

EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT
Final Year First Semester Examination in Bachelor of Business
Administration Honours - 2021/2022 (February/March 2024)
Proper/Repeat
MGT 4123 Critical Thinking

Answer All Questions.

Time: 03 Hours

Q1. Read the following passage and then answer the questions given below.

Should Actors Enter Politics?

1. We live in a world where members of the acting profession seem to think it is their right, or even duty, to get involved in politics – from Arnold Schwarzenegger in the US to Melina Mercouri in Greece to Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar in India. But the duty of actors is to entertain, not to influence how society works, so they should stick to what they have been trained to do and let professional politicians run things. I have no desire to see Angela Merkel star in the next Hollywood blockbuster, so why would I want to see an actor hold political office?
2. Most actors are not fit to hold public office. Child stars often struggle to cope with fame at a young age, suffering mental health issues and problems with addiction. No wonder we are always hearing about the latest actor to spend time in rehabilitation. These issues can influence their views and the way they perceive the world. If actors were in charge, they might make a lot of bad decisions, which could lead to economic, environmental or geopolitical disaster.
3. The most well-known, and so most influential, actors have enormous salaries. Their vast wealth makes them unable to empathize with the concerns of the majority of the population. Actors do not know what it is like to hold down a steady full-time job or raise a family as a single parent and still get out of bed every morning. In this way, actors cannot hope to represent the people they would be supposed to represent.
4. People are increasingly likely to re-post celebrity views on political issues as if they have genuine weight. This could mean that, if a popular actor holds a dangerous opinion, that opinion is likely to gain support based on the actor's

popularity, rather than the content of the opinion itself. A photo of Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas encouraging people to vote in Indian elections was seen initially by millions of her own followers, and many times more than that after the image was re-posted. Moreover, a particularly skilled actor could use their tone of voice and body language to manipulate the emotions of voters and so would have an unfair advantage over professional politicians.

5. When an actor becomes involved in politics, the distinction between fact and fiction is distorted in the minds of the public. Innocent voters might think that an actor who played a judge in a well-known television series was in real life a legal expert. Thus, an actor could be elected based on the public's perception of the fictional character. This would be disastrous, as the government would become filled with people with no political expertise.
- 6 It seems the number of actor politicians is on the rise. At the same time there has been fragmentation of international alliances and an increased instability around the globe. If actors continue to become politicians, then the prospects for peace are poor.

Questions:

- (a) *Identify* the main conclusion of the argument presented in the passage.
(03 Marks)
- (b) *Identify* two intermediate conclusions in paragraphs 3 to 4 of the passage.
(02 Marks)
- (c) *Analyze* the structure of the reasoning in paragraph 5 of the passage.
(04 Marks)
- (d) *Identify* an unstated assumption which is needed to support the reasoning in paragraph 6 of the passage.
(02 Marks)
- (e) *Identify* and explain three mistakes and/or weaknesses in the reasoning in paragraphs 1 to 4 of the passage.
(06 Marks)
- (f) *Assess* the extent to which the reasoning in paragraph 5 of the passage supports the argument as a whole.
(03 Marks)

(Total 20 Marks)

03. The principle of charity tells you to treat other people as..... If you treat people as being intelligent, you will do a better job at evaluating their arguments.
- (A) intelligent people
 - (B) knowledgeable people
 - (C) open-minded people
 - (D) critical thinkers
 - (E) skillful people
04. Out of the following which is a common pattern of inductive reasoning?
- (A) Hypothetical Syllogism
 - (B) Statistical Argument
 - (C) Argument by Elimination
 - (D) Argument Based on Mathematics
 - (E) Argument from Definition
05. An arguer appeals to a person's desire to be popular, accepted, or valued, rather than to logically relevant reasons or evidence is about.....
- (A) appeal to pity
 - (B) bandwagon fallacy
 - (C) straw man fallacy
 - (D) red herring fallacy
 - (E) equivocation
06. Out of the following which one cannot be considered as 'Fallacies of Relevance'?
- (A) Red Herring
 - (B) Two Wrongs Make a Right
 - (C) False Alternatives
 - (D) Begging the Question
 - (E) Scare Tactics
07. is a fallacy in which a claim is made and accepted to be true, but one must accept the premise to be true for the claim to be true. This is also known as circular reasoning.
- (A) Begging the question
 - (B) Hasty Generalization
 - (C) Loaded Question
 - (D) Weak Analogy
 - (E) Questionable Cause

Q2.

