Captivate
EDUCATION

SAMPLE QUESTIONS
One question from each section of this exam, with its marking scheme, so teachers can see what the full paper is like. Full exam and solutions: captivateeducation.com.au/trial-exams

Extended Investigation

Critical Thinking Test

Practice examination 1 – 2027

- Reading time is 15 minutes
- Writing time is 1 hour 15 minutes

Approved materials

- Pens and pencils

Materials supplied

- Critical Thinking Test
- Student Instruction Booklet

Instructions

- All responses must be in English.
- This is a printed version of an online test. Where the online test uses drag-and-drop or drop-down menus, write the statement or sentence number in the box.

Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

Contents

10 questions (50 marks)

SAMPLE

Sample – Question 1 of the 10 questions in this section.

SAMPLE

Question 1 (3 marks)

The passage below presents an argument.

> [1] Card and phone payments have become so common that some cafes and shops no longer take cash at all. [2] When a business refuses cash, it shuts out people who have no bank card or who use cash to keep to a tight budget. [3] Businesses that sell everyday goods and services should therefore be required by law to accept cash. [4] A community survey in one regional Victorian town found that one in five residents aged over 75 paid for their groceries only in cash. [5] Handling cash does cost businesses time and money, and some owners worry about theft. [6] A fair society does not leave anyone standing at the shop door.

Select three statements from the passage that best match the functions described below, using the drop down menu.

Function	Description	Sentence
Claim	The main idea the argument is proposing	Sentence ____
Reason	The main supporting reason for the claim	Sentence ____
Evidence	Information that supports the claim and the reason	Sentence ____

Write the sentence number for each function in the table above. 3 marks

End of sample questions

SAMPLE

Marking scheme for the sample questions

Question 1. (3 marks)

Write the sentence number for each function in the table above.

To be awarded full marks, students were required to:

place each statement in the correct position, as follows.

Slot	Statement	Why it belongs here
Claim	Sentence 3	It is the position the passage argues for: businesses selling everyday goods should be required to accept cash. 'Therefore' shows it is drawn from what comes before it, and every other sentence supports, illustrates or qualifies it.
Reason	Sentence 2	It gives the main ground for the claim — refusing cash shuts out people with no bank card or who budget in cash — which is why a legal requirement is proposed.
Evidence	Sentence 4	It is specific information (one in five residents over 75 in one town pay for groceries only in cash) that supports both the reason and the claim.

Mark allocation: One mark for each correct sentence.

Responses could have included:

- **Why the other sentences do not fit.** Sentence 1 is background: it describes the situation but argues for nothing. Sentence 5 is a concession — it admits a cost of the claim to businesses, so it cannot be the reason for it. Sentence 6 is a clincher that restates the argument's value as a slogan; it proposes no action, so it is not the claim, and it offers no information, so it is not evidence.
- Weaker responses took the first sentence as the claim, or chose Sentence 6 because it sounds like a conclusion. Here the claim comes third, and it is the only sentence that proposes what should be done.

Sample full-mark response

> Claim – Sentence 3; Reason – Sentence 2; Evidence – Sentence 4.

SAMPLE