



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

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## THINKING SKILLS

9694/22

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2021

1 hour 45 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

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This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**Section A**

*Study the evidence and then answer Questions 1 and 2.*

**Source A****Health information leaflet from a state health service**

Statins are the most commonly prescribed medicines in many countries, and they usually should be taken for the remainder of a person's life. Their effect is to lower the level of cholesterol in your blood.

Cholesterol is essential for your body to work well, but too much 'bad cholesterol' is unhealthy. High levels of bad cholesterol in your blood can lead to fatty deposits building up in your arteries over time. This can increase your risk of developing cardiovascular disease, which includes conditions such as angina, heart attack and stroke. Statins reduce the amount of bad cholesterol your body makes.

Even if you're in good health, you should take statins if you're at high risk of developing cardiovascular disease; for example, if you have a strong family history of such disease. Statins can help lower this risk. A research study has also suggested statins can help reduce the risk of stroke for everyone aged over 65.

**Source B****Letter to newspaper from former Chief Financial Officer of an international drug company**

People are taking far too much medication in the modern world. The principle used is that if, for example, four deaths per thousand per year are prevented by everybody over the age of 60 taking tablets for high blood pressure, then this is a good reason for prescribing blood pressure tablets for everybody over 60. However, this means that in 996 cases the blood pressure tablets were not necessary. The drug companies do very well out of this policy of prescribing a large range of drugs on this preventative 'at risk' basis. Governments should aim to reverse this policy and allow long-term medication to be prescribed only where it is necessary to maintain a person's life, for example prescribing insulin in the case of type 1 diabetes.

**Source C****Health service website**

Like all medications, statins can cause side effects. However, most people tolerate them well and do not experience any problems. One in ten people will experience symptoms such as nose bleeds, sore throat, muscle pain, digestive problems and nausea. More serious problems, such as inflammation of the liver or stomach, will occur in one in a hundred cases.

However, it is not always certain that the symptom is caused by the medication and there may be a tendency for people to expect side effects because they have been told they might experience them. This could mean that they become aware of a pre-existing condition which they didn't bother about before and which they wrongly interpret as a side effect of the medication they have started taking.

## Source D

## Letter to health magazine

An important debate in health care concerns the policy of prescribing drugs to people deemed at risk of developing health conditions such as cardiovascular disease. There is some tension between the overall interests of a health service provided and funded by the state and the interests of the individuals who benefit from this service. Four out of every thousand potential cases of cardiovascular disease being prevented might be of low benefit for the individual and not a risk for which it is worth suffering from possible side effects. However, this could represent savings of many millions of dollars for the health service, because these four individuals per thousand will not have to undergo expensive treatment.

- 1 (a) A state health service is considering a proposal under which statins would be prescribed to everyone over a certain age, and not to anyone else.
- (i) State **two** ways in which the evidence in Source A could **support** this policy. [2]
- (ii) State **two** ways in which the evidence in Source A could **challenge** this policy. [2]
- (b) How reliable is Source B? [4]
- (c) The evidence in Source B has not dealt specifically with the case of the prescription of statins. To what extent does this weaken the application of the evidence in Source B to the issue of the prescription of statins as discussed in the other sources? [3]
- (d) Look at Source D. Explain **one** way of challenging the argument in the source that there is a conflict of interest between the individual and state-funded health care as regards the policy discussed. [3]
- 2 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*
- 'Doctors should be encouraged to prescribe statins.'
- To what extent do you agree with this claim? Write a short, reasoned argument to support your conclusion, using and evaluating the evidence provided. [8]

**Section B**

*Read the following passage and then answer Questions 3, 4 and 5.*

- 1 Anybody who lives in a city which attracts tourists, such as Venice or San Francisco, will be used to the phenomenon of large groups being given a guided tour of the city. These places are already finding it difficult to cope with the problems, such as overcrowding, created by their resident population. More tourists mean more people, thus making these problems even worse. So guided tours have a negative impact on the residents of such cities. Many of them have actually fled – the population of Venice has decreased from 164 000 in 1931 to 60 000 in 2018.
- 2 Guided tours should be banned. People should find their own way around cities they are visiting and not follow somebody else as if they are still at school and dependent on adult supervision. They can always ask someone the way if they get lost. The guided tour is an unnecessary nuisance.
- 3 Tour guides are poorly paid and are typically students trying to earn some money to finance their studies. Encouraging guided tours contributes to the so-called 'gig economy' of insecure, unregulated work. Banning guided tours would support attempts to improve working conditions.
- 4 Increasingly sophisticated promotional videos give an inflated impression of how wonderful a place actually is. In reality, they are usually overcrowded and unpleasant. Cities with many visitors also have many tour guides, which clearly shows such guides are a major contributor to the problems of visitor numbers that tourist destinations are experiencing.
- 5 Some people would argue that the tour guides are a source of information for visitors about the history of the city they are visiting. However, those seeking such information would be better off going to a series of lectures – better to listen to an informed professional than be bored by a tour guide droning on.

- 3 (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*. [6]
- (c) Identify **two** *unstated assumptions* required by the reasoning in paragraph 5. [4]
- (d) Identify the argument element and explain the function of the following words from paragraph 1:

'the population of Venice has decreased from 164 000 in 1931 to 60 000 in 2018' [2]

- 4 (a) Identify and explain a *causal flaw* in paragraph 4. [2]
- (b) Identify and explain **two** flaws or weaknesses in the reasoning in paragraphs 1 to 3. [4]

- 5 *You are advised to spend some time planning your answer before you begin to write it.*

'People should be encouraged to visit historic places.'

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. [8]





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