
THINKING SKILLS

9694/23

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2019

1 hour 45 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **all** the questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

This document consists of **6** printed pages, **2** blank pages and **1** Insert.

- 1 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

Textbook on international politics

Southland is a dictatorship, ruled over by President for Life, Titus Okeke. He succeeded to the presidency on the death of his father, who seized power from the previous government in a military coup. The President married Cajsa Uba in 2007, but this marriage ended in divorce in 2013. It is generally believed that this was because of the First Lady's failure to give birth to a son. Shortly after the divorce, the President married a member of his former wife's personal staff, Anna Jaja. Five months after the marriage, the new First Lady gave birth to a daughter. She and the President have had no more children since then. Southland has a reputation for being a repressive society, in which political dissent is severely punished. There have been many reports of political opponents being tortured to extort confessions. The only newspaper in Southland, *Southland News*, is controlled by the Government.

Source B

Report from international news agency

2 March 2018

Reports from Southland suggest that the President is being pressurised to divorce his wife, Anna Jaja, because she has failed to give birth to a son, who would be able to succeed the President in due course. The President's Chief of Staff is reportedly concerned that if there is no heir to the presidency, the country will be plunged into a damaging civil war when the President dies. Sources close to the presidential family say that the President is reluctant to divorce his wife, because they are deeply in love with one another.

Source C

Report from *Southland News*

22 May 2018

Enemy of the State Executed

The President's Chief of Staff has announced that Henry Boro, a member of the presidential household, has been executed on charges of adultery and treason. After several weeks of intensive interrogation, Boro signed a confession in which he admitted having had an immoral relationship with the First Lady, Anna Jaja. In view of the urgency of the case, a criminal court was convened overnight, and after being convicted Boro was executed immediately.

Source D

Report from *Southland News*

24 May 2018

Suicide of First Lady

Anna Jaja, wife of President for Life, Titus Okeke, has committed suicide in her cell. Prison officers found her body yesterday morning. Anna Jaja was in prison awaiting trial on charges of adultery and treason. In a statement, the President's Chief of Staff said that Anna Jaja had been depressed following the death of her lover, Henry Boro, and was crushed by guilt at her betrayal of her loving husband. The Chief of Staff reported that following a post-mortem examination, Anna Jaja's body had been cremated.

Source E**Report from *Southland News****12 October 2018**Marriage of President for Life*

Cheering crowds of loyal Southlanders lined the streets yesterday to celebrate the marriage of President for Life, Titus Okeke, to Lagina Kalu, daughter of his Chief of Staff. The new First Lady is looking forward to the birth of her first child. Ante-natal examinations have revealed that the baby will be a boy. A source close to the President has suggested that when the baby is born, he will be declared Heir to the Presidency.

- (a) Identify **two** reasons why the evidence reported in Source C is unreliable. [4]
- (b) Source D reports that Anna Jaja has committed suicide. Suggest a plausible alternative explanation for her death. [2]
- (c) The “source close to the President” mentioned in Source E is actually the Chief of Staff. Suggest **three** motives he might have had for making this statement. [3]
- (d) How likely do you think it is that Anna Jaja was guilty of adultery and treason? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, with critical reference to the evidence provided and considering a plausible alternative conclusion. [6]

2 Study the evidence and answer the questions that follow.

Source A**Extract from psychology textbook**

The pioneering psychologist Alfred Adler (1870–1937) proposed a theory that the order in which people are born in their family exerts a powerful influence on their personality. This theory remains popular despite the lack of research evidence to support it.

Birth Order Personality Traits according to Adler and his Followers	
Eldest	Leader, Independent, Responsible, Adventurous, Conscientious, Perfectionist, Organised, Determined, Destructive, Jealous, Authoritarian
Middle	Competitive, Independent, Inventive, Resourceful, Diplomatic, Flexible, Relaxed, Resentful, Rebellious, Insecure, Secretive
Youngest	Competitive, Easy-going, Affectionate, Dependent, Sociable, Entertaining, Confident, Rebellious, Irresponsible, Manipulative, Spoiled, Selfish

Source B

Some groups of siblings have one or more brothers or sisters who are so much older than themselves that they think of them more like uncles or aunts. The oldest of the younger group in such families tend to develop the personality traits of an oldest child. In other families, one child is the youngest for long enough to become accustomed to that position before a younger sibling is born. These situations make it necessary to distinguish between actual birth order and 'psychological birth order'.

