



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/41

Paper 4 Applied Reasoning

May/June 2013

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** the questions.

Start each question on a new answer sheet.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.



1 Study the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

E4U – the energy company that’s kind to the environment and YOUR WALLET!

As part of the Government’s Reduce Energy Usage Scheme (REUS), E4U are leading the field in strategies to reduce CO₂ emissions and save you money. The Government gives energy companies \$170 for every household they supply, in order to help us reduce fuel bills and cut carbon emissions. We at E4U care about you so much – we want to give away even more money! E4U will pay half the cost of property insulation for every one of our customers. According to the Government’s own figures, the cost of insulating the average home is \$700, so our offer represents a saving per household of \$350! Once insulated, heating bills can be reduced by as much as \$500 per year. We will also give you five free energy-saving light bulbs, worth \$10, that can save you \$30 per year. That’s an initial saving of \$360 and an annual saving of \$530.

(a) Make **three** criticisms of the data presented in the passage. [3]

(b) A Government spokesman commented, “The E4U strategy could save \$890 in one year alone and shows that the REUS represents great value for money to the taxpayer.”

Is this claim supported by the evidence presented? Justify your answer. [2]

Questions 2, 3 and 4 refer to Documents 1 to 5.

2 Briefly analyse Buddy2u’s argument in Document 1: *Watch Your Waste*, by identifying its main conclusion and main reasons, as well as any intermediate conclusions and counter-arguments. [6]

3 Give a critical evaluation of the strength of Buddy2u’s argument in Document 1: *Watch Your Waste*, by identifying and explaining any flaws, implicit assumptions and other weaknesses. [9]

4 ‘Those who waste food should be held morally accountable for the hunger of others.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Construct a well-reasoned argument in support of your view, commenting critically on some or all of Documents 1 to 5, and introducing ideas of your own. [30]

DOCUMENT 1

Watch Your Waste

Food waste is a huge topic for global debate, especially in the light of the growing divide between the profligate rich and the hungry poor. There are those who say food waste is an inevitable by-product in an age of mass production and busy lifestyles. It is time to establish once and for all that modern food waste culture is inexcusable.

In the minds of people, food has become so abundant that the easy solution to excess food is to bin it. Buying food simply to throw it out is a waste of all those precious resources – land, water, energy – that were put into growing, processing and transporting it. In countries like Burma, China and India, rice, the staple grain, is revered traditionally as a life-sustainer, and wasting it is seen as sinful. There is a great contrast in attitudes towards food between a person from a developed country and one from the developing world. In order for residents of the developed world to appreciate food, they need to know what it is like to go without it for several days.

Overbuying by the rich has led to food shortages for others. The supply of grain produced by the Earth is finite. Grain shortages are caused when rich countries waste lots of it. If they waste grain it is because they are buying more of it than they need. This unnecessarily high demand pushes the price up, making grain less affordable for poor people in less fortunate parts of the world.

Corporations and marketing have to take the blame for creating the culture of huge wasteful portions. Most food waste occurs in restaurants which serve up huge portions beyond one's eating capacity. I very rarely have a starter, as I am not very fond of savoury food, which comes in portions too huge to appeal to me anyway. I therefore skip it in favour of a dessert. But then I have to sit there while my companion eats his starter, and works his way through a three-course meal (which he often manages anyway). I get very annoyed when I see people wasting good food by over-ordering. Parents let children pile food on their plates and don't mind what they leave behind, thus creating a throw-away society.

Large portions are, to some extent, behind the global obesity epidemic, and this is now extremely bad in the UK, particularly amongst women – many of whom are just disgustingly fat. It is a disgrace that obese people consume food to excess without a thought for the malnourished and starving elsewhere.

Suppliers and manufacturers have some responsibility in the problem of society wasting food. Everything has a 'use by' date. But isn't this a ruse to make us buy more food? Most foods will keep quite well beyond these dates. In bygone ages there never was such a thing as a 'use by' date.

