



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023
Politics and Society
Ordinary Level

Tuesday 27 June Morning 9:30 - 12:00

400 marks

Examination Number

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Day and Month of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
is entered as 0302

Centre Stamp

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Instructions

There are three sections in this examination paper. Answer **all** sections.

Section A	Short Answer Questions Answer ten out of 20 questions	100 marks
Section B	Data-based Questions Answer all questions	150 marks
Section C	Discursive Essays Answer three questions	150 marks

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.

Question 1

Answer **ten** of the following items: **(a), (b), (c)**... Answer in the spaces provided.

- (a)** Why is it important to vote in an election?

- (b)** The terms 'left wing' and 'right wing' are sometimes used to describe political parties, politicians and policies. What do each of these terms mean?

Left wing:
Right wing:

- (c)** Give **one** reason why the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) might have posted this image and message on social media.



<https://twitter.com/Refugees/status/1546211154841714696/photo/1>

- (d) Do you think that this *Choose to Refuse single-use plastic* campaign is a good example of an action that an individual could take to achieve sustainable development? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes ☐	No ☐	
Reason:		

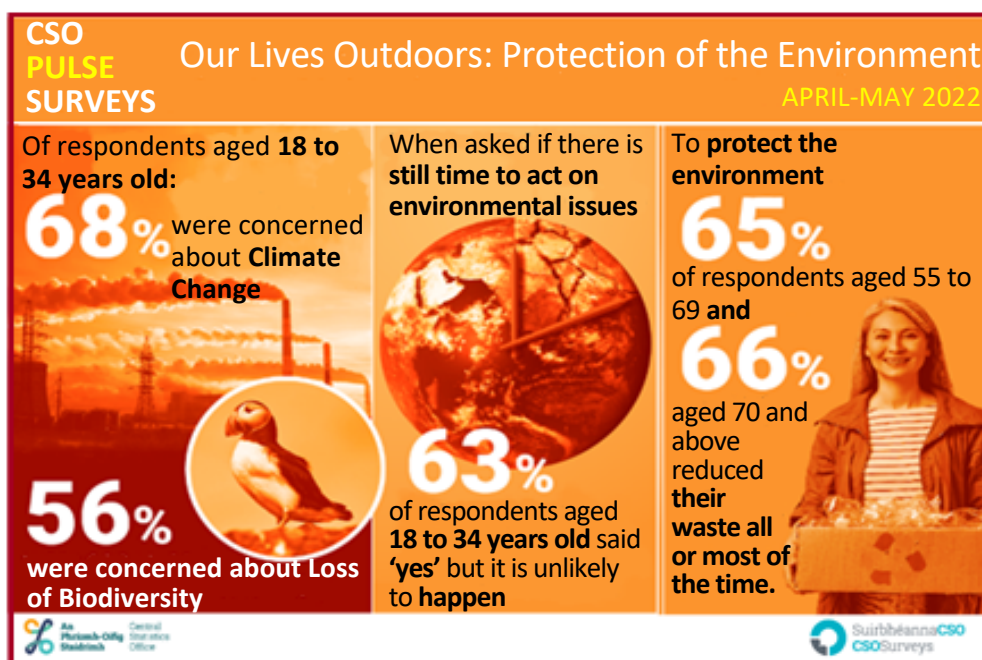
- (e) Outline **two** steps that might be taken by young people to bring about a change to the policy on school uniform.

First step:
Second step:

- (f)  **An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh**  **Central Statistics Office** Everybody present in the country on Census Night must be included on the census form. Give **one** reason for this.

- (g) Explain the purpose of a referendum in Ireland.

(h) Answer the questions below on this infographic from the Central Statistics Office.



(i) Would you be one of the 68% who said they were concerned about climate change? Give a reason for your answer.

Yes ☐	No ☐

(ii) Why do you think 63% of respondents aged 18 to 34 years old said there was still time to act on environmental issues but that it is unlikely to happen?

(iii) What conclusion can you draw from the data in the third column?

