



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2024
Politics and Society
Ordinary Level

Tuesday 25 June Morning 9:30 - 12:00

400 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

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.

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

Question 1

- (a) Comment on the message in this image from UNICEF in relation to children's rights during war.



<https://twitter.com/UNGeneva/status/1489291090205106176>

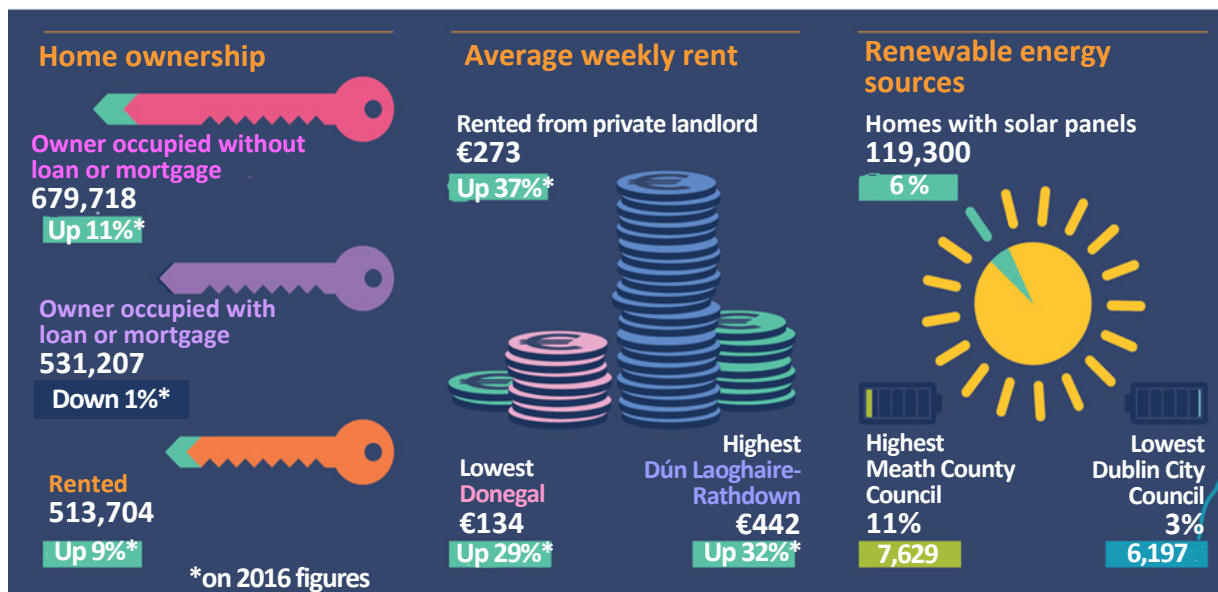
- (b) Is it important for people to vote in European Union Elections? Explain your answer.

Yes ☐ No ☐

- (c) Explain the difference between direct and indirect discrimination.

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

Housing in Ireland



(i) Looking at the average weekly rent, has it got more or less expensive to live in a home in Ireland? Explain your answer.

(ii) Draw **one** conclusion from these data in relation to the issue of home ownership in Ireland.

(iii) Is the census a reliable source of data? Explain your answer.

Yes ☐ No ☐

(e) Explain Freire's 'banking' concept of education.



<https://paperofphilosophy.blogspot.com/2012/12/paulo-friere.html>

(f) At the COP 28 in December 2023, an agreement was made that marked 'the beginning of the end' of the fossil fuel era. Comment on this in relation to sustainable development.

(g) Explain the difference between qualitative and quantitative data.

(h) What does the term 'Globalisation' mean?



<https://cepr.org/voxeu/blogs-and-reviews/globalisation-doomed>

- (i) Describe **one** example in society where sometimes the rights of the individual have to be set aside to protect the rights of the majority.

- (j) Is it important to have laws against online hate speech?



Yes ☐ No ☐

<https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/items/54300>

- (k) Explain what it means for a country to be 'underdeveloped'.

- (l) Explain the role of the Taoiseach in Ireland.

(m) Describe **one** way in which Irish identity is formed on the island of Ireland.

(n) Describe **one** way that social class may affect the experiences of young people in Ireland today.

(o) What is the message in this image in the context of sustainable development?

