VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Victorian Certificate of Education
2016

EXTENDED INVESTIGATION CRITICAL THINKING TEST

Wednesday 3 August 2016

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*
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

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

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.

© VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY 2016

Table of contents

	Page number
Test cover	1
Table of contents	2
Question 1 (4 marks)	3
Question 2 (4 marks)	4
Question 3 (6 marks)	5
Question 4 (6 marks)	6
Question 5 (3 marks)	7
Question 6 (3 marks)	8
Question 7 (3 marks)	9
Question 8 (3 marks)	10
Question 9 (3 marks)	11
Question 10 (3 marks)	12

Question 1 (4 marks)

Consider the following proposition:

Fame has more costs and disadvantages than benefits and advantages.

Read the following four statements.

Fame is often insubstantial and undeserved.

Fame comes to those with energy and commitment who love what they do.

Fame gives individuals recognition, and makes them feel worthwhile and important.

The famous are subject to jealousy and resentment.

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
Most fame is a result of continuous hard work that is very stressful and never ends.	
	Fame comes as recognition of achievement and success.
	People must choose or allow themselves to become famous. Fame can be avoided if that is the preference of a person.
	To be famous is to be admired and accepted.
The famous are often egomaniacs who are a misery to others and to themselves.	

Question 2 (4 marks)

Consider the following proposition:

More freeways should be built in the city.

Read the following four statements.

Freeways are only a temporary fix that delays sustainable approaches to our transport problems.

Our road system is inefficient and limits economic development.

Freeways are only one part of a comprehensive transport system.

Building freeways takes money away from other more beneficial community services.

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
Freeways make motoring safer and save lives.	
	Freeways are very costly and unnecessary.
Freeways ease traffic congestion.	
The car is necessary for living a modern lifestyle.	
	Freeways discourage the development and use of public transport.

Question 3 (6 marks)

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

Learning another language should be compulsory until the end of Year 12.

For the proposition	Against the proposition
A. Australian students are falling behind the rest of the world in their knowledge of languages. Very few of our students are choosing to study another language up to the end of Year 12.	**F.** English is the global language. Australian students are well placed to take full advantage of this.
B. Learning another language gives students a greater appreciation not only of the language but also of the people who speak that language and of their culture.	**G.** Making students study a subject that is not their strength compromises their academic results and consequently limits their options for further study.
C. Having the ability to communicate in another language increases opportunities in the employment market.	**H.** Australia is a multicultural country with many bilingual graduates. Language learners cannot compete with bilingual applicants for jobs; their proficiency is not comparable.
D. Learning another language improves cognitive skills such as memory, perception and the ability to multi-task.	**I.** True language learning is not successful in a school setting when compared with in-country or immersion experiences.
E. Learning another language can help improve the development of skills in an individual's first language.	**J.** While Australia's literacy and numeracy standards continue to decline, there is little room for the luxury of another language.

Which **one** of the arguments (**A.**–**J.**) about the compulsory learning of another language until the end of Year 12 do you find the **most** convincing and why?

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

B I U

Question 4 (6 marks)

The Australian Communications and Media Authority requires all commercial free-to-air television stations to broadcast 55 per cent Australian programming between 6 am and midnight. There are also specific minimum annual broadcasting requirements for Australian drama, documentary and children's programs.

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

Television stations should be required to show a substantial amount of Australian programming.

For	Against
TV is a powerful medium that has a wide cultural influence. TV should serve the public interest and strengthen our culture.	Australia has a robust culture and it can cope with overseas influences. We should be an outward-looking rather than inward-looking country.
Support for local content on TV is necessary to limit the gradual loss of our national culture and identity caused by excessive consumption of imported TV programs.	If they are of good quality, Australian programs are popular, but much Australian content offered to fulfil the requirement is weak and it does nothing to strengthen Australian culture.
Australia is a small market, so local TV production needs to be nurtured and protected. Ensuring a market for Australian content supports the domestic industry and promotes economic growth and employment.	TV stations are under pressure from other media and the local content requirement makes it hard for TV stations to compete with other media.
Australian content is attractive to overseas audiences, and we should strengthen and promote our TV industry and our image overseas.	The government should not try to regulate public taste. There should be a free market in TV programming. The public should decide what programs are shown on the basis of ratings figures.

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

B I U

The following information is repeated for Questions 5 and 6.

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

A. Live export of Australian animals – a matter of ethics or economics?
B. Would offering financial incentives to 16–25-year-olds in the 10 000 Steps Australia walking challenge increase their levels of activity?
C. How successful has the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation been in increasing vaccination rates in Summerville?
D. Remote learning – empowering or alienating? An investigation into the experiences of students at Northside High School as they undertake one day a week of online learning
E. Computer coding in schools – are the skills taught through coding programs in schools preparing students for the workplace?

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

The following information is repeated for Questions 5 and 6.

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

A. Live export of Australian animals – a matter of ethics or economics?
B. Would offering financial incentives to 16–25-year-olds in the 10 000 Steps Australia walking challenge increase their levels of activity?
C. How successful has the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation been in increasing vaccination rates in Summerville?
D. Remote learning – empowering or alienating? An investigation into the experiences of students at Northside High School as they undertake one day a week of online learning
E. Computer coding in schools – are the skills taught through coding programs in schools preparing students for the workplace?

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

The following information is repeated for Questions 7 and 8.

Some workers are paid double the normal rate for working on Sunday.

Question 7 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that workers should be paid double the normal rate for working on Sunday. Explain why you think it is the strongest argument **for** double pay on Sunday.

B I U

The following information is repeated for Questions 7 and 8.

Some workers are paid double the normal rate for working on Sunday.

Question 8 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that workers should be paid double the normal rate for working on Sunday.

Explain why you think it is the strongest argument **against** double pay on Sunday.

B I U

The following information is repeated for Questions 9 and 10.

Many major art galleries of the world charge for general admission. The National Gallery of Victoria and the National Gallery of Australia do not charge for general admission.

Question 9 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument to support the proposition that art galleries should charge for general admission.

Explain why you think it is the strongest argument **for** general admission charges.

B I U

The following information is repeated for Questions 9 and 10.

Many major art galleries of the world charge for general admission. The National Gallery of Victoria and the National Gallery of Australia do not charge for general admission.

Question 10 (3 marks)

Present the strongest argument against the proposition that art galleries should charge for general admission.

Explain why you think it is the strongest argument **against** general admission charges.

B *I* U