

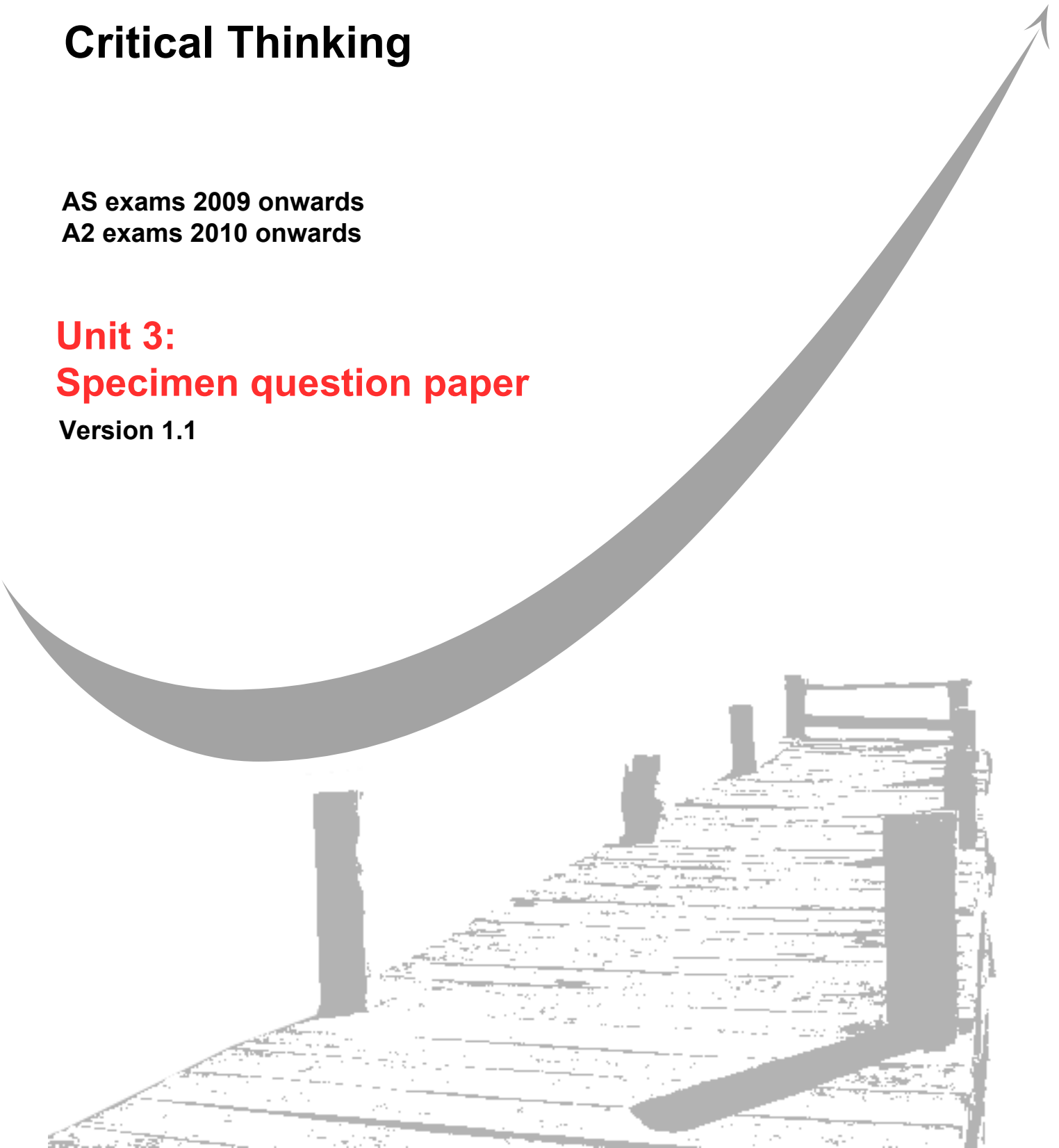
GCE
AS and A Level

Critical Thinking

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 3: **Specimen question paper**

Version 1.1



SPECIMEN PAPER TO PREPARE FOR THE JUNE 2010 AND SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS

General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination



CRITICAL THINKING CRIT3
Unit 3 Beliefs, Claims and Arguments

SOURCE MATERIAL

This source material is to be read in conjunction with question unit CRIT3.

posh, *adjective* (informal)

rich, upper-class, refined, elegant. *She spoke with a posh accent. We stayed in a posh hotel.*
(Late 19th or 20th century; origin disputed).

