

Critical Thinking

Unit: F502: Section B: Analysing and Evaluating Argument: Medium banded candidate style answer.

Introduction

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the input of Chairs of Examiners, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

16 Identify the main conclusion of the argument presented in the passage		[2]
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>	
<i>We should limit the amount of television.</i>	The candidate has produced an answer which has a similar meaning but some of the wording has been changed e.g. “limit” has replaced “restrict” and the phrase “that is broadcast” has been omitted.	

17 Identify the intermediate conclusion of the argument presented in the passage.		[2]
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>	
<i>Watching television is a danger to all aspects of our well being, similar to the dangers of smoking and alcohol.</i>	The candidate has copied out the correct sentence but has added “similar to the dangers of smoking and alcohol”, which is unnecessary additional material so the answer could not be awarded full marks.	

18 In paragraph 1 the author suggests a link between watching TV and obesity in order to support an idea that watching television leads to poor health. With reference to the passage, how might you criticise this link.		[3]
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>	
<i>There are many other reasons why people might be obese e.g. hereditary factors so watching TV and obesity</i>	The candidate uses a valid reason (obesity linked to hereditary factors) to explain that the link between watching TV and obesity may not	

<i>might not be linked as strongly as the author suggests.</i>	be as strong as the author suggests.
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19 The reasoning in paragraph 1 uses a “slippery slope”. With reference to the passage, explain why this way of reasoning is flawed. [3]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<i>The author moves too quickly from the idea that watching television news makes viewers feel pessimistic to the idea that hospitals are full of depressed people.</i>	A limited explanation of the flaw with some reference to the information in the passage.

20 In paragraph 2, the author uses evidence relating to cartoon movies on DVD. Explain two ways in which this evidence does not support the reasoning in paragraph 2. [4]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The reasoning is about television programmes but the evidence is from videos and DVDs.</i> <i>Cartoon violence is often “slapstick” so children could find this funny rather than frightening.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark for this answer. This answer is true but the candidate does not explain why this makes the evidence weak. The answer needs to be developed e.g. and the amount of violence and death shown on videos and DVDs might be less than that shown on TV. A true statement about cartoon violence together with an explanation as to why this could weaken the reasoning i.e. the fact that children might not find violence of this nature frightening.

21(a) The reasoning in paragraph 3 uses an analogy. What is being compared in this analogy? [3]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<i>Modern cars are being compared to more complex television programmes</i>	The correct items have been identified but in an analogy it is the “action” or “doing” part of the items which is also compared and the candidate fails to do this.

21(b) How well does this analogy support the author’s argument in paragraph 5 that watching TV does not increase our intelligence? [3]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<i>It does not support it very well because in order to drive you have to actively think about it but when you watch a television programme you can just sit back and enjoy it.</i>	The point about being actively involved in driving a car but not in watching a TV programme is valid and it is linked to making an assessment i.e. “it does not support it very well” but the issue of the more complex TV shows and cars is not addressed at all.

22 Bhutan could be considered to be a very strong example of the dangers of watching television. Referring to the material in the passage, explain, in detail, two possible strengths of this example.

[4]

Candidate style answer

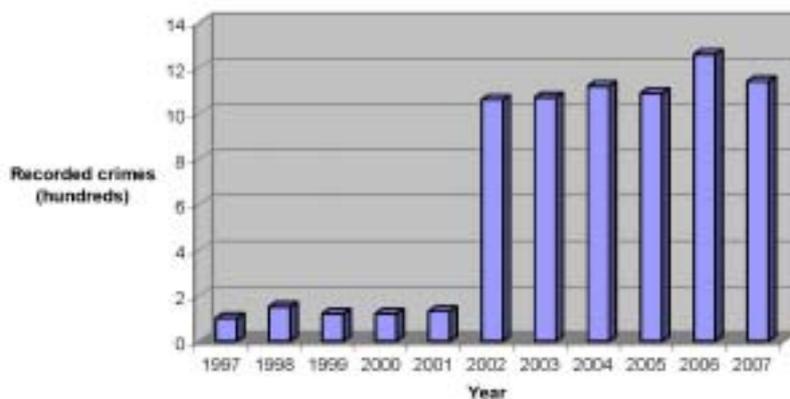
- *Until recently they had no TV and suddenly they have 46 channels.*
- *It was a very peaceful country and suddenly there is a crime wave.*

Examiner's commentary

- This is a correct statement but the candidate does not explain the significance of moving from no access to TV to 46 channels over a very short period of time.
- Again, this is a correct statement but the candidate does not link the change from being a "peaceful" country to one with a "crime wave" to the introduction of TV.