Finally, but most importantly, food wastage is environmentally harmful. A high proportion of food that is thrown away gets sent to landfill, where it decomposes into methane – contributing to global warming and worsening poverty in developing nations.

Buddy2u

DOCUMENT 2

Duties to the Less Fortunate?

Some people have much more than they need to live; others don't have enough. Peter Singer, in his essay "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" (1971) asks: what are the obligations of the 'haves' toward the 'have-nots' in these cases?

Singer asks us to consider this simple argument:

- Suffering and death from lack of food, shelter, and medical care are bad.
- If it is in our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it. (This is Singer's Greater Moral Evil Principle.)
- It is in our power to prevent suffering and death by giving money to causes such as famine relief.
- Therefore, we have a moral obligation to give money to causes such as famine relief. We should give and it is wrong not to give.

The next question is: how much are we obliged to give? The following argument outlines Singer's controversial answer:

- If it is in our power to prevent something bad from happening, without thereby sacrificing anything of comparable moral importance, we ought, morally, to do it.
- Our interests and those of our dependants matter only to the degree that they are of comparable moral importance.
- 'Interests' such as cars, clothes, cool shoes, stereos, CDs, fancy food, excessive rent, eating out, going to movies, concerts, or sports events, partying, goofing off, earning unnecessary money etc. are clearly not of comparable moral importance to the plight of desperately suffering people.
- People in affluent countries are morally obliged to do everything in their power to relieve the suffering of the famine victims, even if this means drastically changing their lives. If we spend extra money solely for our own pleasure, we are in effect killing innocent poor people. Furthermore, our obligation to the poor lasts as long as we are not also suffering and dying from lack of food, shelter, and medical care. We are obliged to give to the point of 'marginal utility'; that is, until our situation is as bad as that of the victims.

Below are some objections to Singer's views:

- 1 The suffering people live far away from me.
- 2 Other people are not helping.
- 3 Singer's proposals are 'too different'; they demand a drastic revision of many traditional moral views.
- 4 If we adopt Singer's views, we'd all have to be working full-time to relieve the great suffering of the innocent from famines, wars, and other disasters.
- 5 It is okay not to give, because giving my time and money to poor and suffering people is not demanded by morality. Certainly I would be a better person if I did help, but there is nothing wrong with not helping. Not everybody is expected to be Mother Teresa.
- 6 Singer is right that we should help, but his proposal that we give money is not the best way to help.

So – how morally acceptable are these excuses?

WVC

DOCUMENT 3**Hunger Study 2010**

Hunger in America 2010 is the largest study of domestic hunger, providing comprehensive data on our emergency food distribution system and the people Feeding America serves.

- Feeding America is annually providing food to 37 million Americans, including 14 million children.
- One in eight Americans now relies on Feeding America for food and groceries.
- Feeding America's nationwide network of food banks is feeding 1 million more Americans each week than we did in 2006.
- Thirty-six percent of the households we serve have at least one person working.
- More than one third of client households report having to choose between food and other basic necessities, such as rent, utilities and medical care.
- The number of children the Feeding America network serves has increased by 50% since 2006.

Rally for hunger relief by doing three simple tasks this September: watch, share, and act!

Feeding America

DOCUMENT 4

Unlock the Gates of the Food Godowns*

In light of the recent Supreme Court order to distribute food grains to the poor rather than letting them rot in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns, we announce a week of action and protests in the State. This will be part of National Action Week, which will be held across the country on behalf of the Right to Food Campaign.

Our Reasons:

India is going through an unprecedented food crisis. Two thirds of our women are anaemic, half our children are malnourished, and almost one third of adult men and women have a low body mass index. Our malnutrition rates are higher than in some of the war-torn countries of Africa, and India is ranked 66 out of 88 countries by the Global Hunger Index.

