



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level

THINKING SKILLS

9694/42

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.

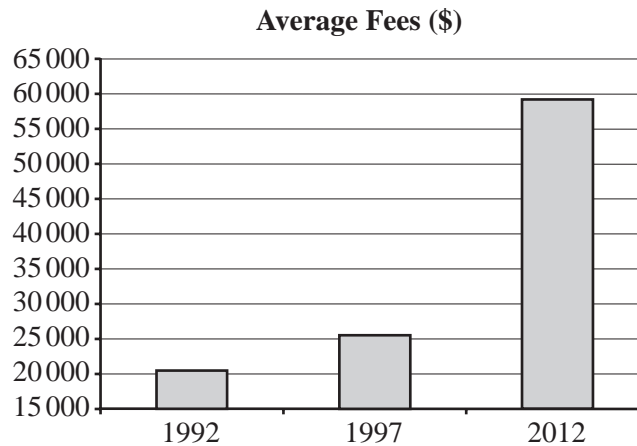


- 1 Study the extracts below and answer the questions that follow.

Extract from student newspaper *The Mistletoe Rag*

FEES SKYROCKET!

Our student reporters have managed to get hold of figures showing how the average cost of tuition and accommodation provided by the University has soared over the past 20 years.



This is far in excess of inflation, which has averaged 4% per year over the period.

The University is taking advantage of its almost total monopoly on accommodation near the University campus.

The University is clearly exploiting students to make money.

University Response

We strongly believe in providing our students with a high quality service and good value for money. The cost of studying at the University has not changed for most students in the last 10 years, after adjustment for inflation.

- (a) Make **three** criticisms of the data presented by *The Mistletoe Rag*. [3]
- (b) Explain how the data presented and the claims made by *The Mistletoe Rag* could be consistent with those made by the University. [2]

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

- 2 Briefly analyse Happy Bee's argument in Document 1: *To Be Happy*, 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 Happy Bee's argument in Document 1: *To Be Happy*, by identifying and explaining any flaws, implicit assumptions and other weaknesses. [9]
- 4 'We should give up the pursuit of happiness.'

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

To Be Happy

It is important that people feel they are growing in their circumstances if they are to be truly happy. It is widely believed that happiness can be achieved through selfless acts for the benefit of others. Such self-righteous acts may sound like generosity, but in fact they can lead to a sense of less growth. You may feel virtuous, but you may also feel resentful, because you have made a sacrifice and consequently you find yourself with less than others. Real or true happiness comes only when you get a feeling that you are better off than you were. Individuals should prioritise their own happiness before all else by doing all they do for themselves.

The real challenge to one's happiness is when one experiences less growth than before. A survey asked people if they'd rather have employment that earned them (a) \$20 000 the first year, \$30 000 the second year and \$40 000 the third year, or (b) \$50 000 the first year, \$40 000 the second year and \$30 000 the third year. More people opted for (a), with its rises, and did not seem to be affected by the fact they would have earned \$30 000 less than if they had chosen the second option. Are they irrational? No, not at all. These people understood the importance of growth to happiness. However, some of the people who chose the second option may have wanted simpler lives in order to feel they were growing. Ultimately this means that happiness is all about what you do for yourself that makes you feel happy.

If people do things to make themselves, not others, feel better, then they achieve true happiness. For example, a friend of mine said she always left her office tidy if she had to leave her job – “so whoever is taking my place will not have to clean out my mess before making a start”. That is doing it to please another person, not herself. But if someone says they would prefer to leave their office tidy before departure because that's how they like it, then they are unlikely to feel resentful about doing it. If you make a donation to make somebody better off, you are bound to feel a little unease that your purse is lighter and you are somewhat worse off than before. But if you gave that money to make yourself feel better, then that is worth it.

Parents who amass fortunes to leave their offspring may not really be increasing happiness. Will there be squabbling between siblings, endless hostilities, and squandering of assets through legal battles? Whereas the parents wanted their children to feel happy in having more, they may in fact have left them with a sense of bitterness and of having less. By sacrificing yourself for others, you may not actually be leaving them with a sense of growth, but rather the opposite.