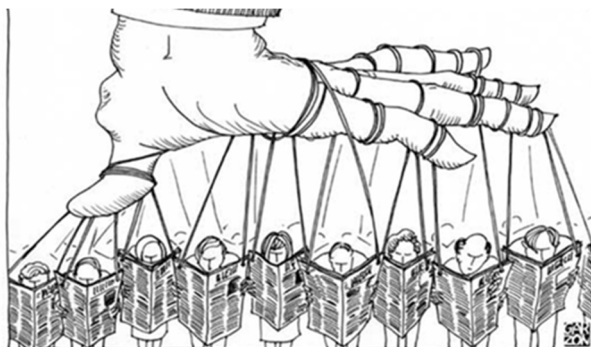
FASHION SHOULDN'T COST THE EARTH



<https://en.vogue.me/fashion/glossary-sustainability-fashion/>

(p) Explain the role of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

(q) Briefly describe the political message of this cartoon in relation to the media.



<https://medium.com/@somavad94/puppet-masters-at-work-c0566d1a0a9e>

(r) Explain the term 'patriarchy' and give an example in society today.

- (s) The International Federation of Journalists' annual list of journalists killed records 120 journalists killed in 2023. What conclusion can you draw from this statistic?

- (t) Comment on the message in this cartoon in relation to the distribution of wealth.



<https://cartoonmovement.com/cartoon/abyss-inequality>

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

Document A: *The Cost of Surviving 2022: Proposals for an Equal Ireland*, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

OUR RESPONSE IN 2022

511
calls per day-in
the first three months

66,246
food vouchers

9,467
requests for assistance
with education costs

64,923
requests for assistance
during winter months
(November & December)



The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) is the largest voluntary charitable organisation in Ireland. Our focus is on a practical approach to dealing with poverty, easing its effects on individuals and families by working mainly in person-to-person contact.

In addition to providing direct assistance to those in need, caring for the homeless, providing social housing, operating holiday homes and other social support activities, the Society promotes community self-sufficiency, helping people to help themselves.

The Society respects the dignity of those who contact us, offering help and advice when sought while assisting them towards long-term self-sufficiency in a relationship of friendship, trust and confidentiality.

What is the real-life experience of living in poverty?

- I'm worried the car might break down or the children will become ill. I'm praying the fridge won't break. I don't have enough money to plan for these uncertainties. What will I do? I don't like borrowing.
- I do as much planning and budgeting as I can. I'm happy if the rent, ESB and food bills are paid. I wish I could plan for months ahead...but it's difficult to plan when you're unsure about the basics.
- I can't get control, we can't make plans, it's like being in a deep hole, no matter what we do we can't get out of it. We climb up and fall back in.
- The children look for money for school trips. We often have to say no to even five euro, we just don't have it, even though we budget carefully. We have to say, "Sorry we can't" ...they are very good kids and we hate that they feel different.
- I find life very hard, not being able to pay all my bills and always putting some on the long finger. The stress makes me sick. I'm always worrying knowing that my kids have to go without.

www.svp.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/AR-2022-Official.pdf and www.svp.ie/end-poverty/key-facts-and-figures/ - Adapted

Document B: *Cost of Living Crisis Impact on Children, 2023. Executive Summary, Barnardos.*

In Barnardos, our core purpose is helping the most vulnerable children in society achieve their full potential regardless of their family circumstances, their gender, race or disability - *Because Childhood Lasts a Lifetime.*

Barnardos is concerned that cost of living increases are pushing more children in Ireland into poverty and negatively affecting their health, wellbeing and development. We have produced a report highlighting the growing impact that cost of living increases are having on children across the country. It sets out findings of a nationally representative survey of parents (315) conducted by Amárach Research. It also includes the voices of 30 parents currently supported through Barnardos services who took part in 1 to 1 interviews, both carried out in April 2023.

Over the past 6 months, have you and your child/children had to go without or cut down on any of the following due to cost of living increases?	April 2023	April 2022
Heat	37%	28%
Electricity	23%	23%
Food	20%	16%
Clothing	43%	34%
Medical appointments/medicines/dentist/assessment	28%	17%
Social activities	57%	50%
Participating in local sports groups/clubs	20%	n/a
School supplies	12%	8%
School trips/activities	23%	n/a
Transport	14%	10%
Rent	5%	2%
None of the above	26%	37%

The survey also found that almost three-quarters of parents (73%) stated that the increase in the cost of living has negatively affected their children over the past six months, with almost two in ten (17%) saying it has significantly affected them.

Do you think the cost of living crisis has negatively affected your child?	
Significantly	17%
Moderately	24%
Slightly	32%
Not at all	25%
Not applicable	2%

As the cost of living crisis continues there is a risk that more and more children will be pushed into deprivation and spend longer and longer without enough food, heat and electricity. It is vital that the Irish Government introduces immediate and long-term targeted policies, to ensure that all children, at a minimum, live in homes that have sufficient food and can provide regular meals, live in properly heated accommodation and don't go without electricity.