- (i) Comment on ethnic or language or religious diversity in **one** European country.

Name of country:
Comment:

- (j) Does the Irish system of elections produce a government that is truly representative of the people? Give **one** reason for your answer.

Yes ☐ No ☐
Reason:

- (k) *Violet-Anne Wynne makes history as first TD to bring her baby into Dáil* – Headline in the Irish Times, September 2022.

Explain the significance of this image in relation to the role of women in politics in Ireland.



<https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/oireachtas/2022/09/21/violet-anne-wynne-makes-history-as-first-td-to-bring-her-baby-into-dail/>

- (l) Give **two** pieces of information about the work of Local Government.

First piece:
Second piece:

- (m) The full title of this book is ***Media Control - News as an Institution of Power and Social Control*** by Robert E. Gudsche, Jr. What does this title say about the role of the media in society?



www.bloomsbury.com/us/media-control-9781628922950/

- (n) Explain the role of the Ombudsman for Children's Office in Ireland.

- (o) Briefly explain Vandana Shiva's contribution to the climate debate.



<https://ucghi.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/dr-vandana-shivas-decades-long-environmental-activism-rooted-health-of-all-beings>

(p) Comment on the concept of 'stereotyping' in this image.



<https://www.toonsmag.com/inequality-in-the-family/>

(q) Give a brief description of **one** of the following: International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

IMF ☐ WTO ☐
Description:

(r) What is meant by 'the social contract'?

(s) How does globalisation impact cultural identity?

(t)



In June 2022, children's charity Barnardos reported that their staff were seeing children going without essential clothing, going for long periods without heating and living in households with not enough food for the entire family.

Comment on this finding in the context of children's rights.

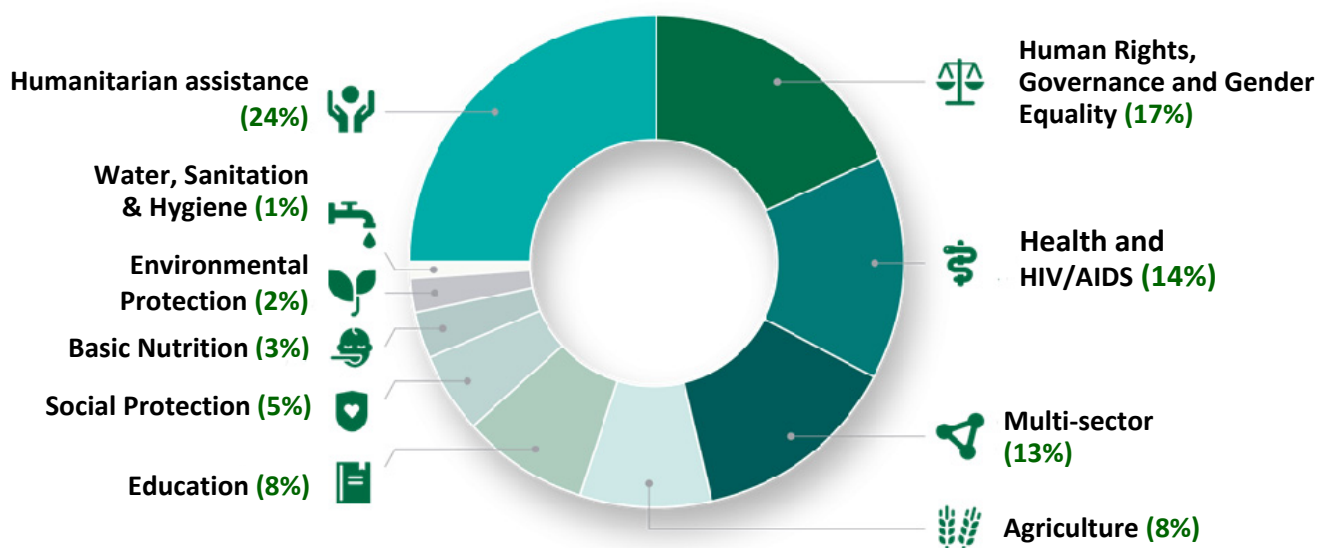
Answer **all** questions in this section. Answer in the space provided.

