

VCE Extended Investigation

Critical Thinking Test – August

Sample questions

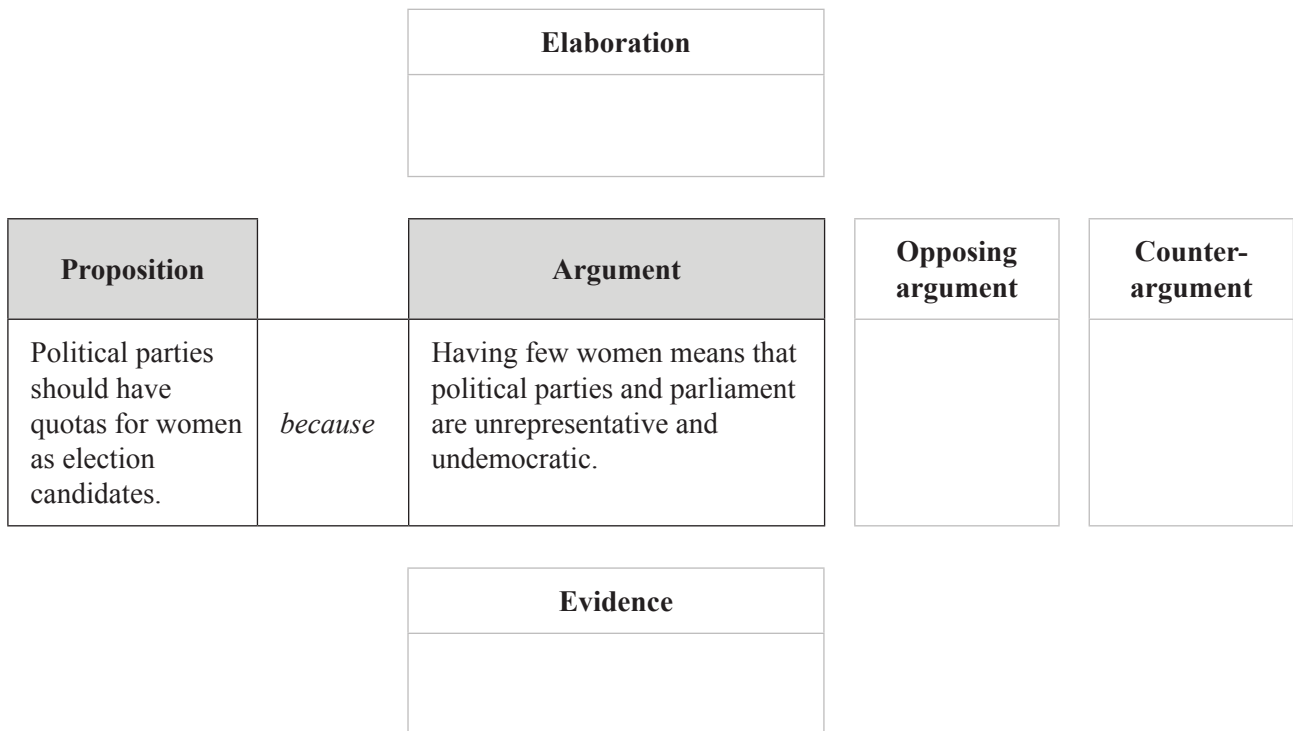
These sample questions are intended to demonstrate new item types that may be used in the Critical Thinking Test. They do **not** constitute a full Critical Thinking Test.

Question 1 (4 marks)

The diagram below can be used to represent a line of reasoning about the proposition that political parties should have quotas for women to be preselected for election to parliament.

The proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown in the diagram below. In the diagram are empty cells labelled ‘Elaboration’, ‘Evidence’, ‘Opposing argument’ and ‘Counterargument’. These labels are defined as follows:

- Elaboration – explains or extends the argument for the proposition
- Evidence – information that supports the argument
- Opposing argument – challenges the argument
- Counterargument – addresses the opposing argument



Drag each statement and drop it into the most appropriate empty cell in the diagram. One statement will not have a place in the diagram.

Women have distinct interests and special perspectives to bring to law-making.

About a third of Australian parliamentarians are women; internationally, less than a fifth of parliamentarians are women.

Women now comprise more than half of the students in tertiary education.

The competition between men and women for preselection is neither fair nor even.

Preselection for election to parliament should be decided on individual merit.

Question 2 (4 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.

Research is needed to inform the debate about the impact of a UBI.

What would be a good research question to explore one of the issues in the debate about the impact of a UBI?

How might good data be collected to address this research question?

Question 3 (4 marks)

Consider the following information.

A companion animal or pet is an animal kept primarily for a person's company and entertainment rather than as a working animal or as livestock. Popular pets are often noted for their attractive appearances, intelligence and interesting personalities or they may just be accepted as they are because they need a home.

Pets provide their owners (or 'guardians') with both physical and emotional benefits, but there are costs. Some animal lovers and animal rights organisations have raised concerns about keeping pets because of the lack of autonomy for the pets and because of the environmental impact of breeding and keeping them as companions.

Research is needed to inform the debate about pets.

What would be a good research question to explore one of the issues in the debate about pets?

How might good data be collected to address this research question?

Question 4 (2 marks)

Some people argue that it is a good thing to take a gap year to work, travel or holiday after completing an educational course, rather than immediately starting a career or going on to further study.

A proposition and an argument for the proposition are shown in the diagram below.

Write an opposing argument that directly counters the proposition and the argument.

Proposition		Argument	Opposing argument
A gap year is valuable.	<i>because</i>	Education is demanding and a break refreshes and prepares for future efforts.	

The following information is repeated for Questions 5 and 6.

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 research question (A.–E.) is the **most** substantial and significant?

Explain why it is the most substantial and significant.

The following information is repeated for Questions 5 and 6.

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 research question (A.–E.) would be the **least** manageable in practice?

Explain why it would be the least manageable.