23 Figure 1 presents evidence about crime in Bhutan. Explain why this does not support the author's assertion that the introduction of TV into Bhutan led to a crime wave. question

Figure 1. Bhutan's crime wave



[2]

Candidate style answer

There is a gap between the introduction of TV and the rise in the crime rate.

Examiner's commentary

Although the candidate uses information from the chart, the absence of dates in their answer means this is not very clear. Also, there is no attempt to explain why this gap exists.

At the end of paragraph 4, the author suggests that the people of Bhutan have a choice.

24(a) Name or describe the flaw in the reasoning behind the author's suggestion.

[1]

Candidate style answer

The author gives two choices.

Examiner's commentary

This is a statement of what is written, it is not a description of a flaw. If the candidate had written, "The author ONLY gives two choices" this would have described the flaw in simple terms and they would have been awarded more marks.

24(b) With reference to the text, explain why the author's reasoning is flawed. You must clearly show why there is a problem with the author's reasoning	
[3]	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<i>There could be other choices.</i>	This is correct but the candidate makes no reference to the text and he/she do not explain why there is a problem with giving only the two choices so this answer is only worth low marks.

Section C:

25 In paragraph 3, the author suggests that it would be impossible to identify a causal relationship between watching TV and a global increase in IQ scores. Give one reason why this might be the case.

[2]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<i>Just because an increase in watching TV happened at the same time as an increase IQ scores, you cannot say one caused the other.</i>	This is quite a good answer, as the candidate clearly knows what is meant by a causal link, but it only gains a low mark, as it lacks the precision of Candidate A: it does not make it clear why you cannot say one caused the other.

26 In paragraph 5, television is compared to other things that are potentially harmful, such as smoking and alcohol. Using relevant examples, explain whether television is or is not comparable.

[4]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<i>Television is comparable to smoking or drinking alcohol because young people need to be protected from too much TV just like they need to be protected from smoking and drinking.</i>	This is quite a good answer, but it does not gain full marks because it does not explain why people might need to be protected from TV, smoking or drinking, so the nature of the similarity is not clearly expressed.

27 Consider the following general principle.

“The Government should restrict all potentially harmful activities.”

This is a general principle that would support the author’s argument in paragraph 5. Consider the way that this principle might be applied to a wide variety of situations and construct a further argument that either supports this principle or challenges it.

Marks will be given for a well-structured and developed argument that contains at least 3 reasons, intermediate conclusions and an overall conclusion. Your argument should also contain examples and/or evidence.

[10]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<i>For a long time now, the Government has been making laws to restrict potentially harmful activities. We are not allowed to ride a motor-bike without a crash helmet, or ride in a car without a seat belt on. Government research has shown that these restrictions save lives, and also save the taxpayers' money because of lower NHS costs. The age at which people can buy</i>	This answer would be at the middle of the marks level, The reasons given do have some relevance to the topic. There is an attempt at an Intermediate Conclusion, but it is of the kind that merely sums up the reasons, rather than moves the argument forward. Mainly it is a list of reasons, rather than a well-constructed argument. There is no attempt at a counter assertion or counter argument. The conclusion, though clearly stated, is not exactly as required in the question, which slightly

<p><i>alcohol or cigarettes is also restricted by the Government because drinking and smoking are bad for you. Also it is illegal to use drugs for the same reason. So government restrictions protect our health and save money .Therefore the Government is right to restrict all harmful activities.</i></p>	<p>changes the meaning.</p>
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28 Construct one further argument that challenges or supports the main conclusion of Document 1.

Marks will be given for a well-structured and developed argument that contains at least 3 reasons, intermediate conclusions and an overall conclusion. Your arguments should also contain examples and/or evidence.

You may use information and ideas from the original passages, but you must use them to form a new argument. No credit will be given for repeating the original arguments in Document 1.

[10]

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>This country is facing an obesity crisis. One reason is that people sit in front of the TV all day, eating crisps and snacks, instead of taking exercise. Children no longer read books because they find it easier to watch TV programmes. This affects their intelligence. With such a large amount of television being broadcast, it is impossible to keep up the quality of the programmes; some of them, like Big Brother, are rubbish and depend on watching other people being humiliated for their entertainment value. It would be better for the whole population if we did not watch so much TV. Therefore we should restrict the amount that is broadcast.</i></p>	<p>This is quite a good answer, and would be at the middle of the marks level. The reasons given are relevant to the topic; the first reason given loses some credit because it is very close to the original passage, although the candidate has tried to develop it a little. There are several assumptions being made between the reasons and the Intermediate Conclusion, although the IC is quite a good one and does more than merely sum up the preceding reasons. The example given is relevant, if somewhat opinionated, but given pressure of time, it is acceptable. The meaning is clear and there are no serious errors in grammar, spelling or punctuation.</p>