While on the one hand we have hunger, spiralling food prices and declining food availability, on the other hand our so-called welfarist Government has aggravated the situation by becoming a hoarder of food grains. Stocks now far exceed the storage capacity of the FCI and other State agencies. As a result, food grain in vast quantities is currently lying in the open across the country. A significant quantity of these food grains is likely to go to waste if urgent measures are not taken by the Government of India to release these stocks to the poor immediately.

The Government of India has specifically instructed the FCI to not create storage infrastructure while offering huge subsidies to private players to create their own godowns. As far as the hungry and poor go, the Government has been far less generous.

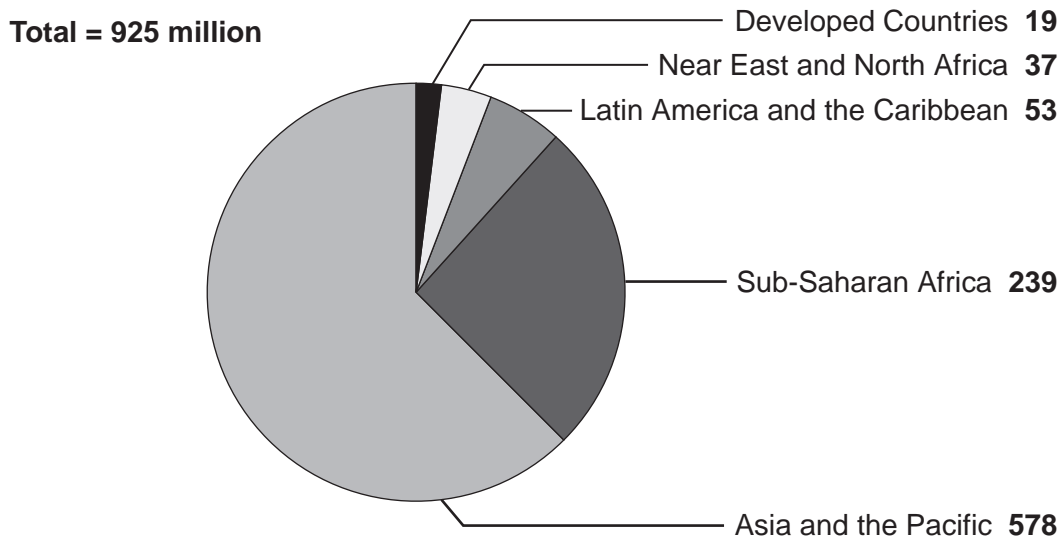
In these circumstances we demand: **UNLOCK THE GATES OF THE FOOD GODOWNS AND GIVE THE FOOD TO THE POOR**, either freely or at subsidised prices. The poor here are the landless, agriculture labourers, marginal and small farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen, slum-dwellers, daily wage earners in rural and urban areas, dalits[†], tribals, single-woman-headed households, homeless, children, terminally ill persons and disabled persons.

Sanhati

Political Economy Research blog (India)

* Godown – warehouse.

† Dalits – label for low-caste.

DOCUMENT 5**Number of Hungry People in the World (2010)**

The most recent estimate, released in October 2010 by FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), says that 925 million people are undernourished. The number of hungry people has increased since 1995, though the number is down from last year. The increase has been due to three factors: 1) neglect of agriculture relevant to very poor people by governments and international agencies; 2) the current worldwide economic crisis; 3) the significant increase of food prices in recent years, which has been devastating to those with only a few dollars a day to spend. 925 million people is 13.6% of the estimated world population of 6.8 billion. Nearly all of the undernourished are in developing countries.

World Hunger Education Service

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Document 2	© WVC Philosophy; http://instruct.westvalley.edu/lafave/FAMINE.html .
Document 3 Source 1	© http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america.aspx .
Document 3 Source 2	© http://feedingamerica.org/press-room/press-releases/feeding-america-launches-hunger-action-month.aspx .
Document 4	© Sanhati; http://democracyandclassstruggle.blogspot.com/2010/09/unlock-gates-of-food-godowns.html ; 23 September 2010.
Document 5	© World Hunger Education Service (Hunger Notes); http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm .

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