
THINKING SKILLS

9694/41

Paper 4 Applied Reasoning

October/November 2016

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 50

Published

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1 Make five criticisms of the way the survey was conducted and/or the claims drawn from it. [5]

1 mark for any of the following:

- Respondents self-selected
- Respondents could lie about age so many may not have been within the target range
- Data will be unreliable as the motive for submitting responses could simply be to get the \$50
- Leading questions – “do you agree”, most inclined to answer ‘yes’ if no real opinion
- Only 2 options
- Conflation of “influenced by advertisements” and “influenced by alcohol advertisements”.
- The implication of the claim is that all who said they were influenced were influenced positively – stated not implied.
- Claim about children as young as 11 cannot be inferred as there is no information about what age respondents were within the 11–18 range.
- In order to support a claim about ‘most 11 to 18 year-olds’ one must assume that the websites were visited by a representative range of 11 to 18 year-olds

2 Briefly analyse Oscar’s argument in Document 1: *By any means*, by identifying its main conclusion, intermediate conclusions and counter-assertions. [6]

1 mark for each element (maximum 4 if MC not identified).

IC – They [scandals like this] should become a thing of the past.

IC – (So) the rigorous testing approach has been a waste of time

MC – This [legalising the use of performance-enhancing drugs*] would be a much more sensible course of action.

IC – Allowing the use of drugs will make sport more exciting for spectators.

IC – The drug rules we have now are out-dated.

CA – (Stubborn traditionalists, who oppose a lifting of the ban, claim that) sport is about fair competition and the use of drugs by some athletes is not fair.

IC – Drugs should be seen as an extra piece of sports equipment.

IC – (so) there is no reason that drugs should be [banned].

IC – Having a system in which substances are banned is expensive and wasteful.

** If “the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport should be legalised” is given as the MC, do not apply the cap of a maximum of 4 marks.*

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- 3 Give a critical evaluation of the strength of Oscar’s argument in Document 1: *By any means*, by identifying and explaining any flaws, implicit assumptions and other weaknesses. [9]

2 marks for a developed version of any of the following points.

1 mark for a weak or incomplete version of any of the following points.

Paragraph 2

Use of figures – “up to 10%” is insufficiently clear; it could mean anything between zero and 10%. [Maximum 1 mark]

Overdrawn IC – the rather vague claim “current estimates are that up to 10% of sports stars use drugs” does not appear to be sufficiently reliable or relevant to conclude that the testing has been “a waste of time”.

Assumption – that without the rigorous testing the figure would not have been higher.

Assumption – that the proportion of sports stars using drugs is closely correlated with the likelihood of scandals occurring.

Fallacy of unachievable perfection – just because something is not 100% successful does not mean it is a “waste of time”.

Restricting the options – “The other way” implies there are no alternatives (such as increased penalties for offenders).

Paragraph 3

Misleading implication – this paragraph implies that the day when records cease to be broken can be avoided by allowing the use of drugs in sport, whereas it could at best be postponed.

Paragraph 4

Assumption – that a shift from amateur to professional sport necessitates a change in the rules governing sport.

Labelling those who oppose a ban as ‘stubborn traditionalists’ in an attempt to dismiss their views is *ad hominem*.

Equivocation – shift in meaning of the word “fair”, from meaning ‘equality’ to meaning ‘liberty’.

Paragraph 5

Illegitimate counter-example – the example of motor racing represents a position where no technological enhancements at all should be allowed in sport; it does not address the issue of whether particular advancements should or should not be allowed.

To go from banning drugs to monitoring everyone’s food intake is a *slippery slope*...

...and is also *inconsistent* with the fact that drugs have been banned for a long time and there is no suggestion (other than in the mind of the author) of such drastic measures.

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Paragraph 6

Assumption – that there are not significant differences between drugs and health supplements or that a difference that is hard to define is not a real difference.

Paragraph 7

Appeal to pity – ‘children have to play football with no shoes on their feet’.

