
THINKING SKILLS

Paper 2 Critical Thinking

9694/21

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**Report from *Eastland Chronicle* newspaper**

At an election rally of his supporters last night, billionaire businessman and presidential candidate Mr Max Gashi made a strong personal attack on his leading rival candidate, Vice President Alex Popoff. Mr Gashi, regarded as an outsider in the election, claimed to have evidence of large-scale corruption by Mr Popoff and his associates. Mr Gashi, whose vast fortune is based on gas and oil assets formerly owned by the state, claims that voters have become disillusioned by the repeated failures of professional politicians, and are ready to give a chance to someone who has proved his ability in the competitive arena of business. A spokesman for Mr Popoff denied that the Vice-President was involved in corruption.

Source B**Extract from Eastland Constitution***Conduct of Presidential Election*

- No person may campaign for any candidate in a presidential election unless they have registered with the Electoral Commission as a member of that candidate's Campaign Team.
- Anyone registering as a member of a Campaign Team must declare any direct or indirect financial relationship they have had with the government during the previous five years.

Source C**Report from *Eastland Independent* newspaper***Exposure of Popoff Team corruption begins*

The Commissioner of the State Police has confirmed that a junior member of Mr Alex Popoff's campaign team is being investigated, following receipt of an anonymous allegation that she had failed to register that she had previously worked for a company which had received government contracts. Presidential candidate Max Gashi told a rally of his supporters, "The current investigation into a member of the Popoff campaign team is just the beginning. This will prove to be the loose thread which unravels the whole web of corruption and sends many people to prison for long terms." Mr Gashi added that he had compiled an extensive dossier of evidence which he will turn over to the police after the election. "My first action as President will be to instruct the prosecuting authorities to prepare a case against the criminal Popoff and his accomplices," Mr Gashi announced to a crowd of thousands of enthusiastic supporters. "Popoff will go to jail."

Source D**Report from *Eastland Chronicle* newspaper**

Following his narrow election victory, President Max Gashi has announced that he will not pursue accusations of corruption against the defeated candidate, the former Vice-President Mr Alex Popoff. "I was taught by my father to be generous in victory," the President explained. "Losing power will be sufficient punishment for Popoff's crimes, and I have no desire to send him to jail."

- (a) How well does Source C support its headline, "Exposure of Popoff Team corruption begins"? [3]

- (b) The *Eastland Independent* is owned by Mr Gashi.

What impact could this information have on the reliability of Source C? [4]

- (c) President Gashi claims in Source D that his motive for not pursuing a case against Mr Popoff is that he is "generous in victory".

Suggest an alternative explanation for Mr Gashi's decision not to seek a prosecution of Mr Popoff. [2]

- (d) How likely do you think it is that former Vice President Alex Popoff is guilty of corruption? 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

During the last half-century, there has been a great increase in the number of female doctors across the world.

In the USA, fewer than 10% of doctors in 1970 were female, but this proportion has now grown to over 30%. More than half of doctors specialising in medical conditions affecting women, including pregnancy and childbirth, and over 60% of doctors caring for children, are female.

Until the 1960s, fewer than 10% of British doctors were female, but there are now more female doctors in the UK than males. For the past 40 years about 60% of students selected for training as doctors in the UK have been female. This was inevitable once medical schools became required to consider male and female applicants on equal terms, because girls mature earlier than boys and achieve slightly better A Level grades.

Source B

Women are Better Doctors than Men

Researchers from Harvard University studied the records of 1 583 028 hospital visits by patients aged 65 or over. They discovered that patients treated by a female doctor had a 4% lower risk of dying and 5% lower risk of being admitted to the hospital again in the following month. This was true for people with medical conditions of all sorts and severities. Having tried to eliminate every other variable, the researchers concluded that women are superior to men at treating these patients.

The main explanation for these findings put forward by the researchers was that female physicians “have a more patient-centred communication style, are more encouraging and reassuring, and have longer visits than male physicians.” Other possible explanations are that female doctors are more likely to provide preventative care and psychosocial counselling and to follow clinical guidelines more closely.

