

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE**

F502/01/RB

F502/02/RB

CRITICAL THINKING

Unit 2: Assessing and Developing Argument

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be opened on the day of the examination

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2010: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Use the Resource Booklet to answer all the questions in Section B and Section C.**
- **Do not hand in this Booklet at the end of the examination. It is not required by the examiner.**

SHOULD CHILDREN HAVE MOBILE PHONES?

Although mobile phones help children to stay in touch with their parents and contact them in an emergency, allowing children under 12 to have mobile phones is unwise. There are many problems with owning and using mobile phones at such a young age.

1

Mobile phones are a distraction. Many children spend so much time talking on the phone or texting that they are unaware of what is going on around them. Each year young people are run over crossing the street because their attention was on their phone, not the traffic. If they didn't have mobile phones children would be more observant and therefore more able to live safely in today's busy world.

2

As well as making it harder for pupils to concentrate in lessons, mobile phones have a long-term negative effect on their educational development. Children become more used to writing in slang and abbreviations instead of practising correct grammar. We risk children leaving school unable to communicate properly. Mr Reeves, the director of an association of graduate employers, says "Our members find an increasing number of applications with sub-standard spelling, weak grammar and over-familiar correspondence."

3

Mobile phones can create divisions between children as they display differences in wealth. Most primary schools do not allow pupils to wear flashy jewellery, so they should not allow them to bring mobile phones into school either. As well as being objects of envy, they can be used for bullying, for example sending unpleasant text messages. In a survey, 69% of parents agreed that they were concerned

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about children's inappropriate use of mobile phones, showing that parents no longer want their children to have mobile phones.

It has been debated for a long time whether the microwaves produced by mobile phones are damaging to children or not. What has been ignored, however, is the fact that mobile phones can have a variety of other negative effects on physical development. This is shown by a recent study by the University of Pennsylvania in the US, which has found that twisting neck and shoulders in order to hold a phone for a long time can cause serious damage to the spine. The study also concluded that the effect is more pronounced on younger phone users.

5



Child using a mobile phone

The high cost of mobile phones cannot be justified in the case of young children. Even basic models are expensive and bills quickly add up. Yet Mark Sullivan, chairman of a mobile phone manufacturers' association, claims: "We should not put a price on our youngsters' safety. Mobiles are not a danger to our kids or something we spoil them with. On the

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contrary, they are something that will make them safer and more protected in society.” However, we should disregard this statement because it comes from a marketing man, without children of his own, who clearly just wants to sell his product.



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