Thursday 24 January 2013 – Morning
A2 GCE CRITICAL THINKING
F503/01/RB Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making

RESOURCE BOOKLET
To be issued with the Question Paper

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES
• Use the resource documents to answer the questions in the Question Paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES
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• This document consists of 8 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Document 1

Metal detecting explained

What is metal detecting?
Metal detecting is a popular leisure activity. People may use metal detectors to search for coins or other valuable metal objects that they, or other people, have lost. Some metal detectorists search for buried treasure.

What is treasure?
Treasure is broadly defined as objects made of precious metal, such as gold and silver, which are over 300 years old.

Who owns the treasure?
People who find treasure are not allowed to keep it – it is not ‘finders keepers’. Museums have the legal right to acquire treasure if they wish to do so, either as a gift or by paying a reward based on an independent valuation. The landowner and the metal detectorist share the reward if they have a prior agreement. If there is no agreement, the reward goes to the landowner.

What happens to other objects which are found?
Anyone who discovers any ancient object which is not classed as treasure is asked to report it to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so that detailed records can be kept. However, reporting is not compulsory.
The Staffordshire Hoard

Terry Herbert lives alone in a council flat on disability benefits. Fourteen years ago he bought a battered metal detector at a car boot sale for £2.50. It may well have made him a millionaire. Mr Herbert found an unprecedented hoard of exquisitely crafted and jewel-encrusted gold and silver treasures dating back 1400 years while scabbling around with his metal detector on a Staffordshire farm.

Historians said that the hoard would transform understanding of early Anglo-Saxon political, religious, economic and cultural history.

The 7th century objects have been officially declared to be treasure. The ruling means that the artefacts are the property of the Crown and will be offered at market value to interested British museums. The proceeds from the sale will be split equally between Mr Herbert, 55, from Burntwood, near Cannock, Staffordshire, and Fred Johnson, the farmer on whose land the treasure was found. Both men are expected to become millionaires.

Mr Johnson is thrilled that 40000 people went to see the hoard when it was put on temporary display at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and believes that it will touch people’s lives. “Had we been shown something like this at school, I’d have shown more interest in history,” he said.

Source: The Times
Document 3

Nighthawks raid nation's archaeological heritage

Britain's archaeological heritage is being plundered by metal detector users who are illegally raiding protected sites across the country, it has been claimed. 'Nighthawks' use the latest equipment to find antiquities, which they then sell on auction websites. Nighthawking is defined as the search and removal of antiquities from the ground using metal detectors without the permission of landowners or where the practice is banned. The maximum penalty is three months in prison and a £1000 fine but most cases do not even reach court.

Chief Inspector Mark Harrison, of Kent Police, said: “The offenders are in two categories – they are people who keep a secret museum of heritage artefacts in their home, or they do it for financial gain.”

Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, chairman of English Heritage, said that the practice was destroying the country’s heritage. “Nighthawks, by hoarding their finds or selling them on without recording what they are or where they come from, are thieves of valuable archaeological knowledge that belongs to us all,” he said. “Even in the case where the finds are retrieved, the context of how and where exactly the finds were found has been lost, significantly diminishing their historical value.”

Source: The Times
Document 4

Metal detecting and Time Team

Time Team has always recognised the value of metal detecting as part of archaeological investigation. The Team now uses detectorists routinely to check the soil that has been removed by the excavation on all its digs, and its members have supported various initiatives involving archaeologists and responsible metal detectorists throughout the country. Yet they remain concerned about the impact that the activity of the estimated 50 000 metal detectorists in Britain is having on our archaeological heritage because not all of these can be relied on to behave responsibly and to record and report their finds.

“Metal detecting worries me greatly,” says presenter Tony Robinson. “The reality, according to one of our experts, is that there are likely to be no metal finds at all in the top layer of Britain’s soil within 20 years. The only way we can prevent that happening is by the Government passing a law. I think all metal detectorists should be licensed and to get a licence they should be required to abide by a code of archaeological best practice.”

“Everything we find, wherever it is, should be scrupulously and systematically recorded within its archaeological context,” Tony insists. He says that the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which involves the voluntary recording of archaeological finds, is “great, and I support the people who do it, but in a way it’s a policy of despair because it’s saying yes, all these people are going to plunder our archaeology but what we’ll do is try to persuade the nice ones to tell us where they found it.”

Source: Channel 4 publicity material for Time Team programmes

Time Team is a series of television programmes about archaeology. The first series was screened in 1992, and there has been a new series every year since then.

Tony Robinson is an actor. He has presented all the Time Team programmes.

TURN OVER FOR DOCUMENT 5
Document 5

Artefact Erosion Counter

3 pm 2 November 2011

The Artefact Erosion Counter estimates a running total of the number of recordable archaeological artefacts removed from the fields of England and Wales by metal detectorists (mostly without being reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme):

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today:</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This year:</td>
<td>242 009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall total since 1975:</td>
<td>11 195 337</td>
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</tbody>
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In order to emphasise that the seriousness of the issue was beyond reasonable denial we deliberately pitched the Counter at the lowest possible level. It operates on a fundamental assumption (which it shares with the Portable Antiquities Scheme) that there are only 8000 active detectorists in England and Wales – despite every other estimate being far higher. Similarly, the rate at which the Counter shows artefacts being found is far lower than figures from a number of well-documented estimates and surveys from detectorists, archaeologists and official sources.

Source: Heritage Action Website

Heritage Action describes itself as “a rallying point for anyone who feels ancient heritage places deserve greater protection. We are not a bureaucracy or a commercial organisation, simply a collection of ordinary people throughout Britain and Ireland who are unified by a common concern.”
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