



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 16 June 2016 – Afternoon

A2 GCE CRITICAL THINKING

F503/01/RB Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be issued with the Question Paper

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Use the resource documents to answer the questions in the Question Paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The information contained in this Resource Booklet was accurate when it went to press, but may subsequently have changed. Questions should be answered on the basis that the information is correct.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Document 1

Youthquake

The Earth faces a future of rising populations and growing strains on the planet. Whatever else the future holds, significant population increase is inevitable and the UN forecast of 9.7 billion by 2050 – an increase of nearly a third on the 7.4 billion in 2016 – may turn out to be an underestimate. The environmental damage resulting from population increase is already widespread and serious, ranging from climate change to shortages of basic resources such as food and water.

The planet faces the biggest generation of adolescents and teenagers in its history – a 'youthquake' with major social, political and demographic implications.

Although people in the West generally believe that population growth is mainly a problem in the developing world, developed countries have a much greater global impact. This is because of their far higher levels of consumption per person. On current figures, each new birth in the UK will be responsible for 35 times more greenhouse gas emissions and associated environmental damage than a new birth in Bangladesh and 160 times more than a birth in Ethiopia. So population growth is a problem for the developed as well as the developing world.

The UK Government should introduce a guideline for couples, such as 'stop at two' children or 'one child less' (than you would ideally like). It should be promoted in schools and in the media, and backed by environmental groups. This should be promoted as part of a greener lifestyle and as an example to couples worldwide, encouraging them to limit their own family size to protect the environment.

Source: Population Matters

Population Matters undertakes research, education and campaigning on 'population issues and their impact on environmental sustainability, resource use and quality of life'.

Document 2

An ageing UK population

It is an ongoing debate and concern – how are we going to cope with a hugely increasing elderly population? From an economic standpoint it is being reported as something of an impending financial dilemma. Within the next 30 years, as our population ages, we are going to end up with a population of elderly, non-working, dependent citizens. It is forecast that this is likely to put significant strain on, and cause changes to, such things as health care, pension and retirement age.

Our current social security and pension system is built upon a structure in which those working and contributing to the system are a majority and can therefore sustain those of retirement age. Without question, changes will have to be made in government policy and societal structures in order for us to sustain an ageing population. It is essential that we maintain a birth rate that is sufficient to provide people of working age to support those who have retired.

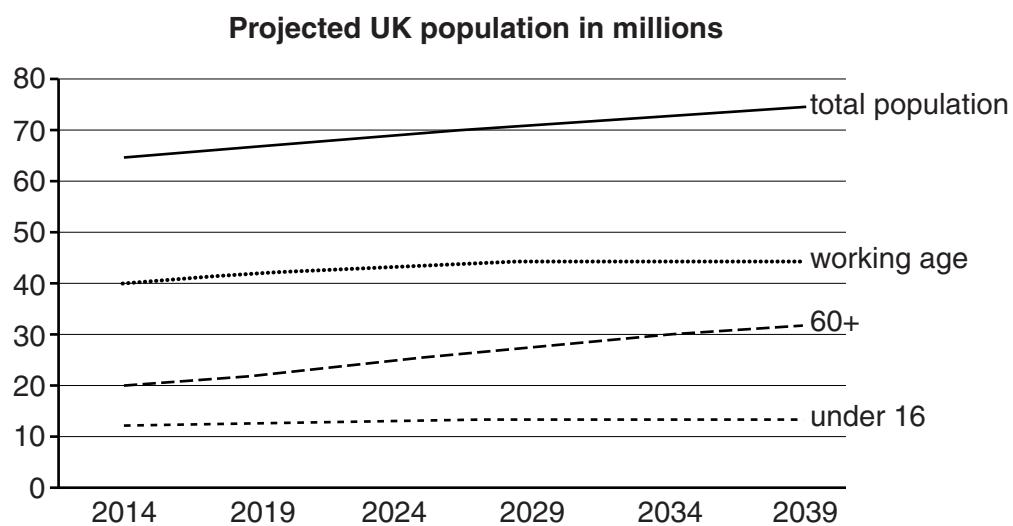
1

2

Source: helpwithelderlycare.co.uk

Document 3

Figure 1



Source: Government Office for National Statistics – Statistical Bulletin Oct 2015

Document 4

A counter-blast to the population control freaks

On BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, a speaker said that we should be pursuing policies that would reduce our population to 20 million – a reduction to less than a third of its current level. 1

I'm not aware that anyone has rebutted the suggestion that there are three times more British people than is desirable, so perhaps I should do so here. First of all, I don't accept the initial assumption that this country is unbearably overcrowded – or even would be so with a population of 71 million. No more than 8% of the land mass of the United Kingdom consists of human dwellings or offices. Sheep, cows and assorted other creatures occupy much more space than we do. 2

For the state to intervene in any way in the most personal and precious decision of our private lives would be a reduction of freedom far more serious than all the minor infringements which have occurred in recent decades. These include such apparently unacceptable activities as the hunting of foxes while wearing red coats and smoking in private clubs. 3

So here is a message that we might send to the population control freaks, and I hope that it will not be found too crude. It is this: mind your own reproducing business. 4

Source: Dominic Lawson in The Independent

Document 5

Smart people should have kids?

Statistically speaking, the more educated you are the less children you are likely to have in your lifetime. I know that this will bring a feeling of superiority to some people who will read this and say to themselves "I am one of those people. I am one of the elite educated that know better than to have kids". Reality, however, is the best remedy to arrogance.

If you consider yourself to be intelligent, if you consider yourself to be an intellectual or even just educated to some degree then you certainly understand the principles of social and biological evolution. That being the case, the fact that intelligent humans are not reproducing as fast as uneducated, unintelligent and in many cases ignorant people should be bone chillingly scary to you. It should scare anyone who understands that if only unintelligent people reproduce then we are in fact de-evolving, culturally, intellectually, and perhaps even biologically.

If you have brains and have a sense of what this world needs, then have children. Otherwise you have no one to blame but yourself when you find yourself old and infirm, surrounded by uneducated fools.

Source: *StormCloudsGathering.com*

Storm Clouds Gathering is a website which comments on news, under the slogan 'The Truth is Extreme, To Make it Moderate is to Lie. Political Analysis and Philosophy from the perspective of the Non-Aggressive Principle.'



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