

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 video comment supplied to try to persuade others to share the points of view presented.

Background information

On November 2, 2018, the Scottish Parliament called for members of the public to offer their views on whether Scotland should make it illegal for parents to smack their children.

A week later, the lobby group, Be Reasonable, which opposes bans being placed on smacking anywhere in Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) televised a comment by Dr Stuart Waiton, a senior lecturer in sociology and criminology at Abertay University, Dundee, Scotland. Dr Waiton is a prominent opponent of parental smacking bans and is a leading spokesperson for *Be Reasonable*.

Dr Waiton's comment was posted on the *Be Reasonable* website and was presented as an uninterrupted 'interview' in response to the prompt: 'Why we should all oppose the smacking ban'. It was subsequently posted on YouTube.

TRIAL SAMPLE**Dr Stuart Waiton: 'Why we should all oppose the smacking ban'**

9 November 2018

Speaker Dr Stuart Waiton:

My name is Stuart Waiton. I'm a senior lecturer in sociology and criminology at Abertay University, in Dundee. I oppose this legislation because I see it as the criminalisation of loving parents, who do little more than give a mild tap to their child's hand, and that by the letter of the law will be a criminal offence.

We should think about and understand the research on smacking more as a form of ideology. The people carrying it out have already come to their conclusions before they carry out their research, rather than a genuine attempt to try and find the truth about the impact of smacking on children. The best research on this actually questions any idea that it does children any harm whatsoever. I think this legislation by its very existence, will undermine parental authority and parents' confidence to be able to discipline their children in a measured and decent loving fashion.

Parents need the freedom and autonomy and the trust of society to know that they're being supported in them trying to discipline and raise their own children. That's what you need. It's

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a society that supports parental freedom within a framework where a light form of physical punishment is seen as entirely reasonable and of no harm to children.

People who are opposing smacking will on the one hand say, we're not trying to tell parents what to do, and they'll say, we're not gonna criminalize parents. And then they tell parents what to do and they say, if you do this, it's gonna be a crime.

Arresting a parent for a smack that is done as part of a loving relationship is crazy. Most police officers do not want to be arresting parents for smacking their children on the hand. Whether the social worker or the police act or not, what is gonna happen, uh, is very likely to happen is that teachers will now feel the need to report parents when they hear that a child has been smacked. What happens then at this stage is anyone's guess.

You might not want to lightly smack your child. You might be against smacking. You might not think it's the best form of discipline. Sometimes it's no doubt not the best form of discipline, but you have to ask yourself, do you think it should be criminal? Do you think your neighbours, your friends or the people at your school should be potentially arrested for trying to discipline their children with a light smack?


And I think the vast majority of parents in Scotland would answer no to that question.

Hopefully parents will kick up a fuss about this and stop it being passed.

This is a transcript of a comment by Dr Stuart Waiton on the Be Reasonable website. The comment can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJXS62jnjXo>

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Some of the visuals accompanying Dr Waiton's presentation



Oppose the Scottish Government's plan to criminalise parents who smack their children

Join the campaign

BE REASONABLE

STOP THE ASSAULT ON PARENTING