

**Thursday 31 January 2013 – Morning**

**A2 GCE CRITICAL THINKING**

**F504/01/RB** Critical Reasoning

**RESOURCE BOOKLET**

**To be issued with the Question Paper**

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Read and use Documents 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to answer the questions.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR**

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## Document 1

### Child labour

#### Definition of child labour

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) defines child labour as work that exceeds a minimum number of hours, depending on the age of a child and on the type of work. Such work is considered harmful to the child and should therefore be eliminated.

- Ages 5–11: 1 hour of economic (paid) work or 28 hours of domestic (unpaid) work per week.
- Ages 12–14: 14 hours of economic (paid) work or 28 hours of domestic (unpaid) work per week.
- Ages 15–17: 43 hours of economic (paid) or domestic (unpaid) work per week.

An estimated 158 million children aged 5–14 are engaged in child labour – one in six children in the world. Millions of children are engaged in hazardous situations or conditions, such as working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery. They are everywhere but invisible, toiling as domestic servants in homes, labouring behind the walls of workshops, hidden from view in plantations. **1**

In Sub-Saharan Africa around one in three children are engaged in child labour, representing 69 million children. **2**

In South Asia, another 44 million children are engaged in child labour. **3**

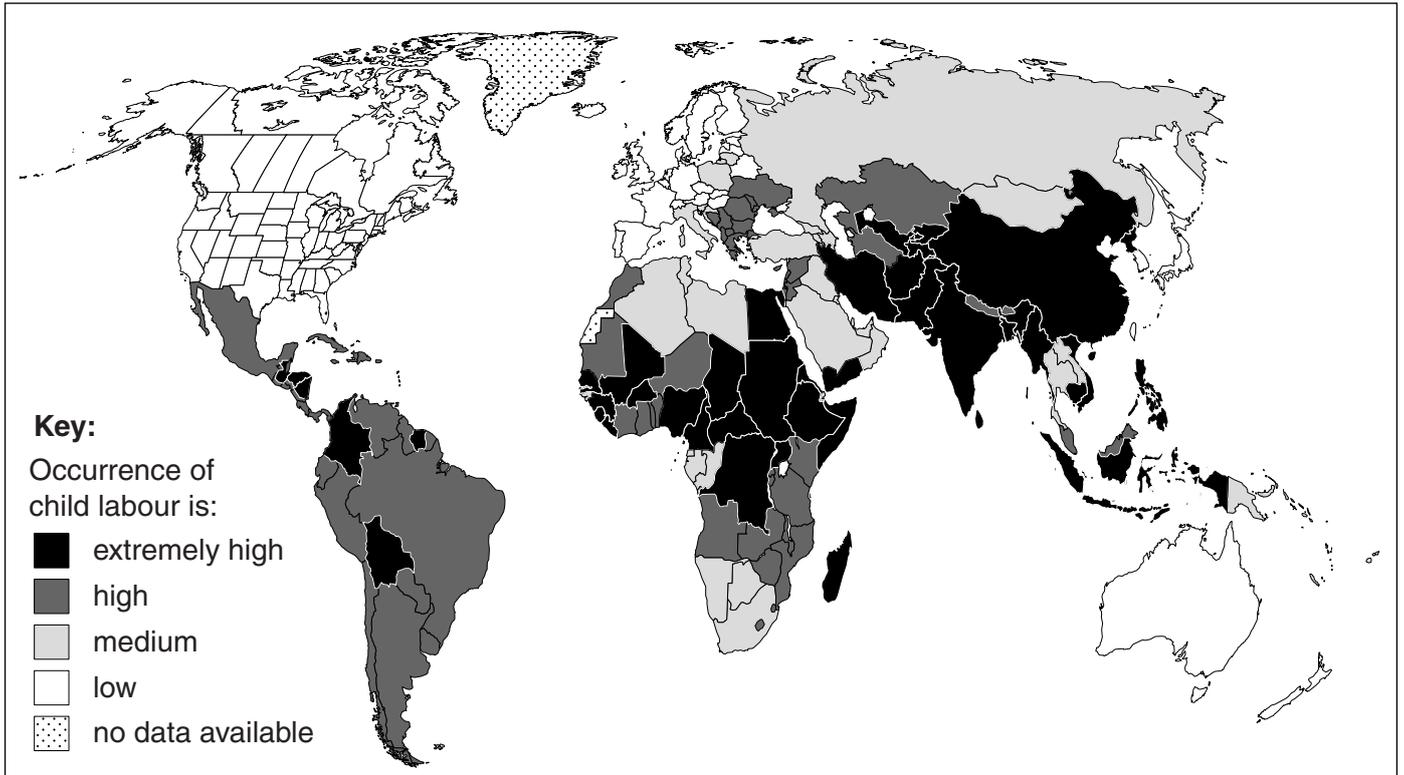
Children living in the poorest households and in rural areas are most likely to be engaged in child labour. Those burdened with household chores are overwhelmingly girls. Millions of girls who work as domestic servants are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. **4**

