

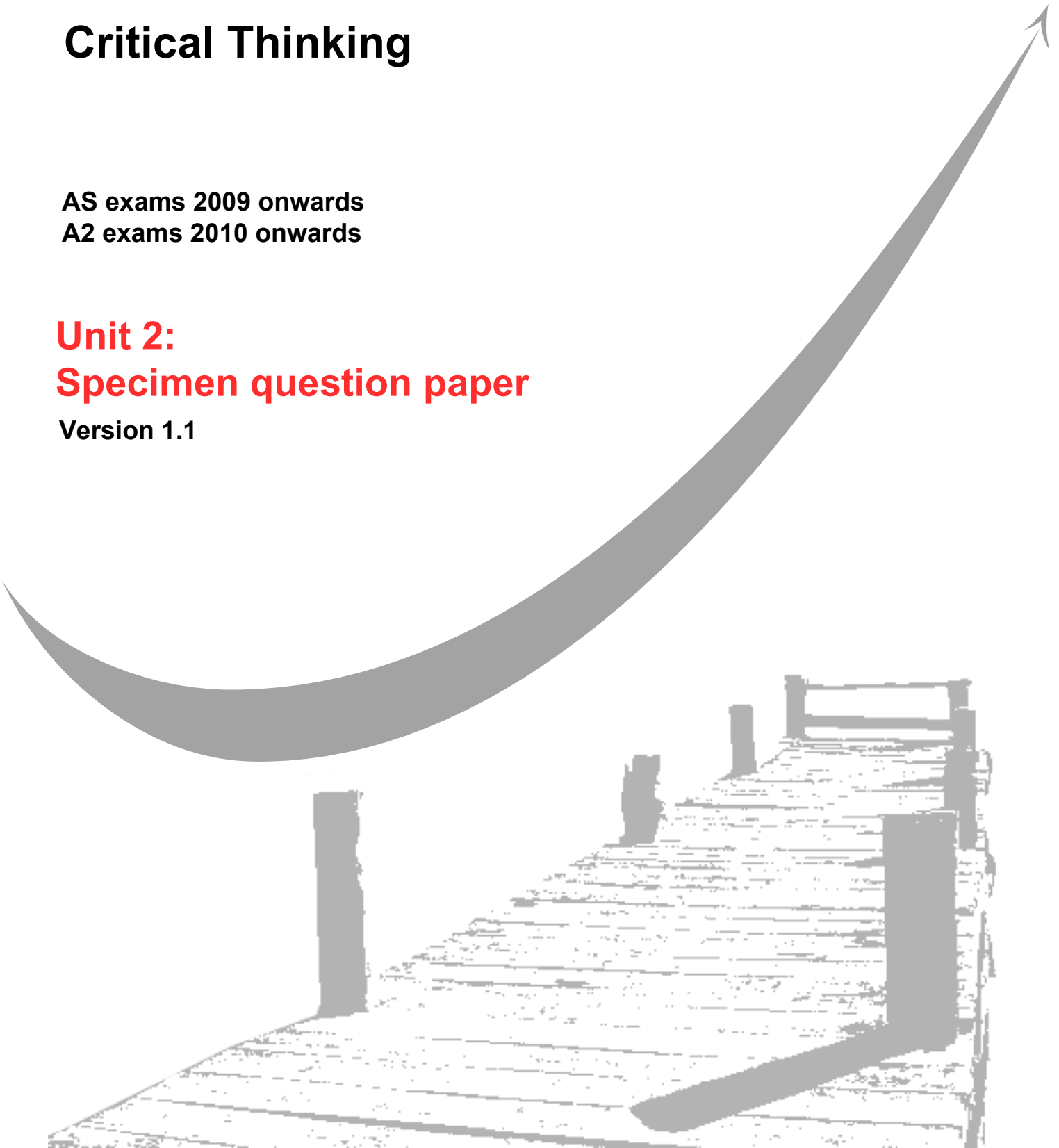
**GCE**  
**AS and A Level**

# **Critical Thinking**

**AS exams 2009 onwards**  
**A2 exams 2010 onwards**

## **Unit 2:** **Specimen question paper**

**Version 1.1**



# **SPECIMEN PAPER TO PREPARE FOR THE JUNE 2009 AND SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS**

General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**CRITICAL THINKING CRIT2**  
**Unit 2 Information, Inference and Explanation**

## **SOURCE MATERIAL**

This source material is to be read in conjunction with question unit CRIT2.

