



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025
Politics and Society

Ordinary Level

Tuesday 24 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

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)...**(t). Answer in the spaces provided.

Question 1

- (a)** In the year 2024 nearly half of the world's population voted in various elections. Give **two** reasons why it is important to vote.

Reason One:
Reason Two:

- (b)** Describe an example of a school policy that you have examined that addresses the idea of safety.

- (c)** In 2024 the Irish government introduced the Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium or steel cans. Is this a good example of an action to achieve sustainable development? Explain your answer.

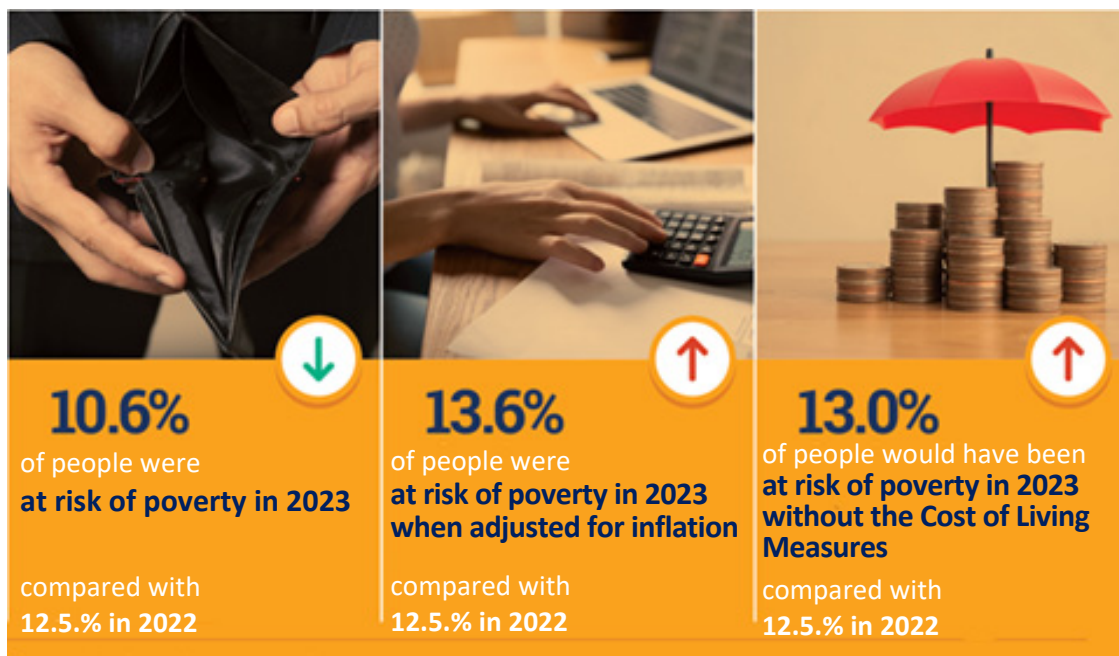


Yes ☐ No ☐
Explanation:

<https://re-turn.ie/>

- (d) Examine the 2023 data on Income and Living Conditions, and answer the questions that follow.

Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2023



- (i) What conclusion can you draw from the data above about poverty?

- (ii) Identify **one** difference between the data from 2022 and 2023.

- (iii) How might this data help the Irish government?

- (e) Identify **one** children's right from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Describe how it is not being fulfilled in Ireland.



Right:
How it is not being fulfilled:

www.niccy.org/what-we-do/statement-on-childrens-rights-in-northern-ireland-socrni/statement-on-childrens-rights-in-northern-ireland-socrni-3-2022/

- (f) The Gender Pay Gap Information Act was signed into Irish law in 2021. Under the Act, employers are required to publish information on their gender pay gap. Why is it important that this information is gathered and published?

- (g) Give **one** example of how social class impacts a person's life.

- (h) Explain the role of the government in a democratic society.