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“There should be no restrictions on the use of performance enhancing substances in sport”

Construct a well-reasoned argument to support or challenge this claim, commenting critically on some or all of Documents 1 to 5 and introducing ideas of your own. [30]

Level	Structure	Max 8	Quality of argument	Max 8	Use of documents	Max 8	Treatment of counter positions	Max 6
4	<p>Precise conclusion and accomplished argument structure with consistent use of intermediate conclusions. Likely to include at least two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strands of reasoning • suppositional reasoning • analogy • evidence • examples <p>Argument is structured so the thought process is made clear. Uses vocabulary of reasoning appropriately and effectively to support argument.</p>	7–8	<p>Cogent and convincing reasoning which answers the question which was asked. Subtle thinking about the issue. Use of relevant own ideas and ideas from documents. Very few significant gaps or flaws.</p>	7–8	<p>Perceptive, relevant and accurate use of documents to support reasoning. References 3+ documents. Sustained and confident evaluation of documents to support reasoning. (Two or more valid evaluative references to documents). Able to combine information from two or more documents and draw a precise inference.</p>	7–8	<p>Consideration of key counter arguments and effective response to these. Use of own ideas in response to counter arguments not mentioned in the documents. Use of valid critical tools to respond to counter arguments. Effective use of appropriate terminology.</p>	5–6
3	<p>Clear conclusion that is more than “I agree”. Clear argument structure, which may be simple and precise or attempt complexity with some success. Appropriate use of intermediate conclusions. Use of other argument elements to support reasoning. Generally makes thinking clear. Appropriate use of vocabulary of reasoning.</p>	5–6	<p>Effective and persuasive reasoning which answers the question which was asked. (Although there may be some irrelevance or reliance on dubious assumptions.) Use of own ideas and ideas from documents. Few significant gaps or flaws.</p>	5–6	<p>Relevant and accurate use of documents which supports reasoning. References 3+ documents. Some evaluation and comparison of documents to support reasoning. Inference drawn from at least 1 document.</p>	5–6	<p>Consideration of key counter arguments and effective response to these. Response uses own ideas or is developed from documents. Some use of appropriate terminology.</p>	3–4

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Level	Structure	Max 8	Quality of argument	Max 8	Use of documents	Max 8	Treatment of counter positions	Max 6
2	<p>Conclusion stated but may be “I agree”.</p> <p>Sufficient clarity for meaning to be clear throughout.</p> <p>Structure may be easy to follow but brief or a longer argument which has a less clear structure.</p> <p>Uses reasons.</p> <p>Some appropriate use of vocabulary of reasoning.</p>	3–4	<p>A reasoned stance which attempts to answer the question which was asked.</p> <p>Some support for the conclusion. (Although there may be considerable irrelevance or reliance on dubious assumptions.)</p> <p>Some thinking/own ideas about the issue.</p> <p>Use of rhetorical questions and emotive language.</p> <p>Some significant gaps or flaws.</p>	3–4	<p>Some relevant use of documents to support reasoning, but some documents used indiscriminately.</p> <p>Some comparison of documents or some critical evaluation of documents or reasoned inference drawn from document.</p>	3–4	<p>Inclusion of counter argument or counter assertion.</p> <p>Response is direct but weak or taken entirely from documents.</p>	2
1	<p>Attempt to construct an argument.</p> <p>Unclear conclusion, multiple conclusions or no conclusion.</p> <p>Disjointed, incoherent reasoning.</p> <p>Use of examples in place of reasoning.</p> <p>Possibly a discourse or a rant.</p> <p>Reasons presented with no logical connection.</p> <p>Documents considered sequentially.</p> <p>Substantial irrelevant material.</p>	1–2	<p>Attempt to answer the general thrust of the question.</p> <p>Attempt to support their view.</p> <p>Excessive use of rhetorical questions and emotive language.</p> <p>Ideas which are contradictory.</p>	1–2	<p>Some, perhaps implicit, use of documents.</p> <p>No attempt at critical evaluation.</p> <p>No comparison of documents.</p>	1–2	<p>Inclusion of counter argument or counter assertion.</p> <p>Response is direct but ineffective.</p>	1

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Example Level 4 Answers

Support (804 words)

There should be no restrictions on the use of performance enhancing substances in sport. Not only would this remove some of the problems inherent in the current rules surrounding drug testing, it would actually improve sport.