It has been argued that individuals feel happy or unhappy because of their genetic programming. Genes, though, only contain potential for happiness or unhappiness and do not control free will. No-one is predetermined by their DNA to stay unhappy.

So, if you are feeling unhappy, that is a sign of feeling less growth and of being worse off. There are some instant ways to make yourself feel better – distract yourself by doing some housework, visit some friends or do something virtuous, like signing up to be an organ donor.

Happy Bee

DOCUMENT 2

I'm so happy and here's the reason why

Writing in *Newsweek* in January 2008, Raina Kelley asks why Americans are nowhere near the top of a happiness chart. She points Americans to Eric Weiner's book *The Geography of Bliss*. Eric Weiner explored countries, from Iceland to Qatar, that ranked highest on the World Database of Happiness (which measures happiness in people and nations by asking folks if they're happy – "a simple but surprisingly effective method"). He concludes that Moldova is the least happy country on the planet. Weiner says, "People go to great lengths to see their neighbours fail. Completely seriously, it is a very morose place. I've never been so glad to leave a country." Raina Kelly speculates that Moldovans appear to have built a society based on a national lack of trust and friendship.

The Dutch find joy in their tolerance of the illicit, while the Swiss are made content by trains running on time. In Qatar, money is the path to happiness, while not fretting over minor things keeps you satisfied in Thailand. Iceland ranks highly because, as Weiner explains, they have "this European safety net; but they also have this American maverick mentality. They like ambitious people; but if you fail, here's your government to pick you back up." She hints that Americans should give up being so ambitious about happiness (which makes them competitive), and concentrate on building friendships.

SK

Average Happiness Ratings 1995 – 2007

Denmark	4.24	Malaysia	2.61	India	0.85
Iceland	4.15	France	2.50	Uganda	0.69
Ireland	4.12	Philippines	2.47	Algeria	0.60
Switzerland	3.96	Indonesia	2.37	Egypt	0.52
Netherlands	3.77	Chile	2.34	Slovakia	0.41
Canada	3.76	Dominican Rep	2.29	Azerbaijan	0.13
Sweden	3.58	Japan	2.24	Rwanda	-0.15
New Zealand	3.57	Spain	2.16	Pakistan	-0.30
U.S.A.	3.55	Israel	2.08	Ethiopia	-0.30
Norway	3.50	Taiwan	1.83	Lithuania	-0.70
Britain	3.39	China	1.64	Russia	-1.01
Australia	3.26	Jordan	1.46	Bulgaria	-1.09
Finland	3.24	Greece	1.45	Iraq	-1.36
Saudi Arabia	3.17	S Africa	1.39	Ukraine	-1.69
Thailand	3.02	Turkey	1.27	Moldova	-1.74
Singapore	2.72	Iran	1.12	Zimbabwe	-1.92
Argentina	2.69	Bangladesh	1.00	Mean:	1.57

Source: World Values Survey

DOCUMENT 3**Iceland's new poor line up for food**

"I don't tell my children where I get the food, I'm too ashamed", said Iris Aegisdottir, an Icelander who has been going to a food bank every week for a year to feed her three children. In a small, close-knit country of just 317 000 people, the stigma of accepting a hand-out is hard to live down, and out of the dozens of people waiting outside the food bank in the snow on a dreary March afternoon, Iris is the only one willing to talk.

The crisis that brought down Iceland's economy in late 2008 threw thousands of formerly well-off families into poverty, forcing people like Iris to turn to charity to survive. Each week, up to 550 families queue up at a small white brick warehouse in Reykjavik to receive free food from the Icelandic Aid To Families organisation, three times more than before the crisis.

There is a brutal contrast with the ostentatious wealth that was on display across the island just two years ago, when a hyperactive banking sector flooded the small, formerly fishing-based economy with fast cash. Back then, the biggest worry for many Icelanders was who had the nicest SUV, or the most luxurious flat. But today visible signs of poverty are quickly multiplying, despite the generous welfare state, as the middle class is increasingly hit by a skyrocketing unemployment, up from 1.0% to 9.0% in about a year, and soaring defaults on mortgages.