- (a) *Explain* the 'elements of thought' using a real world problem/issue.

(10 Marks)

- (b) *Indicate* two main categories of Augments and their sub-categories. And *explain* how you would reach final conclusions (good vs. bad argument) regarding these types of arguments using a model or diagram

(10 Marks)

(Total 20 Marks)

Q3.

- (a) *Explain* the key elements/components of an 'Argument' with appropriate examples.

(06 Marks)

- (b) *Discuss* how you would develop a new idea or concept using appropriate models for thinking.

(08 Marks)

- (c) *Discuss* how you would distinguish Deductive from Inductive Arguments.

(06 Marks)

(Total 20 Marks)

Q4.

- (a) **MCQ: Select most suitable answer for the following MCQs and write your correct answer in the answer script (answer-booklet).**

01. is the tendency to overrate oneself - to see oneself as better in some respect than one actually is.

- (A) Sociocentrism
- (B) Group bias
- (C) Self-serving bias
- (D) Conformism
- (E) Self-interested thinking

02. Out of the following which is **not** a characteristic of critical thinkers?

- (A) Have a passionate drive for clarity precision, accuracy, and other critical thinking standards.
- (B) Pretend they know more than they do and ignore their limitations.
- (C) Think logically and draw appropriate conclusions from evidence and data.
- (D) Listen open-mindedly to opposing points of view and welcome criticisms.
- (E) Think independently and are not afraid to disagree with group opinion.

08. Out of the following which is a **wrong** step in Analyzing the Argument?
- (A) Read the argument and instructions carefully.
 - (B) Identify the argument's claims, conclusions and underlying assumptions and evaluate their quality.
 - (C) Think of as many alternative explanations and counterexamples as you can.
 - (D) Think of what specific additional evidence might weaken or lend support to the claims.
 - (E) Ask yourself what changes in the conclusion would make the reasoning more sound.
09. An argument form that is both common and defective; a recurring mistake in reasoning.
- (A) Rhetoric
 - (B) False statements
 - (C) Analogy
 - (D) Criticizing
 - (E) Fallacy
10. The statements (reasons) given in support of another statement are called:
- (A) An enthymeme
 - (B) An argument
 - (C) A description
 - (D) The conclusion
 - (E) The premises

(b) **True or False Questions: Write the correct answer (True/False) in your answer script.**

11. The action of using one's mind to produce thoughts is defined as thinking.
12. Critical thinking is the general term given to a wide range of cognitive skills and intellectual dispositions needed to effectively identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments and truth claims.
13. An argument can be a reason given in support of an action or idea.
14. The indicator word, strict necessity, common pattern and principle of charity tests can be used to determine whether an argument should be regarded as deductive or inductive.
15. A logical fallacy is an argument that contains a mistake in reasoning.

16. When you "Analyze an Argument" you evaluate someone else's argument.
17. A statement is *negatively relevant* to another statement if it provides at least some reason for thinking that the second statement is true.
18. A method for summarizing shorter arguments called **standardization**.
19. An **enthymeme** indicates the missing premise or conclusion of a passage using different words and phrases.
20. The most important critical thinking standards are *accuracy* (Are the premises true?) and *logical correctness* (Do the premises, if true, provide good reasons to accept the conclusion?).

(Total 20 Marks)

Q5.

- (a) *Discuss* how we can promote or further enhance 'Critical Thinking Skills' of undergraduates through the higher education system of Sri Lanka.
(05 Marks)
- (b) In *which ways* critical thinking skills of managers and employees would increase organizational performance?
(05 Marks)
- (c) *Discuss* how you would identify problems of an organization systematically and critically from the perspective of critical thinking.
(10 Marks)

(Total 20 Marks)