



Gratia Christian College
宏恩基督教學院

**Academic Year 2015-2016
Semester 2
Examination**

Course Code & Title : GE1501 CRITICAL THINKING

Time Allowed : 120 mins

Student Name : _____

Student ID : _____

This paper has 8 pages (including this cover page).

1. This paper consists of 10 questions.
2. Each question, except Q2, is subdivided into further sub-questions.
3. Answers to ALL questions should be written down in the Answer Book.
4. In the Answer Book, start each of the 10 questions on a NEW page.

This is a **closed-book** examination, but you are allowed to look up unfamiliar words in an English dictionary, which must be in printed format.

No materials or aids are allowed during the whole examination. If any unauthorized materials or aids are found on a candidate during the examination, the candidate will be subject to disciplinary action.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Q1. Identifying the reasons and conclusions in the following arguments. (6 marks)

Passage 1.1

Your life is what your thoughts make it. That is why it is important for all of us to guard our minds from unhealthy habits of thinking, habits that hold us back from what we could be accomplishing.

Passage 1.2

Do not play your sound system loudly as you may not be able to hear warning sirens from emergency vehicles. In addition, hearing damage from loud noise is almost undetectable until it's too late.

Passage 1.3

In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be, wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time.

Q2. The phrases that follow the statement vary in their precision. Determine which is the most precise and which is the least precise; then rank them in order of increasing precision. Note down the correct answer in your answer book. (2 marks)

Roy and Sarah are

- A. driving less because they want to reduce carbon emissions
- B. trying to reduce their carbon footprint
- C. travelling together with neighbours, usually in a different member's car each day, to keep down the amount of carbon they cause to emit
- D. worried about global climate change

Ans.: < < <

Q3. For each of the following, determine if it is too vague or too ambiguous. Explain your answer. (10 marks)

Statement 3.1

Jessica is cold.

Statement 3.2

You only need modest exercise to stay healthy.

Statement 3.3

Stella always stands on the right side.

Statement 3.4

Lost: Small brown dog with black collar. Generous reward for return.

Statement 3.5

People who protest often get arrested.

Q4. Decide for each passage whether it is true or false. Note down the correct answer in your answer book. (3 marks)

Passage 4.1

T F Assuming you have normal vision, you are in an area with light, and your eyes are not covered, opening your eyes is a necessary and sufficient condition for seeing.

Passage 4.2

T F Having gills is a necessary condition for breathing underwater.

Passage 4.3

T F Eating an apple a day is neither a necessary condition nor a sufficient condition for keeping the doctor away.

Q5. For each proposition below, decide (8 marks):

- whether the reasons given meet the necessary conditions to support the conclusion. Write Yes or No and give reasons for your answer.
- whether the reasons given to support the conclusion are sufficient? Write Yes or No and give reasons for your answer.

Proposition

Example: birds have wings. The item has wings. Therefore, it is a bird.

Necessary?

Yes. Wings are a necessary condition for the item being a bird.

Sufficient?

No. The reasons given to support the argument that the item is a bird are not sufficient to satisfy the definition of a bird. This would include: usually flies, is animate, lays eggs, has two legs, had feathers. The information given is not sufficient to rule out an aeroplane or a toy.

Proposition 5.1

Hoi Yee had the benefit of an exceptionally happy childhood. She must be a very happy adult.

