

TRIAL SAMPLE**English Unit 4: Analysing Argument****Outcome 2 – Audio-visual text****Instructions**

Students are required to write an analysis of the ways in which argument and language are used to persuade others to share a point(s) of view in an audio or audio-visual persuasive text.

- Read the background information on this page and then listen to and watch a recording of the interview referred to.
- You will be played the interview **twice** and supplied with a **transcript** to assist your analysis.
- Write an analytical response to the task below. For the purposes of this task, the term 'language' refers to written, spoken and visual language.

Task

Write an analysis of the ways in which argument and spoken and visual language are used in the interview supplied to try to persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background information

On 20 March 2020, the Welsh Assembly passed a law to make smacking children illegal in Wales from March 2022. Scotland had passed a similar law in 2019.

As the date for implementing the Welsh ban drew closer, a lobby group, *Be Reasonable*, became more vocal. The lobby group warned parents that the new law would criminalise them for smacking their children.

A spokesperson for *Be Reasonable*, Ciarán Kelly, was interviewed on TalkRadioTV, a free-to-air television and radio channel which operates throughout the United Kingdom. The channel offers news reports and opinion. The interview was conducted a week before the ban was scheduled to come into effect in Wales.

The interview was conducted by regular TalkRadioTV presenter, Kevin O'Sullivan. TalkRadioTV has a weekly audience of 727,000.

TRIAL SAMPLE**Ciarán Kelly speaks to Kevin O'Sullivan about the smacking ban in Wales**

22 February 2022

Presenter Kevin O'Sullivan:

So now...Wales is following Scotland and saying, Wales has said, anyone caught doing this [smacking children] will be prosecuted. As if these mums and dads who smack their kids as some kind of super criminals. I think it just moves us more into a frighteningly illiberal society where the state thinks it's got the right to behave like this. And I would also ask the question, Ciarán, if it's so necessary, this law in Scotland and Wales, why is it not necessary in England?

Be Reasonable spokesperson Ciarán Kelly:

Yeah, well, I mean, I agree with pretty much everything you've said there. I think this is a clear example of state interference. Scotland have done it. Wales are on the verge of doing it. They passed the law a while ago. It's about to come into force. They've just issued guidance saying, you know, if you see someone smacking their child ring nine, nine, nine. Call the police. A guidance has gone out saying, you know, this is a criminal matter. And this is after they spent year after year saying, no, no, no, no, this isn't about criminalizing parents. This is about changing behaviours.

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But we've said all along – **Be Reasonable** – you're gonna criminalize parents. And of course, that's exactly what is, what's about to happen in Wales and what's already happening in Scotland. There was no need for this because the law was being applied well.

Abuse? Let's... be absolutely clear. Abuse of children is illegal, right? And this isn't changing that. So, the idea of we need some law to stop parents beating their kids is a nonsense. What this law is gonna do in Scotland and Wales is gonna criminalize, as you say, the mum who is just trying to discipline their kid, make them sit, realize that there's right from wrong, make them realize that there's safety things that they need to consider.

And...it was one Welsh minister a while ago [who] talked... [about] it in terms of any physical contact for the purpose of administering discipline. So, you imagine a scenario where, you know, the busy mum is trying to get a kid into its child's seat or what have you and is restraining them.

Well... you wouldn't do that to an adult. That's the argument. Therefore, you don't do it to a child. I mean, this is an absurd law that is gonna have, if it's applied in the way that the Welsh government and the Scottish government have said they wanna have it applied... It is going to criminalize who knows how many parents. We were all brought up... We've done a bunch of polling on this, and it's sort of consistent. Around 85% of us say our parents reasonably... chastised us. We are not all saying that we were abused by our parents.

There's a huge gap here between what the state is saying and the state interference and the reality in the lives of ordinary families around the country.

Presenter Kevin O'Sullivan:

Yeah, I mean, you know, I don't want to sort of do the old guy act, but I date back to a time where it was pretty normal. When I was a kid, you know, the punishment that I worried about the most was a physical one. That isn't because my parents beat me within an inch of my life. But they would let me know in no uncertain times terms that I'd done wrong. Now my parents were the very polar opposite of abusive parents. And in today's society they'd get arrested. That's crazy.

Be Reasonable spokesperson Ciarán Kelly:

Yeah. And let's not pretend it's anything other than that, because try as they might, they've said, this isn't about criminalizing parents, but the guidance comes out in Scotland. The guidance comes out in Wales. And what does it say? You see... the mum in the

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supermarket who... gives a child a light tap on the back of the legs or... back of the hand or what have you. You should call the police. And ... some would say, well, you know, discretion will be exercised. And, you know, that may never make it to court or there won't be a prosecution.

But for that mother who's gotta go through that process in the first place, that's a trauma in and of itself before you ever get to the prospect of prosecution. This...boils down to the state saying that they can parent our children better than we can parent our children. And we would say parents need to be trusted. They've been bringing up kids perfectly well for eons. Let them get on with it.

And no one's making excuses for the abusive parent. That's not what this is about at all. This is about giving parents the freedom to bring up their kids in a loving, appropriate fashion.

Presenter Kevin O'Sullivan:

Indeed, and the denizens of a big state nanny, state interference in all our lives – they say that England must follow suit. It must join Wales and Scotland in outlawing all smacking of children. I would say that's not the way round it should be, Kieran. That we must, in England, stay strong on this and that hopefully, before too long, Wales and Scotland will see sense and realize that you should not get involved in phoning 9, 9 9 'cause you see a mum tapping her kid across the back of the knees when that kid is misbehaving in the supermarket or tried to run across a busy road. You know, that's ridiculous, isn't it?

Be Reasonable spokesperson Ciarán Kelly:

Yeah. And, I mean, the [British] government..., Westminster, [up] to now has been okay on this. They've said that they don't think there's a need for a change in the law. They've said that they don't think there's any breach in the European [or] the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. There's been very good debate in the House of the Lords where peer after peer stood up and said, this is unnecessary. This is state interference in family life. You're conflating abuse with day-to-day, ordinary parenting.

We shouldn't allow this, and it's been batted back, but we can't... rely upon that. We can't assume that's gonna be the case forever. We've gotta be mindful for these things, and we can only hope that Scotland and Wales see sense. Perhaps when there are those mums and dads who are being yanked before the courts because they've... been seen giving their child as a tap on the back of the hand, and they're facing court, perhaps then there'll be an outcry and there'll be a rethink...

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Because at the moment, this has just gone through. It's gone through against public opinion. It's gone through with sort of price tags of 4 million quid [pounds] in Wales associated with it, 'cause you've gotta resource the police, gotta resource the judicial system to deal with all these extra cases. You know, there's a real concern here that you're gonna have police, you're gonna have social workers who are gonna have their already overladen desks piling high with the paperwork on loving mums and dads who just want look after their kids and bringing them up in an appropriate way.

And then what's gonna happen as a result of that, of course, as we all know, is that the real cases, the genuine cases of abuse, they're gonna get lost in this... mountain of paperwork. Unnecessary paperwork.

The TalkRadioTV interview from which this transcript was made can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/y8zv82af>

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Some stills from the interview with Ciaran Kelly