- (i) In 2024, 25 people were executed in the United States of America. Comment on this statistic referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

- (j) What is the role of the Ombudsman for Children in Ireland?



www.oco.ie

- (k) 'Us versus Them' is a theory which explains how some people might view the world. Give an example of where you might see it today.

- (l) What is freedom of the press?

(m) Describe **one** example of how identity is formed within Ireland.

(n) What is the role of a Teachta Dála (TD) in Ireland?

(o) Comment on the message in this cartoon in relation to climate change.



<https://theweek.com/political-satire/1026394/on-the-boil>

(p) Briefly explain **one** of Kathleen Lynch's ideas about politics and/or society in Ireland.

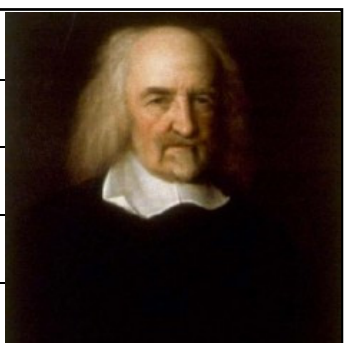
	

www.ihrec.ie/about/chief-commissioner-members-of-ihrec/professor-kathleen-lynch/

(q) Give **two** reasons why ICT/technology and the media has led to a more globalised world.

(r) Describe what a duty bearer is and give an example of one.

(s) What is the State of Nature?

<https://totallyhistory.com/thomas-hobbes/>

(t) Explain the effects of racism in Ireland.



www.equalityanddiversity.co.uk/anti-racism-training.html

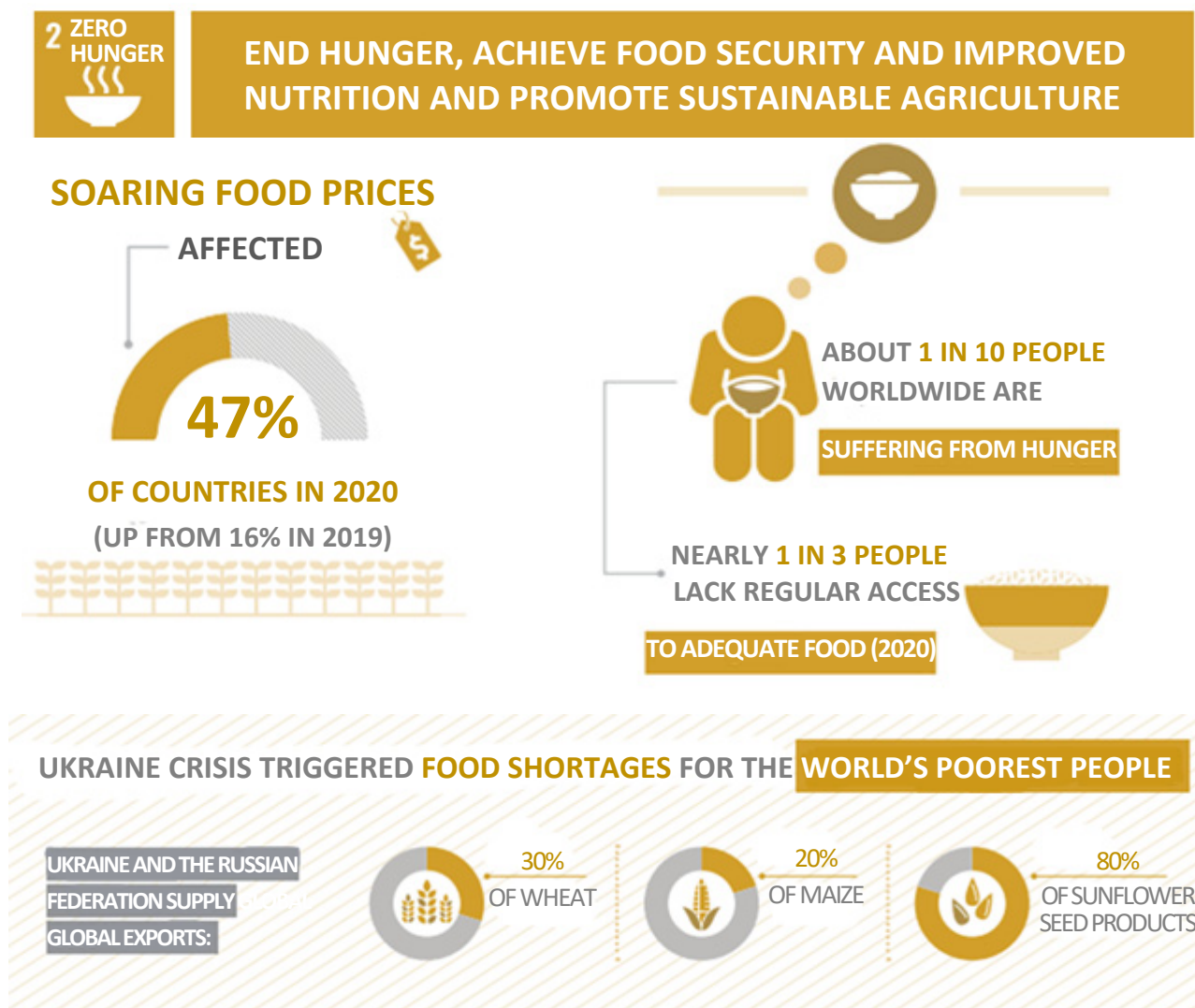
Answer **all** questions in this section. Answer in the space provided.