Source C

Letter to medical journal

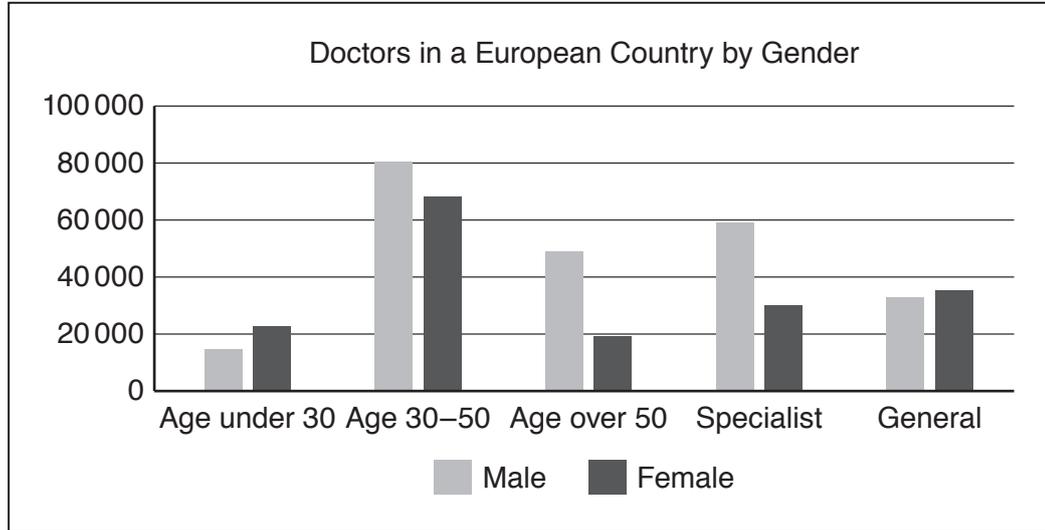
As a retired doctor, I am very concerned that more women than men are now qualifying as doctors. A young female surgeon told me recently that when she went to medical school, some female students announced from the beginning that they intended to work part-time when they qualified. Part-time working harms patients, by depriving them of continuity of care.

The serious shortage of medical school places causes more than half of male applicants with the required grades to be rejected. Most of the women who take up training places subsequently work part-time in general practice; they also tend to avoid those specialisms which suffer from shortages. We fill these gaps by importing from overseas about 40% of the doctors we need; those doctors are needed in their own countries. Medical school places should be given to those most likely to repay their debt to society, and preference should therefore be given to male applicants.

Dr Pierre Schwarz

Source D

Doctors in a European country were classified by gender, according to their age and whether they were registered as hospital specialists or in general (community) practice. Some doctors are not registered in either specialist or general practice, mostly because they have retired or are doing other work.



- (a) (i) **On the basis of Source A**, suggest **one** reason why someone might propose that entry requirements for medical training should be lower for male applicants than female. [2]
- (ii) The author of Source C argues that preference should be given to male applicants for medical training.

Suggest an alternative conclusion that can be drawn from his reasoning. [2]

- (b) Identify and explain **one** weakness in the support given by Source B for its headline, “Women are Better Doctors than Men”. [2]

- (c) Sources C and D refer to the same country.

How well does Source D support the claims made in Source C? [3]

- (d) ‘The increase in the number of female doctors is a good thing.’

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 Ask anyone over the age of about 30 what they remember from their schooldays, and they will almost certainly mention a teacher who has been an inspiration to them during adulthood. They have probably forgotten all or most of the facts which that teacher taught them, but they remember his or her personality. What they learned from their teacher as a person has proved to be of the greatest value.
 - 2 The knowledge that you acquire during schooldays may seem important at the time, but it is highly unlikely that you will need any of it in adulthood, unless you become a teacher and spend your life passing on the same package of irrelevant information to the next generation. So imparting that knowledge cannot be the purpose of education.
 - 3 Furthermore, nearly everything we are taught in school is wrong. It consists of what teachers and the authors of textbooks learned when they were at university thirty years ago. Knowledge evolves over time. That is why students spend their first year at university unlearning everything they learned at school.
 - 4 Most young people say that the reason they study at school is to gain qualifications which will open the door to the next stage of their education and ultimately to a well-paid job. This instrumental approach to education is self-defeating, because the only value it puts on any stage of life is as a preparation for the next. Those who think like that are in danger of never appreciating the life they have.
 - 5 The true purpose of education is to give students a vision of what adulthood can be. This is young people's greatest need, because the world is changing rapidly and no facts or skills learned now will last anyone for a lifetime.
- (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) 'Only people over the age of 30 should be employed as teachers.'

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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