

Victorian Certificate of Education  
2017

## EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 2 August 2017

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

- 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)

Some countries require young people to undertake a period of community service. Would it be good to have such an arrangement in Australia?

Consider the following proposition:

**A year of community service should be compulsory for all young Australians.**

Read the following four statements.

*Requiring community service would treat everyone equally.*

*There are many things the community needs that are expensive and unpopular.*

*Those who are forced to do things will not do them well.*

*Compulsory community service will make people resentful rather than grateful.*

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
Compulsory community service can achieve results that would otherwise be out of reach.	
	There are those who can and will organise any system to suit themselves.
It is easy for people to become selfish when nothing is required of them.	
	Individuals contribute to society in all sorts of ways without compulsion.
	Compulsory community service involves costly administration.

**Question 2** (4 marks)

Many countries, including Spain, Singapore and Wales, have an 'opt-out' system for human organ donation. In such systems, the default position is that adults consent to donating their organs in the event of their death. Adults must make it known if they do **not** want this to happen and must opt out.

Consider the following proposition:

**Australia should have a system of automatic consent for organ donation with an option to opt out.**

Read the following four statements.

*In a voluntary system, no-one considers donating their organs until tragedy strikes and it is too late.*

*There should be encouragement for people to opt in to organ donation.*

*It is unfair to presume consent to organ donation on the basis of inaction.*

*An opt-out system will result in more organs being available for transplantation.*

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
There is currently a low level of organ donation.	
	An opt-out system can lead to actions that go against the wishes of the family of the deceased.
	It is unfair to force people to make a decision about something they do not want to think about.
Those who really object to organ donation can opt out.	
	Human organs are not just another commodity to be acquired as efficiently as possible.



**Question 3** (6 marks)

In 2016, 32 per cent of Australian parliamentarians were women and, internationally, fewer than one in five parliamentarians were women. In many countries, there are quotas that specify a level of political representation for women.

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

**There should be quotas to increase the number of women in the Australian Parliament.**

<b>For the proposition</b>	<b>Against the proposition</b>
<p><b>A.</b> The number of women in the Australian Parliament is not increasing much or very quickly.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Competition between men and women in public life is not fair or even.</p> <p><b>C.</b> There is a glass ceiling<sup>1</sup> limiting access for women to parliament that must be smashed.</p> <p><b>D.</b> It is the current male domination of parliament that makes it unattractive to women.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Having few women means that parliament is unrepresentative and undemocratic.</p> <p><b>F.</b> It should be expected that there will be roughly equal representation of men and women in parliament.</p>	<p><b>G.</b> Quotas demean and belittle the women who enter parliament on that basis.</p> <p><b>H.</b> Merit should be the basis of election to parliament.</p> <p><b>I.</b> Women should have equal opportunity and fair conditions, but we should not legislate equal outcomes for women.</p> <p><b>J.</b> Women show less interest in political careers than men.</p> <p><b>K.</b> Parliament should be made more attractive for, and supportive of, women.</p> <p><b>L.</b> Political representation should not be controlled or engineered by government.</p>

<sup>1</sup>**glass ceiling** – invisible barrier affecting women's access; a metaphor

Which **one** of the arguments (**A.–L.**) about quotas for women in parliament do you find more convincing and why? Analyse the arguments presented rather than offering your own opinion about the proposition.

**B** *I* U



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Finish

**Question 4** (6 marks)

In Australia, political parties can receive private donations from businesses, trade unions and individuals as well as public funding from taxes. The Australian Electoral Commission publishes a list of political party donors each year, but donors can sometimes hide their identities.

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

**Political parties should be publicly rather than privately funded.**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
<p>Fundraising by political parties drives and distorts the political process.</p> <p>Donations to political parties are advantageous to corporations, large organisations and the wealthy. Public funding of political parties evens out some of the inequalities of our society.</p> <p>Donations to political parties distort the making of laws and end up as a form of political corruption.</p>	<p>There should be as few restrictions on the political process as possible. Individuals and groups have a democratic right to contribute financially to the political party of their choice.</p> <p>Fundraising is an appropriate part of the political process. Unions make large donations and crowdfunding is changing politics.</p> <p>Donations should be, and are, carefully monitored and publicised.</p>

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

**B** *I* U

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

- A.** How can explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years of school improve the chances of success for students when they reach Year 12?
- B.** 'Dr Google' or the local GP: Has self-diagnosis via the internet reduced the number of teenagers going to the doctor?
- C.** Seventeen-year-olds have grown up in a post-September 11 world. To what extent did the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City shape their world view?
- D.** Can thunderstorms be predicted by changes in ant behaviour?
- E.** How effective is the Yarra Park wetland filtration system in improving water quality?

**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.** How can explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years of school improve the chances of success for students when they reach Year 12?
- B.** 'Dr Google' or the local GP: Has self-diagnosis via the internet reduced the number of teenagers going to the doctor?
- C.** Seventeen-year-olds have grown up in a post-September 11 world. To what extent did the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City shape their world view?
- D.** Can thunderstorms be predicted by changes in ant behaviour?
- E.** How effective is the Yarra Park wetland filtration system in improving water quality?

**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





Many employees under 21 years of age are paid a percentage of the adult wage.

**Question 7** (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that employees under 21 years of age should be paid a percentage of the adult wage.

Why do you think it is the strongest argument **for** employees under 21 years of age being paid a percentage of the adult wage?

**B** *I* U



Many employees under 21 years of age are paid a percentage of the adult wage.

**Question 8** (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that employees under 21 years of age should be paid a percentage of the adult wage.

Why do you think it is the strongest argument **against** employees under 21 years of age being paid a percentage of the adult wage?

**B** *I* U



The portrayal of violence is increasingly common in all forms of media, especially in entertainment.

**Question 9** (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that portrayals of violence in entertainment should be more tightly controlled. Why do you think it is the strongest argument **for** portrayals of violence in entertainment being more tightly controlled?

**B** *I* U



The portrayal of violence is increasingly common in all forms of media, especially in entertainment.

**Question 10** (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that portrayals of violence in entertainment should be more tightly controlled. Why do you think it is the strongest argument **against** portrayals of violence in entertainment being more tightly controlled?

**B** *I* U