Source C**News report 2015**

Researchers from the University of Leipzig reviewed data from three large national studies from the United States, United Kingdom and Germany, comparing siblings within families and people with the same birth order in different families. The researchers did not find any effect of birth order on extraversion, emotional stability, agreeableness, conscientiousness, or imagination. However, they found that first-borns tended to be slightly more intelligent than their brothers and sisters. They suggested that this was probably because older children often have to explain things to their younger brothers and sisters, which develops higher cognitive skills.

Source D

News report 2017

Research has found that first-born children are smarter than their younger brothers and sisters. A recent study examined data from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, which observed the family background and economic conditions of nearly 5000 children from pre-birth to 14 years old, and tested skills relating to reading and vocabulary every two years. They found that

- First-borns had a higher IQ test score than their siblings from as young as one year old.
- Mothers engaged in higher-risk behaviour, such as smoking and drinking, during later pregnancies.
- Parents offered less mental stimulation to younger children, taking part in fewer activities such as reading, crafts and playing musical instruments.

Dr Ana Nuevo-Chiquero, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Economics, said these differences in parental behaviour were a plausible explanation for the well-established advantages of first-born children in relation to education, employment and life-time earnings.

- (a) A psychology student attempted to test Adler's theory (Source A) by showing a large number of people the list of traits from Source A corresponding to their position in their family. A high proportion of them agreed that the list of traits described their personality accurately. The student concluded that Adler's theory was the explanation for her results.

Explain **two** features of the test that might weaken the student's conclusion. [4]

- (b) Does Source B contradict Adler's theory? Explain your answer. [3]

- (c) 'It is unavoidable that younger children will be less intelligent than their oldest brother or sister.'

Use the evidence in Source D to explain why this cannot be reliably concluded. [2]

- (d) 'The position you held in your birth family will influence you for the whole of your life.'

To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the information provided in Sources A–D. [6]

3 Read the passage and answer the questions below.

- 1 No reasonable or humane person approves of violence, but logically violence is the unavoidable final step in all disputes. As the most reliable psychologists have recognised, aggression is inherent in human nature, and therefore under the right circumstances everyone will behave violently.
- 2 Children are more aware of the inevitability of violence than anyone. It is natural for children to bully one another, and parents who are realistic about this tell their children that the only way to stop the bullies is to fight back. In countries where physical punishment in schools has not yet been abolished, it has been rare for either party to see the irony of a headmaster telling a pupil, "In order to teach you not to be violent, I am going to beat you with this stick."
- 3 Some people believe violence in society can be reduced by imposing severe punishments on those convicted of violent offences. However, they are contradicting themselves, since all forms of punishment are themselves acts of violence.
- 4 Idealistic philosophers who know nothing about real life have claimed that violence can be reduced by not resisting it. However, a policy of non-retaliation actually encourages violence, because if people know you will not fight back, they will use violence against you in order to take what they want.
- 5 Building nuclear weapons and maintaining the facilities to use them costs money which could be better used to feed the poor and increase national prosperity. However, if it became known that a particular country could not defend itself, its neighbours would soon begin nibbling away at its territory. So the threat of violence is the only reason why World War III has been avoided over the last 70 years.

(a) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify the main conclusion. [2]

(b) Using the exact words from the passage as far as possible, identify **three** intermediate conclusions. [3]

(c) Evaluate the strength of the reasoning in the argument. In your answer you should consider any flaws, unstated assumptions and other weaknesses. [5]

(d) 'Teaching people to live at peace with one another is an important part of education.'

Write your own short argument to support **or** challenge this claim. The conclusion of your argument must be stated. Credit will not be given for repeating ideas from the passage. [5]

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