To avoid resorting to charity, many other Icelanders are choosing to pack their bags and try for a new future abroad, with official statistics showing that the country's biggest emigration wave in more than a century is under way.

"There isn't going to be any future in this country for the next 20 years", laments Anna Margret Bjoernsdottir, a 46-year-old single mother who is preparing to move to Norway in June if she is unable to ward off eviction from her home near Reykjavik.

"I must admit that with the hike in food prices, my two sons eat most of what my husband and I bring home", Arna Borgthorsdottir Cors confessed in a Reykjavik cafe. "We get what is left over", she says.

Marc Preel

Sydney Morning Herald, 11 April 2010

DOCUMENT 4**Unnatural Selection**

Adam Smith, the famous 18th century economist, argued that any bit of sudden good fortune, monetary or otherwise, was likely to backfire. The story of Johnny Ace is a case in point. Johnny Ace was a rock-and-roll star who shot to fame when his first single reached number one in 1952. Suddenly, this obscure preacher's son had become a rock star. Then his luck ran out. His sixth record did not even get into the charts. On Christmas Eve 1954, Johnny put a revolver to his head and blew his brains out. It seems likely that the sudden rise to fame left him ill-prepared for the setbacks that most other musicians get used to dealing with early on in their careers.

If material wealth and sudden good fortune do not lead to happiness, what does? According to the Happiness Database, the things that are most likely to make you happy are the things we have known about all along – good health, good friends, and, above all, good family relationships. Getting on well with parents and partners is the key to a happy life. The old clichés are remarkably accurate. This shows that the things that make us happy are the things that help us to pass our genes to the next generation. For millions of years this was the case. In the Stone Age and before, the only way for our ancestors to be happy was by doing the things that helped them pass on their genes, such as having friends and lovers. However, the development of technology has changed all that. Alone among all animal species, humans have invented artificial means of inducing pleasurable moods. These technologies of mood short circuit the routes to happiness designed by natural selection. Instead of wasting months or years looking for a romantic partner, we can get an instant high by taking a drug. In order to be happy, we no longer need to do the things that help us pass on our genes. It appears we have outsmarted natural selection.

Dylan Evans

Emotion: A very short introduction, OUP, 2003

DOCUMENT 5**Happiness Gene**

Forget money, fame and looks. The best chance of happiness comes from two copies of a particular gene.

That's true – at least for 2574 people enrolled in the US National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, who answered a questionnaire about their satisfaction with life and underwent genomic tests. This allowed Jan-Emmanuel de Neve of the London School of Economics to establish that respondents who had two long versions of the 5-HTTLPR gene were twice as likely to say they were satisfied with life as those with two shorter versions of the gene. 5-HTTLPR makes a transporter molecule for serotonin, a chemical that brain cells use to communicate with each other, and the long version speeds up its processing.

“It's the first formal finding of a happiness gene”, says de Neve, but he expects others will be found. He also stresses that many other factors play into happiness. “If you are unlucky throughout life, it will be a more important source of unhappiness than any particular genes.”

The New Scientist

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- Document 2 Source 1 © Raina Kelley; *The Pursuit of the Blissful*; Newsweek; <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2008/01/21/the-pursuit-of-the-blissful.html>; 21 January 2008.
- Document 2 Source 2 © adapted: *Subjective well-being in 97 countries*; 1995 – 2007 World Values Surveys; <http://www.nsf.gov/news/newsmedia/pr111725/pr111725.pdf>.
- Document 3 © Marc Preel; Sydney Morning Herald; <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/icelands-new-poor-line-up-for-food20100411-s0hy.html>; 11 April 2010.
- Document 4 © Dylan Evans; *Emotion: A very short introduction*; Oxford University Press; 2003.
- Document 5 © New Scientist; 14 May 2011.

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