(Adapted)

Question 2

- (a) According to Document A, what is the focus of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul?

- (b) Identify **four** ways, according to Document A, in which the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides assistance to those in need.

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

- (d) Referring to Document B, what is Barnardos concerned with?

- (e) Using the information in both documents, what would you conclude about the cost of living crisis in Ireland?

Question 3

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

- (b) How was the data collected in Document B?

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

- (d) Comment on the areas where the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul responded to requests for assistance in 2022.

- (e) What can you learn from the evidence in Document A about the real-life experiences of people living in poverty?

Question 4

- (a) Comment on the **three** biggest areas where parents and their children have had to go without or cut down due to the cost of living, in the survey data in Document B.

- (b) Is it important to include individual voices of people living in poverty as seen in Document A?

- (c) Describe a citizenship project you could undertake, based on organising an event to raise awareness about **one** of the issues highlighted in either Document A or B.

- (d) From analysing the evidence in either document, what policy recommendations would you make to the Irish government regarding some of the issues raised?

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

Question 5

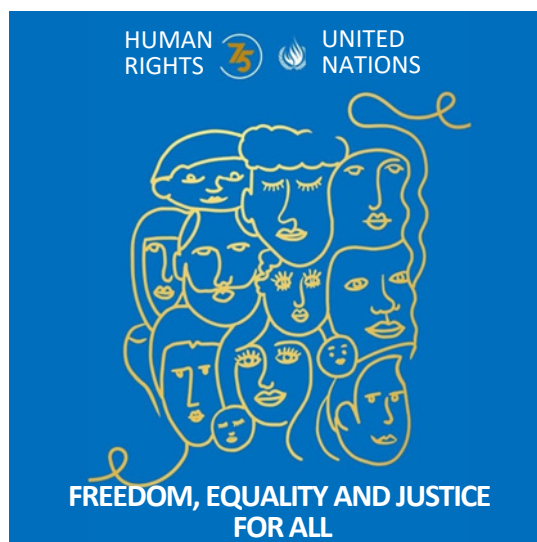
(50 marks)

2023 marked 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This document set out, for the first time, basic human rights to be protected worldwide.

Is the UDHR still necessary in the world today?

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- War / hate / conflict
- Famine / humanitarian crises / climate crisis
- Equality / marginalised
- Food / shelter / clean water
- Freedom / security / justice
- Prejudice / discrimination
- Key thinker e.g. Martha Nussbaum.



www.disputeresolutiongermany.com/2023/12/human-rights-day/

Question 6

(50 marks)

Discuss the influence/role of the media in society today.

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- Control / ownership / business
- Reporting the news
- Disinformation / misinformation
- Fake news / bias / opinion
- Politics / democracy
- Influencers
- Key thinker e.g. Noam Chomsky.



www.123rf.com/photo_42883433_digital-media-information-medium-news-concept.html

Question 7

(50 marks)



More people watched the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023 than ever before. However, gender inequality still exists.

www.reddit.com/r/Feminism/comments/154w903/female_soccer_players_earn_25_cents_to_the_dollar/

Discuss the significance of gender inequality in society today.

Your answer may refer to international, national, local examples and may include the following:

- Patriarchy
- Roles and society
- Gender pay gap
- Representation in politics
- Gender-based violence
- Key thinker e.g. Sylvia Walby.

Question 8

(50 marks)

Discuss the role of civil disobedience in a democracy.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Rule of law
- The role of law enforcement (e.g. the Garda Síochána)
- Right to protest
- Rights and responsibilities of government
- Reasons for civil disobedience
- Public safety
- Peace / violence
- Key thinkers e.g. Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.



www.ourfuturewewote.com

Question 9

(50 marks)

Discuss the decision-making process in schools.

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- Models of participation
- The role of different partners / stakeholders involved
- The way schools are organised
- Importance of policy
- Power and influence
- Democracy
- Key thinker e.g. Kathleen Lynch.

Question 10

(50 marks)



According to a 2023 European Union survey, 93% of European people believe climate change is a serious problem facing the world.

Discuss what actions are needed to achieve sustainable development in the modern world.

https://social.network.europa.eu/@EU_Commission/110747202196443331

You may use the following in your answer:

- Consumer purchases
- Sustainable consumption
- Industry e.g. fast fashion
- Renewable resources
- The role of corporations
- International agreements e.g. COP 28
- The role of governments e.g. Climate Action Plan for Ireland, 2023
- Key thinkers e.g. Vandana Shiva, Fr Seán McDonagh.

Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

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Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

[illegible]

Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

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Optional additional page.

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

[illegible]

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