2020.M106

2020L568A1EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2020

Politics and Society

Higher Level

2 hours 30 minutes

400 marks

Examination Number

Day and Month of Birth

For example, 3rd February is entered as 0302

Centre Stamp

Instructions

There are three sections in this examination paper.

Section A	Short Answer Questions	50 marks
Section B	Data-Based Questions	150 marks
Section C	Discursive Essays	200 marks

Answer All Sections.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. You may lose marks if you do not do so. You are not required to use all of the space provided.

Additional pages are provided if needed. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

You may only use blue or black pen when writing your answers. Do not use pencil.

Section A	Short Answer Questions	50 marks

Answer any **ten** of the following items: **(a), (b), (c)…**

Question 1

(a) Give **two** pieces of information about the role of the Party Whip of a political party.
Give **one** argument in favour or against the party whip system.

First piece:
Second piece:
Argument:

(b) **The 2019 Annual Report** published by The European Union Agency for Fundamental Human Rights found that racist harassment and violence is common in the EU but remains invisible in official statistics.

Give **two** reasons to explain why official statistics are not capturing this data.

Racist harassment and violence is common in the EU but remains invisible in official statistics.

https://fra.europa.eu

First reason:
Second reason:

(c) Give **two** reasons why Ireland enforces immigration and border controls.

First reason:
Second reason:

(d) In May 2019, The Guardian Newspaper in the United Kingdom updated its style guide to introduce terms that more accurately describe the environmental crises facing the world.

Instead of "climate change" the preferred terms are "climate emergency, crisis or breakdown" and "global heating" is favoured over "global warming", although the original terms are not banned.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/17/why-the-guardian-is-changing-the-language-it-uses-about-the-environment

What conclusions would you draw about how language is used in the media to present information?

(e) What does the image below tell us about the social contract in Ireland?

(f) Give **two** pieces of information about the European Council.

First piece:
Second piece:

(g) Should Seanad Éireann be retained, abolished or reformed? Indicate which option you are choosing and give **two** reasons for your opinion.

Retained ☐	Abolished ☐	Reformed ☐
First reason:		
Second reason:		

(h) Explain what it means for states to agree to act to implement rights 'to the maximum extent of their available resources.' Describe an Irish example.

Explanation:
Example:

(i) Describe **two** key elements of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development?

ohchr.org Declaration on the Right to Development

(j) Describe **two** initiatives which would increase women's participation in the world of business.

First initiative:
Second initiative:

(k) More than 300 bus shelters have been transformed into bee-friendly green hubs to support biodiversity in Utrecht, Holland. Grass and wildflowers have been planted on the roofs providing a safe haven for different types of bees that act as pollinators and help plants propagate.

www.pri.org/stories/2019-07-30

Make **two** points about whether this initiative contradicts the popularly held notion that the solution to the environmental crisis lies in technology.

First point:
Second point:

(l) There are many theorists who attempt to explain national and ethnic identities. Identify **one** of these theorists named on your course and briefly outline their theory.

Theorist:
Theory:

Section B	Data-based Questions	150 marks

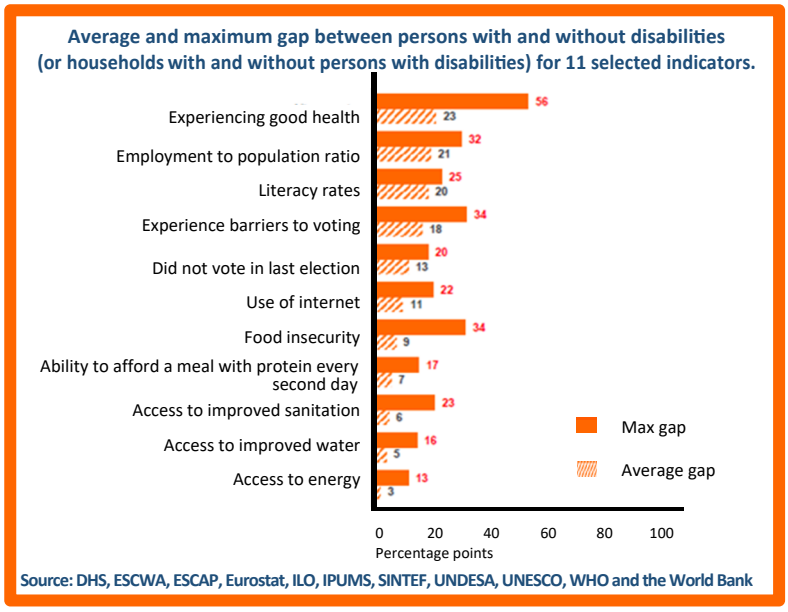
Answer **all** questions in this section. Answer in the space provided.

