

Centre Number						Candidate Number				
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Other Names										
Candidate Signature										



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

Critical Thinking

CRIT4

Unit 4 Reasoning and Decision Making

Monday 25 June 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a copy of the Pre-release Case Study Source Material (enclosed)
- a copy of the Unseen Source Material (enclosed).
- You may use a calculator.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70.
- This paper consists of three sections.
Section A contains three compulsory questions based on the pre-release sources and statistical information.
Section B contains two compulsory questions based on the pre-release sources.
Section C contains four compulsory questions based mainly on **Document I**.

You will be marked on your ability to

- use good English
- organise information clearly
- use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- The recommended time allocation for this unit is as follows:
 - Section A: 20 - 25 minutes
 - Section B: 10 - 15 minutes
 - Section C: 50 - 60 minutes (including reading time for **Document I**)

For Examiner's Use	
Examiner's Initials	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
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9	
TOTAL	



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Section AAnswer **Questions 1 to 3.**There are **14 marks** available for this section.**Question 1 refers to Document H of the Case Study Source Material.**

- 1** Look again at pre-release **Document H**, *Health, wealth and falling trees*. Explain briefly the dilemma that all governments face when considering a new and potentially unpopular policy.

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(4 marks)

4



Turn over for the next question

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ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

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Questions 2 and 3 are based on the following scenario:

Suppose that the Government has placed a new Bill before Parliament to make further major changes to the National Health Service (NHS). It has sharply divided public opinion. Some of the Government's own backbench MPs are threatening to vote with the Opposition, making it possible that the Bill will be defeated. With a General Election on the horizon, that would be serious.

The Government's options are

- [1] to **propose** the Bill without any amendment
- [2] to **amend** the Bill to make some concessions to its opponents
- [3] to **withdraw** the Bill completely.

Government advisers have warned the Government of the following possible consequences, and their estimated probabilities.

Option [1]

The worst case scenario is *defeat* for the Bill in the House of Commons. The probability of this is thought to be no more than 0.2 (1 in 5, or 20%). But the consequences would be serious: equivalent to a loss of up to 10 points in the polls – enough to lose the next General Election.

Even if the Bill is *passed* by Parliament, it is still expected to be deeply unpopular with the voters. A drop of 8 points in the polls is predicted with 0.6 (60%) probability. This leaves a 0.4 (40%) chance of more moderate opposition, leading to a fall in the polls of around 4 points.

Option [2]

If the Bill is amended there is no risk of defeat in the Parliamentary vote, but it is unlikely that the electorate will be satisfied. A drop of 7 points in the polls is thought to be 70% probable, and a drop of 4 points to be 30% probable.