Document A: Infographic from the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. (Adapted)



The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 provides a global overview of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, using the latest available data and estimates. It tracks the global and regional progress towards the 17 Goals with in-depth analyses of selected indicators for each Goal.

According to the Report, interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger, along with humanity's very own survival. The Report highlights the severity of the challenges before us. The crises, dominated by COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts, are creating impacts on food and nutrition, health, education, and affecting all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It points out areas that need urgent action in order to rescue the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030.



<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf> - adapted

Document B: Hunger Hotspots – Countries of Highest Concern.

Action Against Hunger - a humanitarian agency, responding to conflict, disasters and emergencies whenever they happen.



Conflict, the climate crisis and economic shocks continue to drive more and more communities around the world into a hunger crisis. That's according to the latest Hunger Hotspots report from the UN, which included Haiti, South Sudan and Sudan among the countries with the highest level of alert.

	Haiti	South Sudan	Sudan
Population	11.5 million	10.9 million	49.7 million
People in need	4.9 million	8.9 million	15.8 million
People helped last year	504,344	1,191,678	473,219
Children at risk of acute malnutrition	1,000	1.6 million	4 million
Main causes of hunger	Unprecedented levels of violence, years of political instability, and recurring natural disasters	Conflict and climate disasters, including extreme flooding, has destroyed homes and food sources and driven families to flee	The crisis is driven by conflict, political and economic instability, internal displacement, climate disasters, and localised violence

Conflict and organised violence, in particular the increased targeting of civilians, remain the key drivers of hunger around the world. This is set to worsen the already restricted access to food through the disruption of global markets. People fleeing their homes also have to leave behind their land and the chance to grow their own food.

Extreme weather intensified by the climate crisis, like excessive rainfall, droughts and cyclones, are also having a disastrous impact – leading to repeated failed harvests. Changing weather patterns, like the El Niño effect, means a forecast of increased rainfall and a greater risk of flooding. This is likely to have a negative impact in regions already facing severe challenges with crop production.



Governments around the world are struggling to protect their most vulnerable people due to high debt levels. In many countries, soaring prices for things like food, energy and transport, along with weakening currencies are likely to make the situation much worse.

www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk/our-impact/stories/the-hungriest-countries-in-the-world - Adapted

Question 2

- (a) According to Document A, what is SDG Goal Two?

