks for a year have any effects on the health of students at a regional high school?
- D.** Is music by Mozart more effective than other music in helping babies calm down and go to sleep?
- E.** Is the current population of the common myna bird in northern Melbourne having a negative impact on other bird species?

Question 6 (3 marks)

Which question (**A.–E.**) would be the **easiest** to answer?

Explain why it would be the easiest to answer.

B *I* U

It has been argued that cars should be banned from the centre of Melbourne.

Question 7 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that cars should be banned from the centre of Melbourne.

Why do you think it is the strongest argument **for** cars being banned from the centre of Melbourne?

B *I* U

It has been argued that cars should be banned from the centre of Melbourne.

Question 8 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that cars should be banned from the centre of Melbourne.

Why do you think it is the strongest argument **against** cars being banned from the centre of Melbourne?

B *I* U

Australians have the right to peaceful assembly. This right allows individuals and groups to meet and to engage in peaceful protest.

Question 9 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that people should be able to protest peacefully even if they cause inconvenience to others.

Why do you think it is the strongest argument **for** people being able to protest peacefully even if they cause inconvenience to others?

B *I* U

Australians have the right to peaceful assembly. This right allows individuals and groups to meet and to engage in peaceful protest.

Question 10 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that people should be able to protest peacefully even if they cause inconvenience to others.

Why do you think it is the strongest argument **against** people being able to protest peacefully even if they cause inconvenience to others?

B *I* U