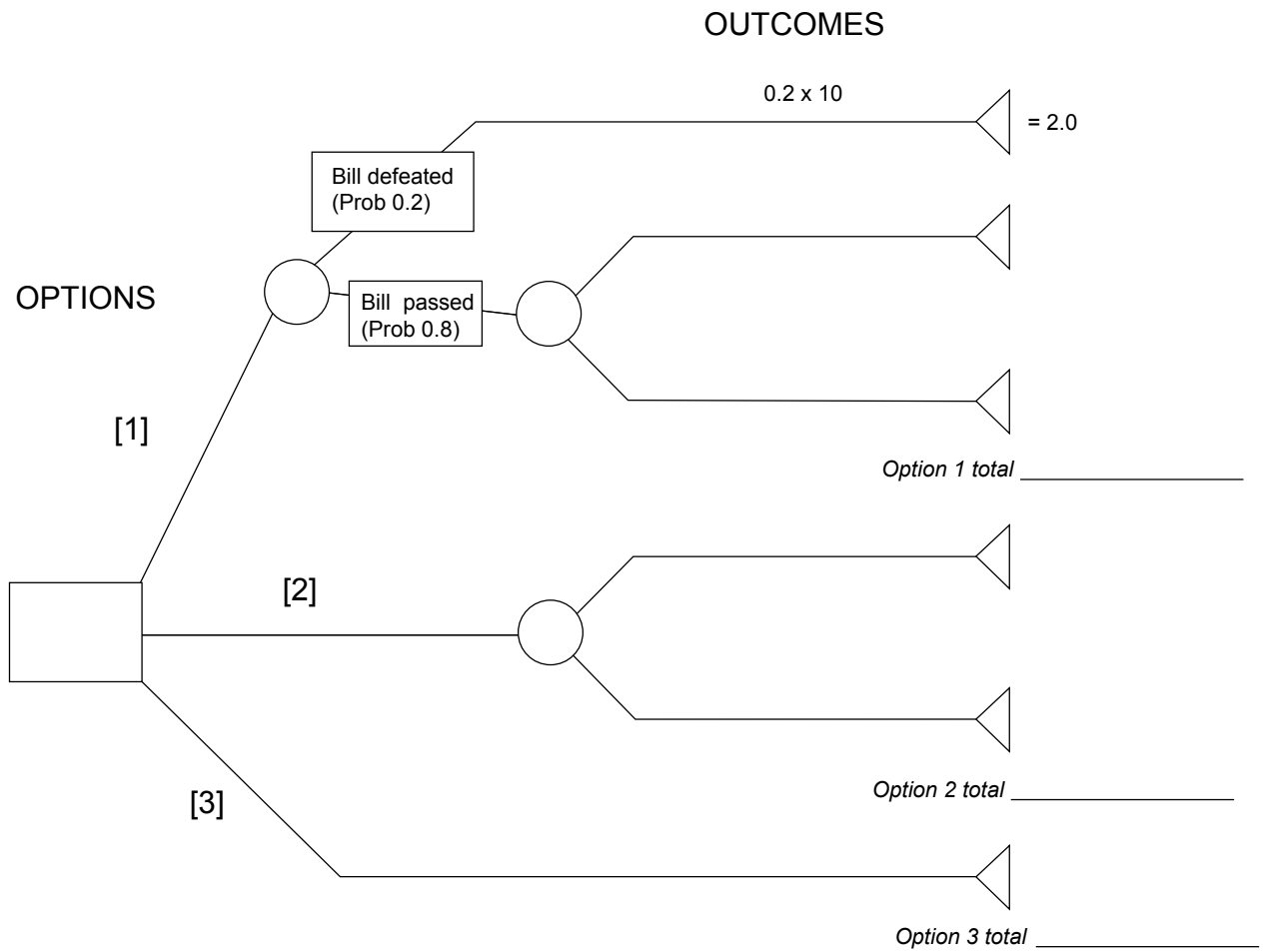
Option [3]

This would have only one predictable outcome: a humiliating U-turn, with an expected fall of around 5 points in the polls.



Question 2

- 2** Complete the decision tree diagram below, showing the outcomes and probabilities for each of the options.



(6 marks)

6

Turn over ►

- 3** Use the diagram to judge which option the Government should take, giving a brief supporting argument based only on the statistical data.

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(4 marks)

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END OF SECTION A



Section B

There are **10 marks** available for this section.

Questions 4 and 5 relate to one or more of the Case Study Source Material documents.

4 (a) Consult **Document B**: *The NHS braces itself for privatisation*

The author concludes (in the final paragraph) that David Cameron's commitment not to put the NHS at risk seems hard to reconcile with his government's proposed reorganisation.

Identify two of the examples of risks the author gives in support of this conclusion.

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(2 marks)

4 (b) Do the examples you have identified strongly support the author's conclusion?

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(5 marks)

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Turn over ►



- 5** **Document F**, with the headline: “NHS vs USA”, draws mostly on anecdotal evidence, leading to some general comments about the two systems.

Identify and briefly explain the general verdict that the author comes to (found on page 13 of the Case Study Source Material).

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(3 marks)

3

END OF SECTION B



Section C

Study **Document I**, provided in the insert 'Unseen Source Material'
before answering **Questions 6 to 9**.

There are **46 marks** available for this section.

Read the article entitled: *Put the NHS out of its misery and allow competition* – Document I – and answer the questions which follow. Note that the questions refer to specific paragraphs.

6 Give a careful **analysis** of the authors' reasoning in **paragraphs 1 and 2**.

In your answer you should:

- give a precise summary of the main conclusion
- identify any intermediate conclusion (or conclusions) and supporting premises.

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(5 marks)

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Turn over ►



7 '(T)he principles on which the NHS is based ... no longer make sense.'

Assess the strength of the justification that the authors give, **in paragraphs 3 and 4 only**, for the above claim.

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(6 marks)

6



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9

9 You may use any of the source documents when answering Question 9.

Imagine a future referendum in which you are required to vote on the following question.

Should the UK retain a national health service where medical care is free and funded by the taxpayer, or change to a US-style system of private medical insurance?

State which way you would vote and give a supporting argument for your decision by considering some of the possible consequences of each of the options.

Give further support for your decision by introducing:

- values and principles that you consider relevant
- information from the source documents and/or your own knowledge or experience.

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26



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