## DOCUMENT A

# Cold Mountain

The text is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

Source: Adapted from *Independent on Sunday* 28 May 2006

Photograph: Getty Images



## DOCUMENT B (Reader's letter)

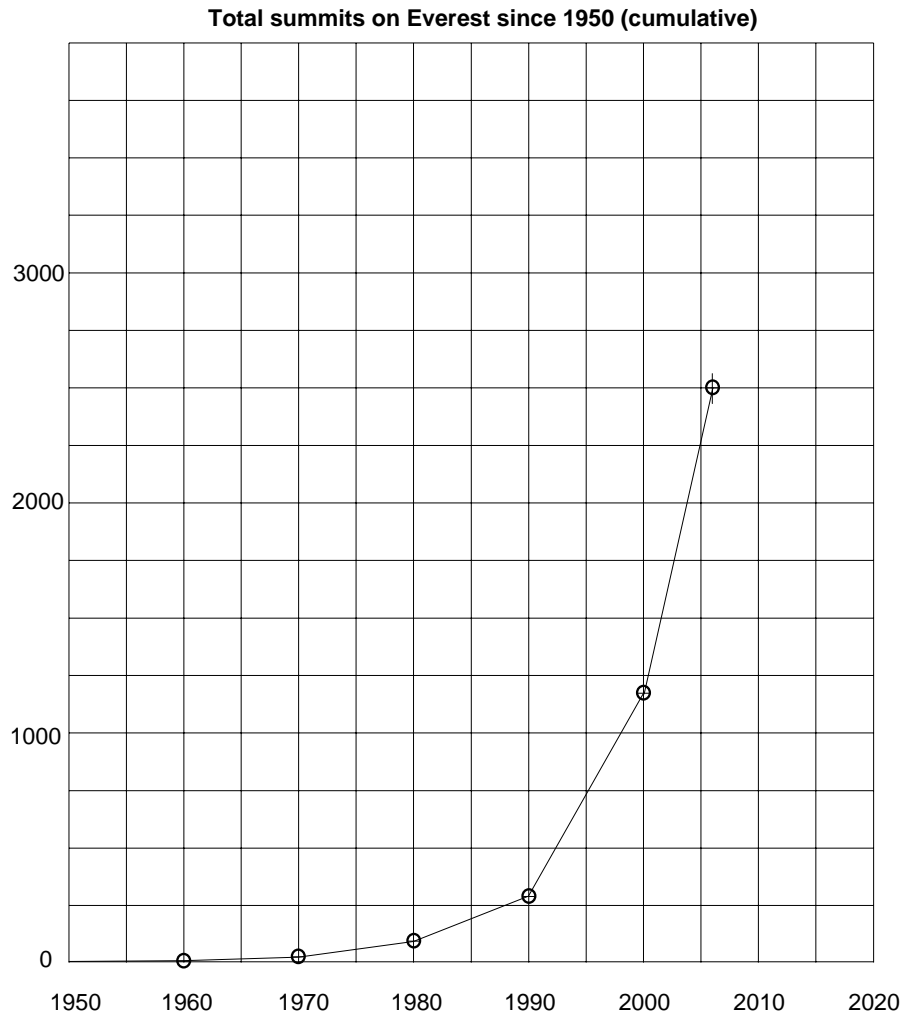
Abandoning a climber to his fate, just to get to the summit of a mountain, would have been unthinkable in the 1950s and 60s. In those days people climbed as members of large organised expeditions and knew each other. Not all of them were expecting, nor even attempting, to reach the summit because it was the purpose of the expedition just to get one or two climbers to the top. Once that happened they could all go home, satisfied that they had achieved their shared goal. Today Everest is besieged by swarms of individuals who have paid thousands of pounds for their one chance to make it, personally, to the top. No wonder traditional mountaineering morals get thrown to the 80-mile-an-hour winds.

