
THINKING SKILLS

9694/21

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

October/November 2016

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**Statement**

from former prisoner in Rappart Prison

Torture and other ill-treatment were commonplace in Rappart Prison. A team of officers visited me in my cell one day. They stripped me naked, poured water over me, electroshocked me with a taser gun and kicked me. They left me naked and bleeding on the floor. Later, one of the officers came back and forcibly injected me with a drug, which left me feeling dazed and nauseous for forty-eight hours.

Source B**Statement**

from former officer at Rappart Prison

My colleagues and I were hopelessly outnumbered by dangerous prisoners. So we needed to carry taser guns in order to protect ourselves. Sometimes we used the tasers to shock prisoners in the segregation unit just to make them afraid of us. We also used tasers on inmates to make them talk. Prisoners were injected with anti-psychotic drugs when required in order to keep them subdued.

When I began work at the prison, I was a little unhappy about some of these practices, but my Team Leader explained that they were part of the job and that both PQR Security and the State Prisons Department expected staff to do whatever was necessary in order to keep the prisoners under control.

Source C**Statement**

by PQR Security Company

Our company has never permitted any acts of assault or torture, including electric shocks or drugs, against inmates at Rappart Prison or at any of the other prisons which we run under contract from the State Prisons Department. PQR has a zero tolerance policy against the use of excessive force. If any abuse had taken place, the prisoner would have reported it to a representative of the State Prisons Department, who is present and available at all times. Prisoners are given injections only if they require medication for their own good. Decisions to administer medication are always made by medical staff, and never by prison officers.

Source D**Statement**

by State Prisons Minister

I have ordered an immediate investigation into these serious allegations. My senior officials will leave no stone unturned in this investigation, in order to ensure that anyone found guilty of such unacceptable behaviour faces the consequences of their actions.

However, I should also point out that the criminals in Rappart Prison have been convicted of violent offences and many of them are terrorists. The law-abiding population expects us to keep these criminals under control, and prison officers can only achieve this by showing they are even tougher than the men they are guarding.

Forced medication is subject to stringent rules in this state. Prison hospitals come under the regulations applicable to all hospitals in the country. The head of any hospital can authorise treatment of patients without consent only if they present a danger to themselves or others and if they are incapable of making an informed decision.

Source E**Statement**

from International Human Rights Monitoring Organization

Allegations have been made of abuse, including the use of electric shocks, against inmates in a privately run prison. These allegations raise serious questions about how committed the authorities really are to eliminating torture and other ill-treatment from prisons. These recent allegations of abuse against inmates are consistent with a long-standing pattern across the country. We have had no report of any prison officer ever having been disciplined as a result of complaints from a prisoner.

We welcome the statement from the Prisons Minister that he has launched an official investigation into the latest allegations. The important questions now are whether this investigation will actually bring to justice the people responsible for the abuse and whether the victims will receive compensation for their suffering. The investigation into the alleged abuse must be prompt, impartial and independent.

- (a) Source A claims that “Torture and other ill-treatment were commonplace in Rappart Prison.”
- (i) Suggest one factor which **increases** the reliability of this claim. [2]
- (ii) Suggest one factor which **reduces** the reliability of this claim. [2]
- (b) Suggest one **additional** piece of evidence concerning the former prison officer which would help you assess the reliability of the evidence in Source B and briefly explain how it would affect the reliability. [3]
- (c) Is Source C an argument? Briefly explain your answer. [2]
- (d) How likely do you think it is that the State Prison Department has encouraged abuse of prisoners in Rappart Prison? 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

Article in Men's Health magazine

Need a little fuel to help you ace your big presentation today? Forget energy bars – chug a bottle of H₂O instead. Researchers found that students who drank water during an exam performed 10% better than those who did not, according to a recent study presented at the British Psychological Society Annual Conference.

And while the study only tested undergrads in the classroom, researchers are confident that the results also apply to situations like job interviews, important meetings, or sit-downs with the boss.

Staying hydrated could reduce anxiety, and anxiety has been shown to have a negative effect on exam performance. When the brain is dehydrated, it has no way to directly signal to the rest of the body that it needs liquids, so the dehydration manifests in the form of anxiety, according to Brian Foltz, CEO of Quantum Hydration Ltd.

Do this: drink between 7 and 17 fluid ounces of water (the amount in an average-sized water bottle) before tackling any big projects.

Source B

Article in Women's Health magazine

How much water you need depends on your activity level (1 to 1½ cups every 15 minutes while working out) and where you live (you lose more fluids in hot and humid locations and at high altitudes). The National Academy of Sciences suggests that women should consume 11 cups of fluid every day – though not all of this has to be water. About 8 cups can come from other drinks (including coffee and tea) and the rest from what you eat. Watermelon, cucumbers, and most other fruits and vegetables are obvious sources (1 cup of watermelon has almost a full cup of water), but lots of foods are wetter than you might have guessed. Oatmeal and beans – even a turkey sandwich – contain useful amounts of water.

Source C**Website of the End Tiredness Programme**

Here are some tips for drinking more water:

Always carry a bottle of water with you and drink from that. This way, you will have water to hand and can take it little and often and, as an added bonus, you will be able to measure your intake of water.

Avoid drinking water just before meals because this will dilute your gastric juices, making digestion harder. Drink a glass of water at least twenty minutes before a meal.

Take an extra glass of water to compensate for each cup of tea and coffee you drink. Do the same for alcoholic beverages, as they can be exceptionally dehydrating.

It is best to drink either filtered or mineral water. If you do have to drink tap water, allow it to run for about 30 seconds, so that you avoid drinking particles in the pipes (e.g. lead) that can be found in tap water.

Wear a watch and set it to remind you at intervals of an hour that it's time to drink a glass of water. Alternatively sip water on a regular basis.

Drink two glasses of water on waking, as you have not had any for quite some time.

Source D**Medical column in newspaper**

It is very widely accepted that we should drink about eight cups (two to three litres) of water per day in addition to our food and other drinks.

We do know, of course, that without water we will die within days. It is natural to conclude that if a lack of water is bad for you, then drinking more water must be good. An increased intake of water is said to reduce urinary tract infections, improve skin tone, help with weight loss, reduce headaches and fatigue, eliminate constipation and improve concentration.

When looking through the literature on this subject, I found an article in a medical journal which made all these claims and more. It was written by a group of respected doctors from prestigious American and French hospitals and it strongly supported the widely held belief that you should drink two to three litres of water a day.

A footnote at the end of the article explained that what appeared to be a scientific article in a scientific journal was in fact taken from a special issue, paid for by a well-known manufacturer of mineral water. All of the authors were paid by this company. So what was presented as research was really advertising.

- (a) Suggest and briefly explain **two** reasons why the evidence reported in Source A gives only weak support to the claim that drinking a bottle of water could help you “ace your big presentation today”. [4]
- (b) Identify the point of contradiction between Source B and Source C. [2]
- (c) How reliably can it be concluded from Source D that we do **not** need to “drink about eight cups of water per day”? [3]
- (d) ‘Most people should drink more water.’

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 It is taken for granted over much of the world that any institution, system or event which can be described as “democratic” must be good. But “democracy” is actually a more problematic concept than most people realise.
- 2 Democracy was invented in the city-states of ancient Greece. Major political decisions were made by assemblies consisting of all the adult male citizens. Slaves, women, foreigners and children had no voice or vote in these assemblies. The modern system of electing a government to make decisions on behalf of the people is therefore not true democracy.
- 3 Those who claim that winning the most votes in an election entitles a person or party to rule the country are either stupid or deceitful. Once in power, politicians are under no obligation to keep the promises they made during the election campaign. So voting for the candidate who makes the most impressive promises ensures that the biggest liar, not the best candidate, wins the election.
- 4 The right to vote should be limited to those who have the intelligence and the education to do so responsibly. Many corrupt governments have been re-elected by relying on the votes of peasants who live too far from the capital to see the corruption and do not have access to newspapers in order to read about it. Most of them will vote for any government which gives them peace and stability. Only those who dwell in cities understand the real issues.
- 5 Crowds of protesters in several countries have in recent years demanded that corrupt politicians be replaced by governments “of the people”. This shows that democracy does not consist of accepting whichever party receives the largest number of votes. In several cases, foreign countries have supported the protests, and helped to remove governments which they have described as “undemocratic” even though they had been elected by a democratic process.
- 6 The growth of “social media”, such as Facebook and Twitter, has introduced new ways for democracy to work. Demands for changes in policy or the introduction of new laws can quickly gain the support of thousands of “followers”. So any government which fails to implement these popular demands has no right to describe itself as democratic.

- (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)** ‘The first duty of governments is to suppress dissent.’

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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