Child labour often interferes with children’s education. Ensuring that all children go to school and that their education is of good quality are fundamental to preventing child labour. **5**

*Source: UNICEF*

## Document 2

### Child labour study



**Fig. 1 Occurrence of child labour**

A new study has identified the key emerging economies that are driving the global economic recovery as the countries with the worst record of underage workers within their labour markets. **1**  
 These include China, India and Brazil.

The study evaluates 196 countries on:

- how common child labour is
- how bad the exploitation is **2**
- whether companies exploit children without being punished.

Child labour is defined as work that directly or indirectly limits or damages a child's physical, **3**  
 mental, social or psychological development.

## Document 3

### Cartoon



"Just what you asked for...made in the US by adult US citizens...that will be \$1,795."

\$1795 is about £1145.

In 2011, the US average salary was \$46,300 (about £29,500) and the UK average salary was £30,723.

## Document 4

### A view from the blogosphere

Ellie Mae, a blogger

I support Child Labour because:

1

Around 90% of certain families' incomes come from child labour. Typically, due to larger family sizes, they need to have more breadwinners in order to feed all. Thus if we ban child labour (in order to appear civilized in our own eyes), we snatch their bread and butter and unknowingly do them more harm in this way. If there is no child labour, kids move towards other hazardous professions or start begging.

2

The poor kid has to earn somehow – if the girl cannot work in any industry due to child labour issues, she will be forced to start prostitution or will be sold for some chicken feed or will be “gifted” to the landlord to pay off the father’s debts. (This will be welcomed by so-called do-gooders – how?? Just look at the statistics of increasing teen-prostitution in poor countries and its demand – one of the main reasons is that families cannot find work. They can’t send the kids to work, and the kid is also supposed to support the family ... what is the option left then? Prostitution!)

3

Programs like providing food to the whole family for sending their child to school rather than to work are not much of a success – coz milk cannot replace the money which is required to pay off the family’s debts!

4

And that’s why I do favour child labour. It’s better to see a girl working in a brick kiln than finding her working as a prostitute and it is better to see a boy mending punctures at a tyre shop than to find him starved to death or behind bars accused of robbery! Don’t eliminate child labour ... but the reasons that create it!

5

## Document 5

### Child labor in the US

Tim Newman

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 clearly had a critical role to play in reducing child labor in the US. However, a larger, inconvenient truth is that the US has *not* ended child labor. A recent report from Human Rights Watch found that existing US laws have no minimum age for kids working on small farms, kids as young as 12 can be hired to work on large farms and at age 14 children can work on any farm at all without parental consent.

1

Another report by the International Labor Rights Forum found that the US is not in full compliance with International Labor Organization Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. There are loopholes in the US laws and existing laws are not enforced. As a result of this, children often face exploitation working in US agriculture.

2

While some might like to see all regulation on businesses disappear, lack of regulation and enforcement almost inevitably leads to exploitation of workers. We can take the next step in ending abusive child labor in the US by improving legislation and the implementation of that legislation. The Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE) would ensure that children are not exploited to pick our fruits and vegetables. You can join thousands of change.org readers and support the CARE act by visiting [www.change.org/petitions/support-the-care-act](http://www.change.org/petitions/support-the-care-act).

3

*Source: www.change.org*

Tim Newman is a Campaigns Assistant at the International Labor Rights Forum.

## Document 6

### Comments on 'Child labor in the US' (Document 5)

Roger M

Choosing to work is not an abuse – you can do any job regardless of permission at 14. As far as working at 12 with parents' permission – that is perfectly within reason. If you want to earn extra money or help your family out on the farm – go for it. You're over reacting on this one, Tim.

1

Ed C

I agree with Roger M. Farm work like picking blueberries and tobacco are typical examples of self-selected enterprise. No-one's forcing them.

2

Are some of these kids going to be biting off more than they can chew? Yeah, I think that happens. It did with me, my friends! The best way to find out that working excessively isn't the best plan is to find out for yourself – not for the government to expand bureaucracy with the CARE Act.

3

I think this is a case of attention being shifted from issues that need it – like defending our borders – to situations that are actively advantageous to young folks on multiple levels.

4





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