## DOCUMENT C

<i>Period</i>	<i>Summits</i> <i>(Climbers reaching</i> <i>the top of Everest)</i>	<i>Fatalities</i>
Pre-1953	0	13
1953 – 59	6	0
1960 - 69	18	6
1970 - 79	78	28
1980 - 89	183	59
1990 - 1999	883	59
2000 - 2005	1082	27
2006	*200	11
<b>TOTAL to 1999</b>	<b>1168</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>TOTAL to 2005</b>	<b>2250</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>TOTAL to 2006</b>	<b>*2450</b>	<b>203</b>

\* *prediction*

## DOCUMENT D



## DOCUMENT E



**END OF SOURCE MATERIAL**

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## CRITICAL THINKING CRIT2 Unit 2 Information, Inference and Explanation

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book
- You may use a calculator

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is CRIT2.
- Answer all questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

### Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- The recommended time allocation for this unit is as follows:
  - Initial reading: 15 minutes
  - Section A: 35-40 minutes
  - Section B: 35-40 minutes.

## SECTION A

Study **Documents A to E** before answering all the following questions.

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- 1 Based on the information in **Document A** (Cold Mountain), construct a plausible explanation for the fact that so many climbers passed David Sharp without helping him. (2 marks)
- 2 What conclusion does the author of Cold Mountain draw from the observations of the Spanish climber Juanito Oiarzabal? (2 marks)
- 3 It has been estimated from figures represented in the graph (**Document D**) that by 2010 the number of climbers to have reached the summit of Everest will have passed the 4000 mark.
  - (a) What is implicitly assumed by this prediction? (2 marks)
  - (b) Suggest **two** possible factors which could make the prediction wrong. (2 marks)
- 4 Assess how reliably each of the following claims can be concluded from the information and data in the documents, giving a short explanation for each of your assessments:
  - (a) The number of climbers who summited Everest during the nineties exceeded all previous decades combined by more than 300%. (2 marks)
  - (b) The number of climbers to have reached the summit of Everest is more than doubling every five years. (2 marks)
  - (c) If current trends continue it is probable that by 2020 annual fatalities on Everest will be close to zero, where they stood in the fifties. (2 marks)
  - (d) Between 1960-69 a third of the climbers who reached the summit of Everest were killed. (2 marks)
- 5 'Statistically climbing Everest is safer in the current decade than it has been at any time since the fifties.'

Critically assess this claim and decide whether or not it is a justifiable conclusion to draw from the information and data in the documents. (4 marks)

6 Consider each of the following and assess whether or not it makes an *ethical* claim.

- (a) No one should take risks which endanger anyone's life besides their own.
- (b) In the death zone there is little or nothing that can be done to save an injured climber.
- (c) Forty people passed the dying climber on their way to the summit.

(Give a brief reason to support each answer.) (6 marks)

7 The author of *Cold Mountain* was described by one reader as being 'highly judgemental in his treatment of the story.' Is this a fair criticism of the article? Give reasons or examples to support your answer. (6 marks)

8 Carefully consider **Document B**, the reader's letter.

- (a) Considering the context, what is implied by the first sentence of the letter? (2 marks)
- (b) What exactly does the letter seek to explain, and how complete and convincing is the explanation it gives? (6 marks)

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## SECTION B

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9 Construct a reasoned case for or against the following recommendation:

Only experienced climbers should be permitted on Everest above 8000 metres; and commercial expeditions – where clients pay professionals to assist them to reach the summit – should be prohibited.

In presenting your case you should:

- draw on relevant information and evidence found in the source documents;
- consider any general principles that may apply;
- consider and respond to possible counter-arguments;
- produce a structured argument with a clearly stated conclusion or conclusions.

(30 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**