Document A: Webpage - How Foreign Assistance and Irish Aid work (<https://www.concern.net/>)

What is Foreign Assistance?

In Ireland, our foreign assistance comes mainly from Irish Aid and the national overseas development programme. This organisation is funded by the Irish taxpayer. The term “foreign assistance” refers to anything that one country gives for the benefit of another country. Usually, this means higher-income countries provide development assistance to lower- and middle-income countries. This assistance includes money but can also be donations of goods or services, such as:

- Food aid and distribution
- Education
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Infrastructure assistance
- Agriculture training
- Climate resilience support
- Peace-building activities
- Health care



The goal with all of these forms of international aid is to support a functioning global society. Irish Aid also responds to humanitarian crises, with the Rapid Response Corps working alongside United Nations organisations and Concern Worldwide.

How much does Ireland spend on foreign assistance?

Last year, the government spent over €867.5 million; this represents just over 0.3% of the GNP, meaning that €0.31 out of every €100 goes towards foreign assistance. In October of 2021, the government announced a €140 million increase in overseas development assistance for next year, bringing the total budget to over €1 billion for the first time. (Adapted)

DEFINITION OF HUMANITARIAN AID: Humanitarian aid is assistance that's used to relieve suffering during emergency situations. This is different from development aid, which is assistance that goes to addressing ongoing issues that contribute to human suffering, (CONCERN adapted).

dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. The purpose of Dóchas is to increase Ireland's contribution to world development. They do this by being an independent representative voice of Ireland's Development sector, in order to influence public debate and decision-making in Ireland and the European Union.

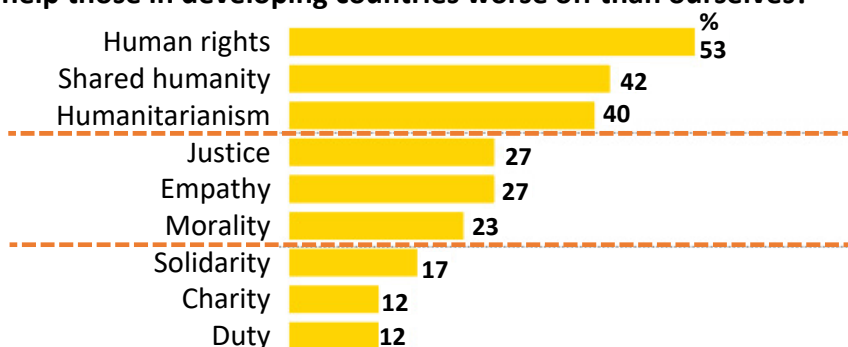
A need had been identified for statistically valid and reliable research amongst a nationally representative sample of the general public covering a broad range of topics related to understanding the general public's experiences of, and attitudes towards, key areas of the Dóchas mission and to understand attitudinal and behaviour change in light of recent contemporary social change movements.

- In order to meet this need, Behaviour & Attitudes were commissioned to conduct a nationally representative online survey amongst adults aged 18+ in the Republic of Ireland with follow-on qualitative research to find out the current beliefs and motivations of the Irish public.

Q. Which of the following do you think are the main causes of poverty in developing countries?



Q. Please select up to three reasons from the list below that best agrees with your opinion as to why we should help those in developing countries worse off than ourselves?



www.dochas.ie/assets/Worldview/Dochas-Worldview-Full-Combined-Report-March-2021.pdf

Question 2

- (a) According to Document A, what is the definition of “foreign assistance”?

- (b) According to Document A, what percentage of international aid is spent on Humanitarian Assistance?

- (c) According to Document B, what is the purpose of Dóchas?

- (d) According to Document B, name **three** main causes of poverty in developing countries.

- (e) Using the information in both documents what would you conclude about Ireland’s contribution to aid work in developing countries?

Question 3

- (a) Comment on the presentation of data in Document A.

- (b) Describe **one** strength and **one** limitation of on-line surveys as a research method.

