

Tuesday 29 May 2012 – Morning

AS GCE CRITICAL THINKING

F502/01/RB Assessing and Developing Argument
F502/02/RB

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be issued with the Question Paper

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Use the Resource Booklet to answer all the questions in Section B and Section C.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of **2** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Should Extreme Sports be Banned?

Some people want the government to ban extreme sports such as bungee jumping, rock climbing, surfing and sky diving. One reason they give is that it is the government's responsibility to protect its citizens from harm. However, extreme sports should not be banned.

1

To start with, it would be impractical to ban extreme sports because it is so difficult to define them. Ideas such as 'newness', 'danger' or 'popularity' are not useful in drawing the line between what are extreme sports and what are not. For example, it would be wrong to say that extreme sports are the new ones, because some new sports, like snowboarding, are in the Winter Olympic Games. On the other hand, boxing and bull fighting have been around for hundreds of years and yet could be described as extreme sports.

2

The 'danger factor' does not work either as a way of trying to define extreme sports. This is because some so-called extreme sports are generally safer than other sports. For instance, fewer people are injured or killed each year in the extreme sport of sky diving than when horse riding.

3

Of course, people can harm themselves in extreme sports if they are unprepared, untrained or inexperienced, but the solution does not have to be a ban. You can reduce danger by proper preparation and training. Otherwise, we would have to stop young people from driving cars.

4

Most schools do not offer extreme sports because it would be dangerous, expensive and impractical to do so. But this does not mean we should ban all extreme sports, even in schools, as these sports can have many benefits for young people. Sports such as boxing and rock climbing help to instill self-discipline and teach students to recognise and manage risk. The number of state schools offering boxing increased from 1% to 10% over a six year period, proving the benefits of extreme sports in schools.

5

The people who are calling for a ban hate extreme sports just because these sports are modern, very popular with young people and just for 'adrenaline junkies'. These people live in a dream world; their views are old-fashioned and they should not be taken seriously.

6



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