



Gratia Christian College  
宏恩基督教學院

**Academic Year 2016-2017  
Semester 1  
Examination**

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Course Code & Title : GE1501 CRITICAL THINKING

Time Allowed : 120 mins

Student Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID : \_\_\_\_\_

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This paper has 11 pages (including this cover page).

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1. This paper consists of 11 questions.
  2. Each question, except Q2, is subdivided into further sub-questions.
  3. Answers to ALL questions should be written down on the Question Paper directly.
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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.*

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**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*

The U.S. and other wealthy nations, as well as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, should erase the debt of the world's 52 poorest countries. By wiping \$350 billion from their books, these countries would be free to spend money on health care and education, rather than pay down the principal on loans floated by corrupt and sometimes long-gone governments.

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*Passage 1.2*

It's well known that good character inspires trust. And trust is the foundation for people to work together well. Character thus is a condition for all good collaboration.

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*Passage 1.3*

In regards to golf being a sport: Golf is not a sport, it is an activity. I golf, I enjoy it, but the definition of sports is simple: If there is no defense, it is not a sport.

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**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. (2 marks)**

- David and Daisy
- A. decided to sell their house and move
  - B. made plans for the future
  - C. considered moving
  - D. talked
  - E. discussed their future

Ans.: < < < <

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

*Statement 3.1*

Jim said Mac stopped at a fork in the road. I guess Mac must have a special interest in silverware.

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*Statement 3.2*

Dorm noise policy: Excessive noise is not permitted in the residence halls between the hours of 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 A.M.

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*Statement 3.3*

Stella always stands on the right side.

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*Statement 3.4*

Student handbook policy on hate speech: The College will not tolerate actions or language that stigmatize or victimize an individual or group on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity or national origin, religion or creed, sexual orientation, age, or handicap.

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*Statement 3.5*

Headline: Hospital Sued by Seven Foot Doctors.

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**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.

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*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.

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**Q6. For each statement, identify the nature of the link, and determine if the conclusion follows logically from the reason(s) given. (8 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.

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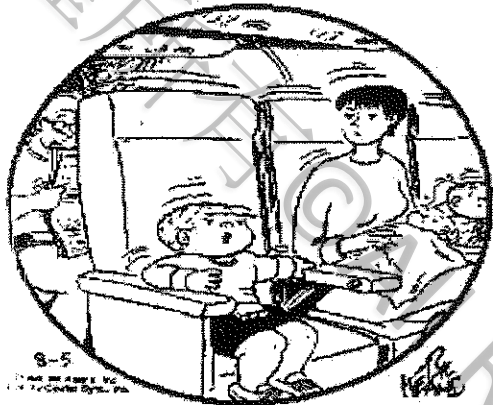
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Statement 6.2

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



8-5  
© 1988 by ABC, Inc.  
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"I wish they didn't turn on that seatbelt sign so much! Every time they do, it gets bumpy."

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Statement 6.3

A sports fan noticed that every time she wore her lucky wing, her favourite team won; when she forgot to put it on, her team lost. So, somehow wearing the ring caused her team to win.

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*Statement 6.4*

A survey questioned a group of teenagers about their behaviour, and attempted to establish whether their parents smoked. It found that children whose parents smoked were more likely to exhibit unlawful behaviour. So, the survey concluded "parental smoking causes children to misbehave."

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**Q7. Identify any flaw of reasoning in the following passages. Please explain. (12 marks)**

*Passage 7.1*

*Teacher.* Diana's mother called yesterday and complained about the three hours of homework Diana is required to do each night. Apparently, Diana's mother believes that schoolchildren should spend all their time talking on the phone, surfing the Net, and hanging out at the mall. Some parents can be so unreasonable.

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*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.

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Passage 7.3

Mom: Annie, did you break your brother's model airplane?

Annie: Well, he put chewing gum in my dolly's hair.

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Passage 7.4

Welfare programs simply breed dependence on the government, rather than encouraging individuals to take responsibility for their own lives. Many people have lived on government hand-outs, raising a generation of lazy individuals. Large numbers of welfare recipient rely on government resources, resulting in a pattern of continued dependence. Therefore, welfare programs clearly do not work.

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