The current system is fraught with complexity, ambiguity and unfairness, not to mention expense. As Document 1 states, “times have changed”, what was appropriate in an era of amateurs is no longer appropriate in an era of professionalism. The rules were rushed in, as a response to increasing use of performance-enhancing substances, and were never really thought through.

The current system is a minefield for athletes; one person cannot possibly remember all the substances that are banned every time they have a cold or are given a vitamin supplement. As Ato Boldon, who has some expertise as a former athlete and coach, states in Document 3, “An athlete does not have a degree in pharmacology”.

Performance is enhanced by many things: training, equipment, food, drugs. Why should one be banned, while the others not? It is easy to see the distinction between training and drugs, but not between drugs and health supplements in the diet, a point also made by Document 1. If a substance that makes an individual run for longer is seen as worthy of restriction, then it could be strongly argued that the expensive designer running shoes they are wearing should be restricted also. It is difficult to know where to draw the line. Legalisation would make the line irrelevant. Reform of legislation is not an option as the problem of where to draw the line would always exist.

Some claim that the use of drugs creates inequality with those who do not use them, but chemicals are just one of the many variables that decide the outcome of a sporting event. Document 1 makes the point that the claim of inequality could be directed at differences in training facilities, clothing or in stature of the athlete. Document 2 is against the legalisation of performance-enhancing drugs and criticises the claim that legalisation would create a level playing field. However, this criticism contains something of a straw man: the picture Document 2 paints is one of every competitor using the same drugs, whereas pro-legalisation advocates do not suggest anything like this, merely the legalisation of availability. It would be up to individual athletes to choose the supplements, equipment or drugs that suit them. The claim against which Document 2 argues supports the author of Document 1’s idea that, far from reducing equality, legalisation could increase equality and hence fairness.

Sport would benefit from the money saved by not having to legislate, test and discipline sportspeople, but there would also be direct benefits. Factors making a performance more enjoyable for the audience include many that can be enhanced by drugs – like skill, strength and courage; both Document 1 and SM in Document 4 support this view. Admiration of a sport could be reduced if the fans think that the competitors could have performed better if they had used drugs.

Therefore, if performance enhancing drugs were made legal in sport it would be simpler, fairer and improve the sport itself.

The most oft-cited counter-argument is that many of these drugs are bad for the people taking them. Indeed, Document 2 provides a long list of potential side-effects and Document 4 includes a historical example. There are many problems with this line of reasoning.

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The list in Document 2 contains no information about how likely these conditions are and at what dose such effects might be seen. Almost everything is bad for your health if you take too much of it. JC in Document 4 makes a hasty generalisation from one East German in the 1970s, but most similar cases of adverse health consequences have been the result of secrecy and ignorance. Legalisation would create openness and make people better informed about what they were taking. There is a general principle, supported by DB in Document 4, that people should be allowed to make their own decisions about their own health. To make decisions like this on behalf of mature adults is ridiculously paternalistic.

The other counter-argument that is often quoted is described by YB in Document 4 – using drugs is cheating. However, examination of YB's reasoning reveals it to be entirely circular. It is only cheating because it is against the rules. If the rules permitted the use of drugs it would immediately cease to be cheating.

Thus the arguments against legalisation are weak, as are the documents, 2 and 4, that support that view. Document 5's claim that 42% of the UK public think it is a problem can be dismissed on the basis that the categories are poorly described and the respondents are limited to one country and have no obvious expertise.

Challenge (888 words)

Sport affects those who take part in it, those who watch it, sport itself and society as a whole. For each of these interested parties the use of drugs should be banned. In this argument I will use the term 'drugs' to apply to any performance-enhancing substance for the sake of brevity.

People take part in sport for many reasons: to keep fit; because they enjoy playing the game; for the fame of success; for the chance of winning and for the feeling of satisfaction it brings. The use of drugs detracts from all of these.

The health and fitness issues are obvious. Many of these substances have powerful effects on the body and taking high doses, or long term use at 'therapeutic' doses, frequently has harmful effects. Document 4 cites the example of an East German athlete that needed a sex change and there are many others. The counter-argument in Document 4 about athletes being grown up and able to make their own decisions is contradicted within the Document itself by this very example. Many of the substances used have not been rigorously tested and many might have long term unknown effects.

Enjoyment of a game is based upon a feeling of fairness and equality and a respect for one's opponent(s). If you don't know how many or what drugs a person has taken before the event then much of the enjoyment is lost. Although there would be no notoriety, such as that described in documents 1 and 2, if drugs were legalised, any fame gained from success in a sport where drugs were permitted would be tainted. The public just would not care as much.

The chances of winning are not increased by the use of drugs if everyone is using them and, if you did win while using drugs there would always be a nagging doubt about the reason for your success. Was it the drugs or was it me? So the satisfaction associated with winning would be diminished.

It is often claimed, for example in Document 1, that people watch sport to see the best performances and that drugs would make these performances even better. However, this is contradicted by the millions of people who enthusiastically watch their local teams week in week out, rather than those teams at the top of their respective sports – 20 000 people watch every Sheffield United game in the 3rd tier of English football. The distances javelins can be thrown is deliberately restricted for safety reasons and no-one seems to enjoy the competition less. The same justification could be used to restrict the use of drugs. The author of Document 2 supports this view with his own feelings about watching a cycle race.

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Documents 1 and 4 question the benefits of the current drug testing procedures. The clearly biased Document 1 cites expense and the anonymous contributor to Document 4 claims that the drug testing systems are flawed – they rarely catch the most sophisticated culprits and often wrongly accuse innocent people. However, we do not abandon something simply because it doesn't work perfectly – the solution here is refinement and improvement, not abolition.

In sport it is often said that it is not the winning that is important, but the taking part. Some dismiss this as sentimental fantasy but it is not. To have winners at all there must be losers. That means sport relies on there being people willing to take part for its own sake and not just because they think they will win. If those people are faced with competing against people who have taken drugs they are much more likely to say 'what's the point?' and not bother. BD in Document 4 agrees that the legalisation of drugs would confirm in the minds of many that winning is all-important.

This last point brings us to the wider implications for society. Until now, using drugs in sport has been regarded as cheating: simply because many people are doing it, some are now calling for a change in the rules. This could set a dangerous precedent. Many people are illegally downloading music and films; do we change the law to allow that? Without using any dramatic and perhaps ridiculous examples, should we change the law to allow crimes just because a lot of people are doing them – speeding, driving while drunk or using a mobile phone? Furthermore, if such drugs are legalised, what would happen next in sport? 'Thin end of the wedge' arguments are often dismissed as merely that but there is a very real risk that we would soon be considering genetic manipulation, or babies 'designed' from conception to be athletes, like in the film *Gattaca*.

Document 5 contradicts Document 1 on its figures for the level of drug use in sport. Document 5 is the less credible of the two because of the poorly-defined questions and the likely lack of expertise of those being asked. Whatever the absolute figure, Document 1 claims that the number of cheats, and therefore scandals, would be *reduced* if drugs were legalised. However, whatever rules a sport has, there will always be those who attempt to cheat by circumventing the rules and scandals will inevitably follow.

For the sake of competitors, spectators, sport and society there should be restrictions on the use of performance enhancing substances in sport.