

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED GCE**

F503/RB

CRITICAL THINKING

Unit 3: Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be opened on the day of the examination

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use Documents 1, 2 and 3 to answer the questions.

DOCUMENT 1

BENEFIT THIEVES: WE'RE CLOSING IN

Deliberately withholding information that affects your claim is stealing. That's why we are targeting benefit thieves!

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) takes benefit theft very seriously. Although the vast majority of people who claim benefits are honest, those who steal benefits are picking the pockets of law-abiding taxpayers. In 2007–08 benefit thieves stole an estimated £800 million from public funds, that's why we are determined to catch them.

We're closing in ...

- **With over 600 calls a day to our hotline**
- **With over 3,000 fraud investigators**
- **With over 200 benefit thieves reported online every day**
- **By carrying out over 2,000 investigations every week**
- **By cross-checking the bank accounts of benefit thieves**
- **With hidden cameras and mobile surveillance**
- **With every means at our disposal**

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/benefit-thieves/>

DOCUMENT 2

REPORTING BENEFIT THEFT

Benefit theft cost the country around £800 million in 2005–06. If you think someone is committing benefit theft, you can report them and stop them taking money from the people who need it most.

What is benefit fraud?

Benefit theft is when someone lies to get benefit. This includes people who are:

- **not reporting they are now living with a partner**
- **not reporting they are receiving other benefits**
- **not reporting any savings or not reporting the right amount**
- **claiming for children who have left home**
- **not reporting they have started work, or started to earn money**
- **not reporting they have inherited money**
- **not reporting they are going abroad, living abroad, or have changed address**

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/BenefitFraud/DG_10014876

DOCUMENT 3

WOULD YOU REPORT A BENEFIT CHEAT?

ANDY

There was a story in the news recently about how a new hotline for people to report benefit cheats has resulted in thousands of anonymous calls and emails. However, it has been suggested that many of those calling are doing it out of spite, perhaps ex-lovers or people who have a grudge. So would you report someone you thought was cheating the system?

BRUCE

If I didn't know them particularly well, I would have no hesitation in doing so. If it was a friend or family member I would confront them but I wouldn't report them even if they refused to stop.

CAM

I would if I didn't like them. Hardly crime of the century, though, is it?

ANDY

Surely it depends on the specific case? Someone who claims tens of thousands of pounds in benefits that they shouldn't have is quite a significant crime to me. If we ignore something like that then surely people who steal stuff from shops of much less value shouldn't therefore be penalised?

CAM

It should be up to the Government to check if they are claiming the right amount of money. If they are abusing the system, then yes the claimant should be penalised but mostly it's the fault of the Government.

DENISE

I would never report anyone. What goes around comes around, I say. Besides, how can many of us survive on minimum wages and not much help from tax credits or housing benefit etc? I know I struggle and if I could get 'cash in hand' work I wouldn't be wasting my time stressing continually to pay bills and live an average life.

ED

If someone is working full time at a well paid job and claiming benefits at the same time I can see the argument about it being wrong. But in most cases it is someone doing rubbish paid work to get a little bit extra. All this hatred of people like that seems bizarre when we live in a world where others waste money and get away with it completely. Look at big businesses which employ fancy accountants to cheat the tax-man of millions. If I was going to get annoyed about something it would be that, not some bloke next door getting £30 a week extra to his benefits.

FI

Only if I had a big grudge against them. I wouldn't report anybody for anything as a rule, unless it was something like murder.

GARY

I have reported one of my neighbours. She says that she is a single parent who is separated from her partner, but her husband lives with her. I don't think it's right, because we are all tax-payers and at the end of the day she's cheating us.

HASIMA

People on benefit are too often put in the position of bending the rules to get by. When I was unemployed for a spell following redundancy ten years ago, I had restrictions on how many hours I could study for my Open University degree.

IZZI

Can't say it's something I feel very strongly about, not being a busybody type. Most of the time, I couldn't really care about what other people get up to, as long as it doesn't get in my face and doesn't involve innocent people being hurt.

This exchange of messages is based on genuine chatroom discussions, but names have been changed and the contributions rewritten for copyright reasons.

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