VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Victorian Certificate of Education
2014

EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 6 August 2014

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

Structure of test

Number of questions	*Number of questions to be answered*	*Number of marks*
11	11	37

- 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 white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied
- A computer configured in accordance with VCAA requirements for the conduct of the Critical Thinking Test.
- The Critical Thinking Test.

Instructions
- The marks available for each question should be used as an indication of the detail required.
- It is recommended that you read through the whole test before you begin answering questions.
- 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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In order to proceed the invigilator must start the test

Start Test

Previous Next

Question 1 (3 marks)
Consider the following proposition:

Sustaining the environment is more important than economic growth.

Read the following three statements.

The poor want to be richer and the rich do not want to be poorer. We have to find a way to satisfy both.

The end of the world has often been predicted in the past, but we do not know what will happen or what we will need in the future.

We have to realise that true wealth is social and spiritual rather than economic and material.

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
The planet is at a critical point and sustainability must now take precedence over economic growth in order to avoid catastrophe.	
The natural resources of Earth are finite. The current consumption of resources is unsustainable.	Natural resources have to be used carefully. The fact that they are finite does not mean they cannot be consumed.
The current economic model requiring increasing population to fuel economic growth is unsustainable.	Wealth generation need not be in conflict with sustainability. We need sustainable growth.
We all must live much simpler lives and consume fewer resources in the future.	
	There are many people currently living in poverty, and such poverty is unacceptable and unsustainable.
Humans have been careless and irresponsible in the past, but we will be forced to change in the future.	History shows that humans are very resourceful. We can deal with the challenges of the future.
	We should not accept being dictated to by governments.

Question 2 (2 marks)
Consider the following proposition:

We should have a flat tax system rather than a progressive tax system and lower taxes overall.

A flat tax system is where everyone pays the same tax rate on goods and services or the same proportion of their income as tax. It is common, as in Australia, to have what is called a 'progressive income tax system', where those with higher incomes pay a higher rate of income tax than those with lower incomes.

Read the following two statements.

Taxation gives us the community facilities that are basic in the modern world.

Taxation can be a significant disincentive to the creation of the wealth from which we all benefit.

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
The less tax we have to pay, the better.	
A flat tax system encourages entrepreneurship. Discouraging the rich does not benefit the poor in the long run.	Progressive taxation is the basis of a safe, comfortable and fair community.
It is unfair and discriminatory to make some people pay more tax than others.	
We should all pay tax, but we should all pay the same tax.	The taxation system should be organised so that those with more pay the most.
	Without the positive discrimination of a progressive tax system, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.
There is no real poverty in our society. Everyone has a chance, and people have to take responsibility and look after themselves.	

Question 3 (3 marks)
Present a **strong argument** in support of the right to hunt animals for recreation.
Explain why you think it is a strong argument.

B I U

Question 4 (3 marks)
Present a **strong argument** to support the proposition that the arts makes a great contribution to society.
Explain why you think it is a strong argument.

B I U

Question 5 (3 marks)
Rebut or challenge the proposition that the sale of tobacco should be banned.
Explain why the rebuttal or challenge is strong.

B I U

Question 6 (3 marks)
Rebut or challenge the proposition that dangerous dog breeds should be banned.
Explain why the rebuttal or challenge is strong.

B I U

The following information is repeated for Questions 7 and 8.

Below are five possible research questions (**A.–E.**) about the genetic modification of food.

A.	What has research shown about the possible dangers of the genetic modification of food?
B.	Are genetically modified crops threatening Australia's food security?
C.	Is the 'GM-free' baby formula sold in Australia really free from genetic modification?
D.	When is the genetic modification of food insignificant and when is it a matter of concern?
E.	What is the influence of genetically modified soybean on the birthweight and survival of rat pups?

Question 7 (3 marks)
Which question (**A.–E.**) about the genetic modification of food is **best described** as based on a vague and imprecise term?
Explain why.

B I U

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Question 8 (3 marks)
Which question (**A.–E.**) about the genetic modification of food is **most likely** to produce a definite result?
Explain why.

The following arguments are repeated for Questions 9 and 10.

The nature and the role of good government can be a matter of debate. Some people argue for less government activity and others argue for the current amount of or more government activity.

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

We have more government than we need.

For	Against
A. The less government the better because government involves the surrendering of freedom by the individual. We should pursue libertarian policies that emphasise individual liberty and freedom of association. **B.** Government red tape stifles the initiative and enterprise of individuals. Small government encourages independence and self-reliance. **C.** Government is wasteful and inefficient, and private enterprise does things better than the government. **D.** Government wants to expand and is always interested in extending its power. Government is self-perpetuating and self-justifying.	**E.** Government is the basis of civilisation. If there were no government there would be no freedom. Government is the expression of the will of a community. **F.** Government can and should expand to meet the wishes and needs of the people. Government regulations protect individuals from big corporations and criminals. **G.** Government must be taken seriously as an agent of management and control. Government is by far the most effective way of doing many things. **H.** People want government to look after the public interest. We do not want less or more government, we want good government.

Question 9 (4 marks)
Which of the arguments (**A.**–**H.**) do you find **least** convincing and why?
Analyse the arguments presented rather than offering your own opinion about the proposition.

B I U

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Question 10 (4 marks)
Which of the arguments (**A.**–**H.**) do you find **most** convincing and why?
Analyse the arguments presented rather than offering your own opinion about the proposition.

B I U

Question 11 (6 marks)
Consider the following arguments **for** and **against** the proposition below.

The Olympic Games is a waste of time and money.	
The case for	**The case against**
The Olympic Games creates a false sense of world peace that disappears after two weeks. The Olympics is really based on an aggressive and unpleasant competition between nations. Hosting the Olympics is an unjustifiable cost for some countries, which remain in debt long after the Games have been forgotten. Some countries have disadvantaged and displaced their own communities in an effort to showcase their city to the world. The Olympics suggests that it is only winning that matters. Olympic medals are obtained by spending a lot of money on a few elite athletes. While we are impressed by the performance of elite athletes, they also intimidate us and make us aware of our own mediocrity. Why should we spend so much money on a privileged elite?	The Olympic Games provides a unique opportunity for the world to share a common goal and to focus on unity through sport. Hosting the Olympics gives a country the opportunity to showcase itself to the world. This offers a great social benefit to its own community. Countries that host the Olympics have benefited from the infrastructure and community sports facilities built for the Games for generations after. The Olympics is a great drama. Some of the most moving human stories of succeeding against the odds have occurred at the Games. The Olympics also shows that some small and disadvantaged countries can still succeed. The Olympics inspires health and fitness, and encourages viewers to follow the example set by athletes.

Which case about the Olympic Games do you find **more** convincing and why?
Analyse the arguments presented rather than offering your own opinion about the proposition.

B *I* U

Review your answers.

– Flat numbers indicate that you have attempted the question.

⚑ – Identifies questions you have flagged.

– Raised numbers indicate that you have not attempted the question.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

BACK

COMPLETE TEST

Previous | Next | 05:54 | Finish

Thank you. Your responses have been submitted.