- (c) Is there a value to researching people's opinions and attitudes? Explain your answer.

Yes ☐ No ☐

- (d) Is Document A a reliable source of data? Explain your answer.

Yes ☐ No ☐

- (e) Choose **one** key piece of data from Document A and describe how it links to the information presented in Document B.

Question 4

- (a) Comment on the top **three** reasons selected by respondents in Document B as to why we think we should help those in developing countries worse off than ourselves.

- (b) Describe a citizenship project you could undertake, based on organising an event to raise awareness about how aid is spent in developing countries.

- (c) Explain why countries receive humanitarian aid.

- (d) What answer would you have chosen to the question in Document B about the main causes of poverty in developing countries? Give **one** reason for your choice.

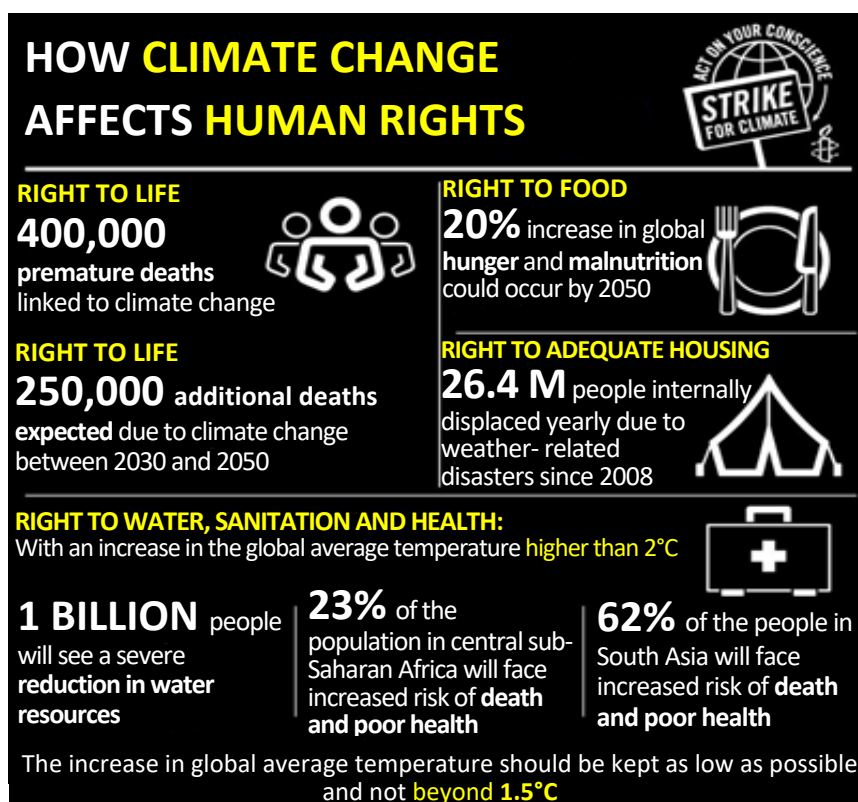
Answer any **three** from questions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Answer in the spaces provided.

Question 5

50 marks

Discuss the impact of climate change on human rights.

You may use the infographic below to support your answer. You may also refer to a relevant key thinker you have studied.



<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/what-has-climate-crisis-got-to-do-human-rights>

Question 6

50 marks

Throughout 2022 and 2023 Ireland has marked 50 years since that important moment when it joined the European Union (EU).

Describe the importance of the European Union.

You may use the following themes in your essay:

- The purpose of the EU
- The way in which the EU is governed
- Decision making in the EU
- Benefits of being the EU
- Contribution of the EU to world affairs

Question 7

50 marks

The Electoral Reform Act, 2022 made many changes to the electoral system in Ireland. One of these changes allows young people aged 16 and 17 to pre-register so that their names are automatically added to the Register of Electors. This means when they turn 18 they can vote in an election or referendum in Ireland.

In your opinion, is it important to support young people's participation in democratic society? Discuss your point of view.

