



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Friday 26 May 2017 – Afternoon

AS GCE CRITICAL THINKING

F502/01/RB Assessing and Developing Argument

F502/02/RB

RESOURCE BOOKLET

To be issued with the Question Paper

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Use the Resource Booklet to answer all the questions in Section B and Section C in the Question Paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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- This document consists of 2 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Less opportunity means less crime

One theory suggests that crime only occurs when all three of the following are present: target, opportunity and motivation. The target could be a desirable car. The opportunity could be the car being left unlocked. Then the motivation could be showing off driving around in this luxury car. Removing the opportunity to commit crime is the best way the British government can reduce crime.

This is a more efficient way of making sure that people obey the law. Sometimes, people do not know what the law says. If it is important enough for a law to be made, then it should be important to reduce opportunities to do the wrong thing. Ever since 2001, young people from the age of 14 have been legally responsible for wearing a seatbelt in a coach. Practically none of them know that they can be fined £500 for not doing so. It would be better in the future to make it impossible for the coach to start until all seatbelts are being worn. This will mean that no one will break this law.

There is no point in making punishment for crime harsher. Punishment comes too late. Very few people consider the consequences of doing the wrong thing before they do it. Harsher punishments do not discourage people from committing crime, they just create resentment in the person being punished. Punishments do not make people sorry for what they have done. They just make them regret that they have been caught.

Prevention is better than cure. For example, just as cupboards which contain medicines and cleaning products have child-locks put on them by parents, the government can prevent citizens from making the wrong choices which harm them.

It is already possible for people to be made to do the right thing. A few simple adjustments to cars can remove all opportunity for crime. For example, technology can restrict a car to a maximum speed, and also can prevent a car from starting without all of its passengers wearing a seatbelt. There are even fingerprint controls to prevent an uninsured driver from being able to start the car.

It seems to be human nature to do the wrong thing. For example, when there is a sign saying 'Do not walk on the grass', many people do actually walk on the grass! Being told not to do something is why people disobey. When people have no choice, they cannot choose to do the wrong thing. Fencing off the grass so it cannot be crossed is much better.

The government is better able to make decisions in people's interests than the people themselves. In a democracy, we ask parliament to make laws to help us behave well in society. Important decisions are best left to the experts.

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