Document A: Disability and Development Report, 2018 published in November 2019 by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

This United Nations flagship report is the first publication to address, at the global level, the connection between disability and the Sustainable Development Goals (in particular Goals 1 and 4). It is also the first global analysis based on an unprecedented amount of data, legislation and policies from over 100 countries to understand the socio-economic circumstances of persons with disabilities and the challenges and barriers they face in their daily lives.

Overview of the gaps between persons with disabilities and those without disabilities

Disability gaps vary among countries and are wider in relation to certain areas. On average, the wider gaps are observed in health status, employment, literacy, voting, use of the internet, food insecurity and poverty.
In these areas, the average gap is above 10 percentage points.



Persons with disabilities are also at a disadvantage in accessing and affording basic and essential services. In countries where gaps are wider, the gaps reach more than

- 15 percentage points for access to improved water,
- 20 percentage points for access to improved sanitation,
- 9 percentage points for access to energy in the household and
- 30 percentage points with regard to the use of the Internet.

Persons with disabilities are more likely to be underrepresented in decision-making processes and in political participation. The gap between persons with and without disabilities who face barriers to voting or engaging in politics reaches more than 30 percentage points in some countries.

Document B: *Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland Survey 2017.*

Executive Summary

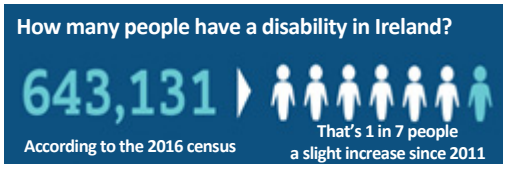
The National Disability Authority (NDA) commissioned Behaviour & Attitudes (B&A) to conduct a nationally representative survey on public attitudes to disability in Ireland in 2017. The NDA previously conducted national surveys on attitudes to disability in 2001, 2006 and 2011. The survey used quota sampling (gathering representative data from a group based on gender, age, region etc. as opposed to random sampling) and was conducted via face-to-face interviews in early 2017.

The survey covered a range of topics on attitudes relating to disability. These included awareness of disability and attitudes towards particular types of disability. Survey questions explored attitudes towards children with disabilities in mainstream education, the employment of people with disabilities as well as relationships and the social wellbeing of people with and without disabilities.

Description of the sample

A total sample of 1294 respondents aged 18 years and older participated in the survey. The sample was made up of an initial sample of 1,021 respondents, of whom 166 had a disability. An additional 273 people with disabilities were involved in the survey in order to gain more information from this minority group.

Key Facts



- There was increased agreement that children with disabilities should be in the same school as those without disabilities;
- Only 36% of respondents believed people with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society compared to 44% in 2011 and 40% in 2006;
- More respondents thought that people with disabilities receive equal educational opportunities (38%) compared to equal employment opportunities (18%);
- Over 3 in 4 respondents agreed that people with a disability should have priority over others in certain circumstances (for example, waiting for social housing, hospital waiting lists and increases in welfare payments).

However, people with disabilities reported more social isolation (32% versus 22%) and less participation in social activities than those without a disability (for example, 28% versus 50% took a holiday abroad in the last 12 months). People with disabilities reported a lower level of satisfaction with life and lower levels of happiness compared to people without disabilities.

Source: www.nda.ie - adapted

(a) Critique (**one** positive and **one** negative aspect) the use of quota sampling in Document B.

(b) Using the evidence from both Documents state why disability is a human rights issue?

(c) Critique (**one** positive and **one** negative aspect) the presentation of the data in Document B.