DOCUMENT A

1. Why do we use the single syllable 'posh' to describe wealthy people or their homes, lifestyles, manners, etc.? In other words, what is the origin of 'posh', the story behind its sudden and relatively recent appearance in the English language, with no traceable ancestry? Can a word just come from nowhere?
2. Most people who claim to know the answer to this question insist that 'posh' is an acronym – meaning that it is formed from the initial letters of the words in a phrase or saying. The phrase in the case of 'posh' is: 'Port Out, Starboard Home', referring to the accommodation reserved for the wealthier passengers on P&O (Peninsula and Orient) passenger ships travelling between Britain and India in the days of the Raj (i.e. up until Indian Independence in 1947). The route was via the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, so the cabins on the left-hand or port side cabins were supposedly cooler on the eastbound leg – 'out' – and those on the opposite, starboard side were cooler on the journey 'home'. Accordingly these were the more desirable berths and were designated POSH; and so the word came into common use.
3. In a number of accounts the four letters were stamped on the tickets, in violet ink. In others they were written next to the passengers' names by the P&O clerks taking the booking. P&O are on record as saying they have never issued such tickets. Although huge amounts of memorabilia from that era exist, no authenticated 'P.O.S.H' tickets or booking forms have been produced to date. One source has described the search as an 'etymological Holy Grail', with people regularly claiming to have seen one, but no one actually able to produce the hard evidence. But despite this conspicuous absence, majority opinion is still solidly behind the acronym theory.
4. There are thousands of diaries, letters, novels and stories from the period of British rule in India. Neither the phrase 'port out starboard home', nor the initials P.O.S.H. appear in a single one of them. The earliest recorded use of 'posh' to mean elegant or classy is from the 25 September 1918 issue of the magazine *Punch*. The earliest association with the P&O dates to 1937, in a published history of the shipping line, in which the author refers to the theory as a 'tale'.
5. A less colourful hypothesis, favoured by most etymologists, is that the word came into English from Romani*. In Romani, *posh* means 'half', for example in expressions to do with money, like *posh-houri* (half-pence), *posh-kooroona* (half-crown). The progression from money to the current meaning of 'posh' is logical, if undocumented. Interestingly, the new slang term, 'chav', (which is almost the opposite of 'posh'), is also thought to have come from Romani, along with several other informal words, such as 'pal'.
6. Yet another conjecture (e.g. in *The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*) is that 'posh' is a contraction (shortening) of 'polish' or 'polished'. (Compare this with 'pram', which is a contraction of 'perambulator'.)

Source: Adapted from GARY MARTIN, *The Phrase Finder*, 1997

* The language of the Roma, also known as Gypsies

DOCUMENT B

Etymology

Etymologists are language experts who search historical documents to trace the origin and derivation of words. They tell us, for instance, that an Old French word *cloque*, meaning 'bell', was the origin of both 'clock' (for obvious reasons), and 'cloak' (because of a cloak's bell-like shape).

English is well-known as a melting-pot for words from many languages. A large number have come into English as a result of trade, colonisation, migration and, more recently, tourism. Words borrowed in this way from Indian languages abound in English: 'bungalow', 'pyjamas', 'shawl', 'shampoo'... to name just a few.

Some words derive from people's names, or place-names: 'watt', 'wellington', 'sandwich', 'hamburger', etc. Some are just invented, especially by writers: 'robot', for example. Others, known as onomatopoeia, are said to resemble associated sounds: 'splash', 'buzz', 'cough', etc.