Proposition 5.2

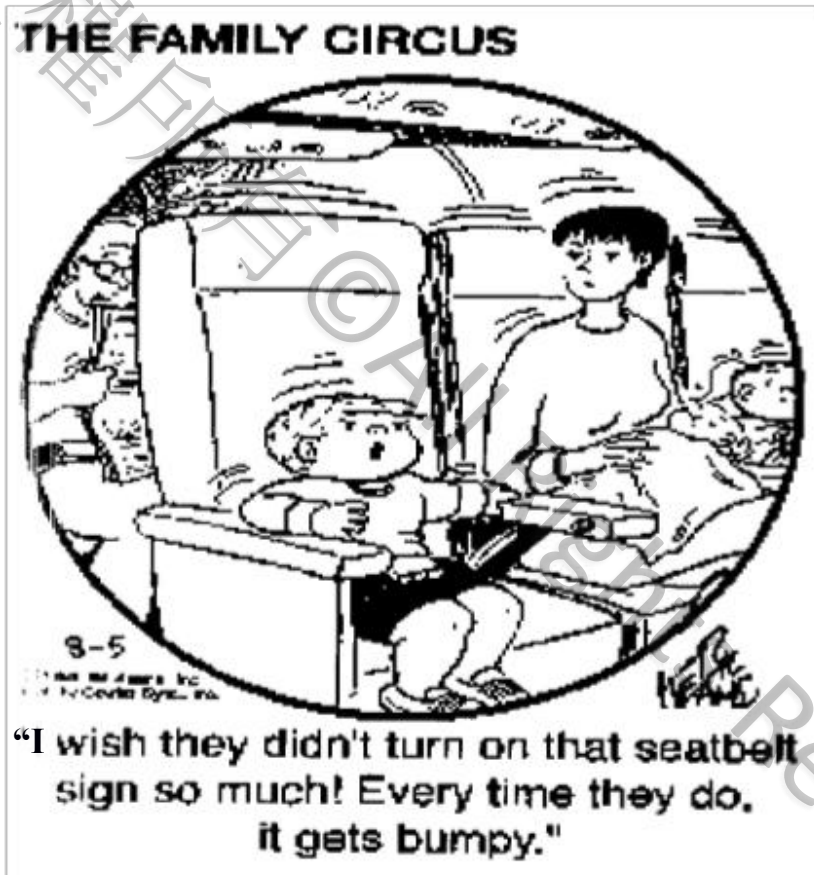
The priest arrived on a vehicle with two wheels, one in front of the other. The bishop must have been on a bicycle.

Q6. For each statement, identify the nature of the link, and determine if the conclusion follows logically from the reason(s) given. (4 marks)

Statement 6.1

The more firemen are sent to a fire, the more damage is done. So, the firemen must have done one poor job after another and caused more damage.

Statement 6.2



Q7. Identify any flaw of reasoning in the following passages. (6 marks)

Passage 7.1

Einstein was not very good at maths when he was at school. Many school-children today could solve maths problems that he used to struggle with. The praise of "great scientist" shouldn't be given to someone who struggled with basic numerical problems.

Passage 7.2

More people should be informed of the value of studying maths to a higher level at school or university. A mathematical education can be very advantageous. Therefore, the guidance given to young people should emphasize the benefits of choosing maths.

Passage 7.3

Why pick on me, officer? Nobody comes to a complete stop at that stop sign.

Q8. In each passage, decide if the example is a strong inductive generalization or a weak inductive generalization. Write down the correct answer in the answer book. (3 marks)

Passage 8.1

All the white men Teresa knows are highly intelligent. So, it must be that all white men are highly intelligent.

Ans.: Strong / Weak

Passage 8.2

Many of the children in McMug Kindergarten's K1 class can read. So, most children in the K1 kindergarten class can read.

Ans.: Strong / Weak

Passage 8.3

Many of the women on the volleyball team are majoring in women's studies. So, it is possible that some of the women on the volleyball team consider themselves feminists.

Ans.: Strong / Weak

Q9. Consider each of the following inductive generalizations. In each case, answer the question: Is the sample representative? Just write down Yes or No in your answer book. (3 marks)

Passage 9.1

Chicago, Los Angeles, and Houston are all big cities with big crime problems.

So, all big cities must have big crime problems.

Is the sample representative? Yes / No

Passage 9.2

All one hundred children who saw the latest Disney movie said it was great.

So, chances are that nearly everyone who sees the movie will think it is great.

Is the sample representative? Yes / No

Passage 9.3

Most Gratian students who watch the World Cup Final are unprepared for class the next day. So, most students who watch the World Cup Final are probably unprepared for class the next day.

Is the sample representative? Yes / No

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~~~~End of Examination~~~~