



Critical Thinking
~ SAMPLE TEST ~

Instructions

- The test must be completed in blue or black INK.
- The test is usually comprised of TWO passages (A and B), each followed by a number of questions. You will have ONE hour to complete the full test.
- You should read the text and the questions carefully before you answer and try to answer as many questions as possible
- The test must be completed without the help of any other person but you can use an English dictionary.

Passage A

1 In an economic crisis, most people try to think about ways to ensure their
money is being kept safe. Devaluations, losses in the property market and even
sudden bankruptcies of public or private companies can transform a seemingly
profitable situation into a financial disaster. Since recessions have hit the
5 markets, there has only been one investment that has always proven profitable:
the arts. Buying a painting, a sculpture and even a simple pencil-drawing is the
best way to ensure your money is safe as the price of such useless commodities
will never fall. Quite on the contrary, for some of the great masters, being
Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo or, in the twentieth century, Picasso, the
10 value of their works will, if anything, increase. So it is also the best way to
make money. There is only one condition on this: that your property does not
get damaged. They say that vaults are full of masterpieces: what is wrong with
that? Not only is it the best way to keep your investment safe, but it protects
the art work from any damage. There are thus two good reasons to disagree
15 with those sentimental people who believe art works should be exhibited in

museums and galleries to be seen by all.

Questions

1. Describe *in your own words* TWO conclusions the passage is trying to draw.
(2 marks)

2. Focus on ONE of these conclusions. *Using your own arguments*, explain whether you agree or disagree with it. (3 marks)

3. (i) Paraphrase the expression 'useless commodities' (1.7) ? (1 mark)

(ii) Explain why it is contradictory in this context. (1 mark)

4. (i) How do you understand the phrase “those sentimental people” (l.14) ? (2 marks)

(ii) Describe the tone in which it is used? (1 mark)

5. State who, in your opinion, wrote this text. Do you think the text is neutral? Give examples from the text to illustrate your answer. (2 marks)

6. Facts sometimes lead to invalid conclusions. Give arguments to suggest that art works should *NOT* in fact be kept in vaults. (3 marks)

TOTAL: / 15