You may use the following words in your answer:

- Voice
- Education/knowledge
- Representation
- Rights
- Responsibility
- Decision-making
- Power
- Citizenship
- Key thinker



www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/peterhenley/2010/05/don't_sit_on_the_fence

Question 8

50 marks

The image below shows people participating in one of the many protest marches about the issue of homelessness in Ireland.

Discuss public protest as a means of action to bring about change in society.

In your answer refer to the following:



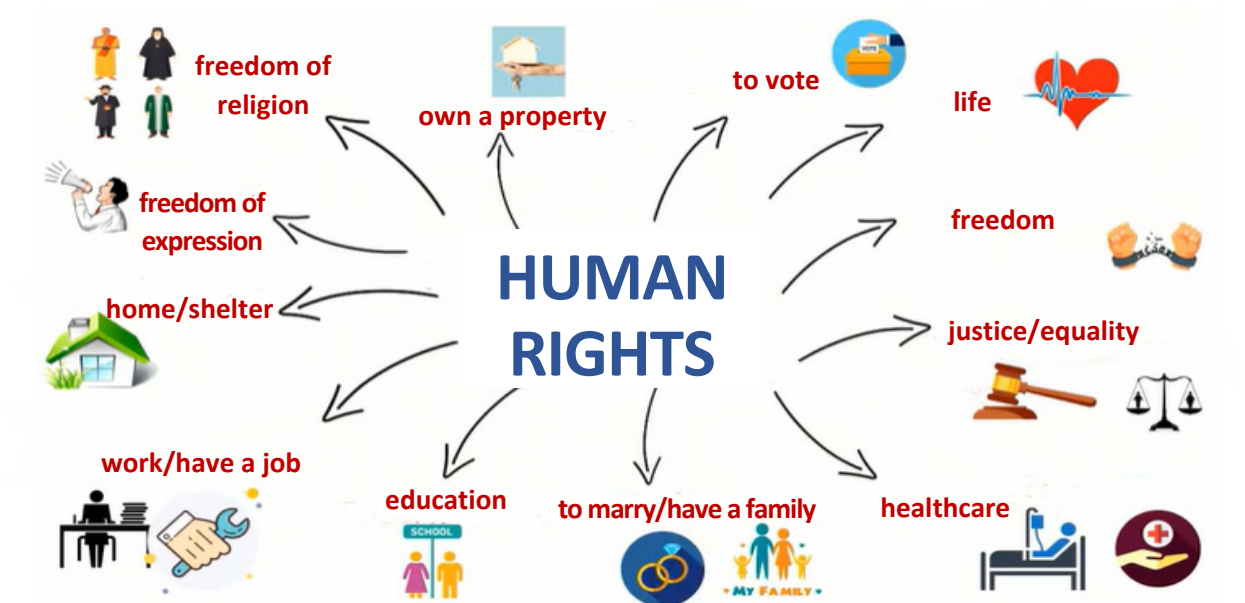
www.rte.ie/news/dublin/2022/1126/1338444-housing-rally/

- Reasons for protesting
- Types of public protests
- Impact of protests
- Rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Rights and responsibilities of government
- The advantages and disadvantages of public protest
- Peaceful protest/civil disobedience
- Example(s)

Question 9

50 marks

Are human rights providing a basis for ensuring equality in society today? Discuss.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=M_HsXzPpYCg

You may refer to the image and use the words below in your essay.

- Declarations, Conventions, agreements, treaties
- Children's Rights
- Abuses/violations
- Gender inequality
- Racism
- Hate speech
- Sport
- Prejudice/discrimination
- Key thinker

Question 10

50 marks

Discuss the global influence and reach of the media in a democratic society.

You may use the following words in your essay:

- Different platforms (traditional, new and social media)
- Fake news/bias/opinion
- Misinformation/disinformation
- Control of the media
- Influencers
- Activism
- Politics
- Social pressure
- Noam Chomsky

Section C – Answer to Question____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

[illegible]

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

[illegible]

Optional additional page.

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

[illegible]

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