(d) Compare and contrast the sources of data in Documents A and B.

(e) Evaluate the relevance of the data in Document A to national policy makers and decision-makers in Ireland.

(f) Comparing the data in both documents what conclusions would you draw about the socio-economic circumstances of persons with disabilities and the challenges they face in their daily lives?

(g) Using the evidence in Documents A and B and your wider learning discuss to what extent the quote from Marx 'from each according to his abilities to each according to his needs' is currently being realised for people with disabilities.

Section C	Discursive Essays	200 marks

Answer two questions from 3, 4, 5, and 6

Question 3(a) **(100 marks)**

In September 2019, 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg and 15 other young people from around the world filed a legal complaint under the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child against five countries with some of the worst greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: www.independent.co.uk/ voices/greta-thunberg-congress-speech-climate-change-crisis-dream

The youth activists allege that those governments' lack of action to combat climate change violates their rights as children.

Critically evaluate the relationship between children's rights and the climate emergency.

OR

Question 3(b) **(100 Marks)**

Source: www.trendhunter.com /trends/garments-are-produced

This was an advertisement for Boerum Apparel, an American-based company that manufactured clothing using fully traceable raw materials and sold humane, sustainable, socially responsible clothing.

The founder of Boerum Apparel, Teel Lidow created this clothing company with a fully transparent supply chain because he believed that the *fashion-conscious now had a conscience.*

Whether through positive buying or moral boycott, does ethical consumerism by informed global citizens have the power to end global poverty?

[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence to support your argument. You should also refer to the ideas of at least two theorists you have studied one of whom must be named on your course **and/or** refer to two or more relevant international agreements/organisations (e.g. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Agreement 2016, the World Bank, etc.]

Question 4 **(100 marks)**

Is the role of TDs elected to the Dáil conflicted between legislating on national issues for the common good or delivering a personal service to the constituents who have voted for them?

[Your answer should include contemporary evidence from a national context to support your argument.]

Question 5 **(100 marks)**

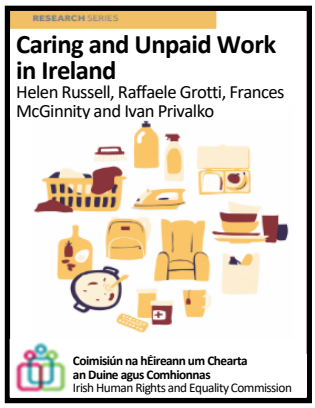
As a function of the social contract the state has a responsibility to ensure the safety of its citizens.

Consequently, should the state spend more money on policing and tackling crime, while spending less on other areas such as housing and social welfare?

Source: www.newstalk.com/ news/gardai-appeal-for-information-about-last-weekends-murder-in-dublin

[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence to support your position. You should also refer to the views of at least two theorists you have studied one of which must be named on your course.]

Question 6(a) **(100 marks)**



According to new research published in 2019 by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), 45% of women and 29% of men provide care for others on a daily basis (childcare and/or adult care).

According to journalist Orla O'Connor: *'The fact that women spend a disproportionate amount of time carrying out unpaid work compared to men has serious economic and social consequences that ultimately lead to a gender gap in pay and in poverty.'*

Source: The Irish Times, January, 2019

Critically assess the view that as long as women in Ireland continue to do unpaid work and care for children and family members, discrimination and gender pay gaps will exist.

[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence from a local **and/or** national context to support your argument. You should also refer to the ideas of at least two theorists you have studied one of which must be named on your course.]

OR

Question 6(b) **(100 marks)**

Low socio-economic status, not gender, is the greatest barrier to positions of power and authority in a capitalist society.

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement?

[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence to support your argument. You should also refer to the ideas of at least two theorists you have studied one of which must be named on your course.

Section C – Answer to Question ___

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Answer

Section C – Answer to Question ___

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Answer

Optional additional page.

Indicate clearly the number and part of the question(s) you are answering.

Optional additional page.

Indicate clearly the number and part of the question(s) you are answering.

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Leaving Certificate Examination – Higher Level

Politics and Society

2 hours 30 minutes