- (b) According to Document A, what does the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 provide?

- (c) According to Document B, what is driving countries around the world into a hunger crisis?

- (d) Document B outlines the main causes of hunger in three countries.
Name **one** of these countries and identify the main cause of hunger in that country.

Country:
Cause of hunger:

- (e) Using evidence from Document B, identify the connections between the hunger crisis and the environment.

Question 3

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

- (b) Describe **one** positive about how the data is presented in Document B.

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

Key piece of information:
Description:

- (d) How might the information given in both documents be useful for world governments?

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

Question 4

- (a) From Document B, identify **one** similarity and **one** difference between the data from Haiti and the data from South Sudan.

Similarity:
Difference:

- (b) What type of data do you think would add to the research presented in Document A? Give an example of this type of data.

- (c) Describe a citizenship project that you could carry out to support the work of Action Against Hunger.

- (d) From analysing the data, what recommendations would you make to the United Nations about the issues raised in Document A and Document B?

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

Question 5**(50 marks)**

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Irish electoral system?

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- Elections / voting
- Representatives / representation
- Dáil Éireann / Seanad Éireann
- Majority / minority
- Laws / decision-making
- Referendum
- Political parties
- Key thinkers e.g. Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.



<https://www.oireachtas.ie/assets/Uploads/Dail-wide-2.jpg>

Question 6**(50 marks)**

Discuss the value of student voice at a local and/or national and/or international level.

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- Models of participation e.g. Lundy's Model
- Student Councils
- Dáil na nÓg
- Irish Secondary Students Union
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Model UN
- Education Act (1998)
- Key thinkers e.g. Paulo Freire.



[www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Toolkit_\(web_version\).pdf](http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Toolkit_(web_version).pdf)

Question 7

(50 marks)

The image highlights the environmental issue of Fast Fashion that is facing the world today.

What do you think the Irish government and/or international bodies can do to help tackle environmental issues for example, fast fashion?



<https://medium.com/@ahmariqra5/fast-fashion-frenzy-the-high-cost-of-cheap-trends-bb0433b3d108>

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- The role of individual efforts
- What business and corporations can do
- International agreements (United Nations and the European Union)
- Underdevelopment and unfair trade
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Key thinkers e.g. Sean McDonagh.

Question 8

(50 marks)

Evaluate the changing nature of contemporary media in society.

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- Types of media
- Control of information
- Misinformation / Disinformation
- Regulations
- Ownership / control of the media
- The role of advertising
- Key thinker e.g. Noam Chomsky or Karl Marx.



<https://popularwow.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/social-media-connections-728x437.jpg>

Question 9

(50 marks)

In the context of recent national and/or global events, how important are human rights in today's world?

You may refer to the following in your answer:

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



<https://internationalenglishfagerlia.com/2021/09/28/human-rights-and-the-un/>

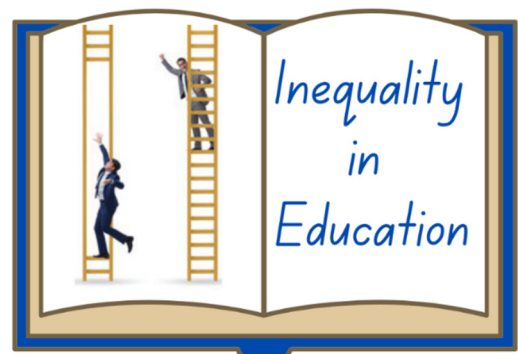
Question 10

(50 marks)

Describe how social class and wealth impact education in Ireland.

You may refer to the following in your answer:

- Poverty
- Affordability of out of school tuition e.g. grinds
- Government schemes e.g. HEAR / DEIS
- Access to technology
- Homelessness
- Cultural / Social Capital e.g. connections
- Key thinker e.g. Kathleen Lynch.



<https://trainthelerner.com/inequality-in-education/>

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Optional additional page.

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

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