The recent growth of acronyms has provided another source of new words: 'laser', for instance, is an acronym of 'light amplification (by the) stimulated emission (of) radiation'. NATO, pronounced *nay-toh*, means North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The computing terms RAM and ROM stand for random-access and read-only memory, respectively. And there is evidence that some frequently-used abbreviations like VIP (very important person) and *asap* (as soon as possible) are starting to be pronounced as single words, i.e. becoming acronyms. However, acronyms seem to be very much a modern phenomenon. No records exist of words that were formed in this way prior to the 20th century.

Not all words are traceable with complete certainty. Words with mysterious or disputed origin include: 'badge', 'gadget' – and 'posh'.

DOCUMENT C

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

Source: www.makingbritainhealthier.com

DOCUMENT D



Signs of the times



Sources: Website of Campaign to Protect Rural England and Website of Chris Davies MEP

END OF SOURCE MATERIAL

SPECIMEN PAPER TO PREPARE FOR THE JUNE 2010 AND SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS

General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination



CRITICAL THINKING CRIT3 Unit 3 Beliefs, Claims and Arguments

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 CRIT3.
- 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:
 - Section A: 45 minutes
 - Section B: 45 minutes.

SECTION A

Study **Documents A** and **B** before answering **Questions 1 to 5**.

- 1** Why is an explanation needed for the origin of the word ‘posh’? (2 marks)
- 2** What grounds are there for the hypothesis that ‘posh’ is an acronym from ‘Port Out Starboard Home’? (6 marks)
- 3** Consider the information given in paragraph 3 and 4 of **Document A**, together with the information in **Document B**:
Can the P.O.S.H hypothesis stand up to the lack of hard evidence?
Does the lack of evidence *disprove* the theory? (10 marks)
- 4** Consider the **two** alternative hypotheses referred to in **Document A**.
(a) Are these any more or less convincing than the acronym theory? (6 marks)
(b) Suggest a further *possible* explanation for the origin of the word ‘posh’? (2 marks)
- 5** Most people who claim to know ... insist that ‘posh’ is an acronym...’
(**Document A, paragraph 2**)
As a claim to *knowledge*, how does the P.O.S.H theory compare with the claim by etymologists that ‘clock’ and ‘cloak’ come from the same source? (**Document B**) (6 marks)

SECTION B

Study **Document C** before answering **Questions 6 to 11**.

6 What are the evident objectives of the advertisement (**Document C**), and the argument it presents? (Suggest **two**.) (4 marks)

7 Analyse **Document C** in a way which explains the structure of the argument. (4 marks)

8 Critically consider the author's headline claim that:

'Private patients don't jump the queue, they shorten it'.

How far is the claim justified by the argument?

Does the reasoning around this claim make any unwarranted assumptions or employ any faulty reasoning? (6 marks)

9 Can it be said that the main argument makes a *valid deduction*? (That is: if you accepted the reasons as true, would you have to accept the conclusion as well?) (2 marks)

10 To what extent is this an ethical argument, or an ethical issue? What ethical principles, if any, could be used to support the argument? (4 marks)

11 Consider the following challenge to the argument in the advertisement.

'Private healthcare is like first-class travel on trains. It would be absurd to argue that the existence of first class seats benefits everyone by reducing the crowding in standard class, because if there were no first class there would be correspondingly more seats for everyone, and fewer people, not more, standing up on long journeys.'

What method of reasoning is used here; and how fair and effective is it?

What reply could be made to counter the challenge?

(8 marks)

Study **Document D** before answering **Question 12**.

12 Images are often used to make statements or support arguments. **Document D** is a set of photographs taken by different campaigners against the practice of advertising on parked lorry trailers next to main roads and motorways. The law permits 'mobile' advertisements.

Draw your own conclusion (or conclusions) from the photographs and support it (or them) with a concise, well-reasoned argument. (10 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS