



Pre-Leaving Certificate Examination, 2024

Politics and Society Ordinary Level

Time: 2½ hours

400 marks

Name:
School:
Address:
Class:
Teacher:

	Question	Mark
Section A	Q. 1	
Section B	Q. 2	
	Q. 3	
	Q. 4	
Section C	Q. 5	
	Q. 6	
	Q. 7	
	Q. 8	
	Q. 9	
	Q. 10	
Total (Paper)		

	Mark
1. Total of end of page totals	
2. Aggregate total of all disallowed questions	
Mark awarded (1 minus 2)	

	Mark
Examination Paper	
Bonus for Irish	
Grand Total (Paper)	
Final mark awarded	

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.

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				
Question 1	(a)		(m)	
	(b)		(n)	
	(c)		(o)	
	(d)		(p)	
	(e)		(q)	
	(f)		(r)	
	(g)		(s)	
	(h)		(t)	
	(i)			
	(j)			
	(k)			
	(l)			
Cumulative mark				
Total of disallowed marks				
Mark awarded				

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

Question 1

- (a)** Explain the difference between direct and indirect democracy.

- (b)** Study the infographic below and answer the questions that follow:



- (i)** What percentage of incidents were carried out by people acting alone?

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- (ii)** According to the infographic, men are responsible for two-thirds of racist crimes and abuse, why do you think this is the case?

- (iii)** Why do you think adults are more likely to be perpetrators of racist abuse and crimes than young people?

(c) Outline the role of The Ombudsman for Children in Ireland.

(d) Name the **three** branches of government in a democratic state.

(e) Define the term 'discrimination'. Give an example of it operating in Irish society today.

Definition:
Example:

(f) Explain how your energy usage can contribute to climate change.

(g) What do you understand to be the meaning of the term 'civil disobedience'? Give an example of civil disobedience.

Definition:
Example:

(h) What does this image say about attitudes to refugees and/or migration?

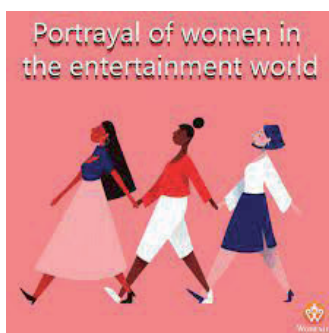


(i) Name **two** non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Ireland that deal specifically with the area of children's rights.

1.
2.

(j) What is your understanding of left and right-wing attitudes as they apply to the political spectrum?

- (k) What is your opinion on how women are portrayed in the media? Give a reason for your opinion.



Opinion:

Reason:

- (l) Why has there been a rise in far-right and nationalist movements and opinions? Give an example.

Explanation:

Example:

- (m) Name a supranational organisation and give **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of supranationalism.

Name:

Advantage:

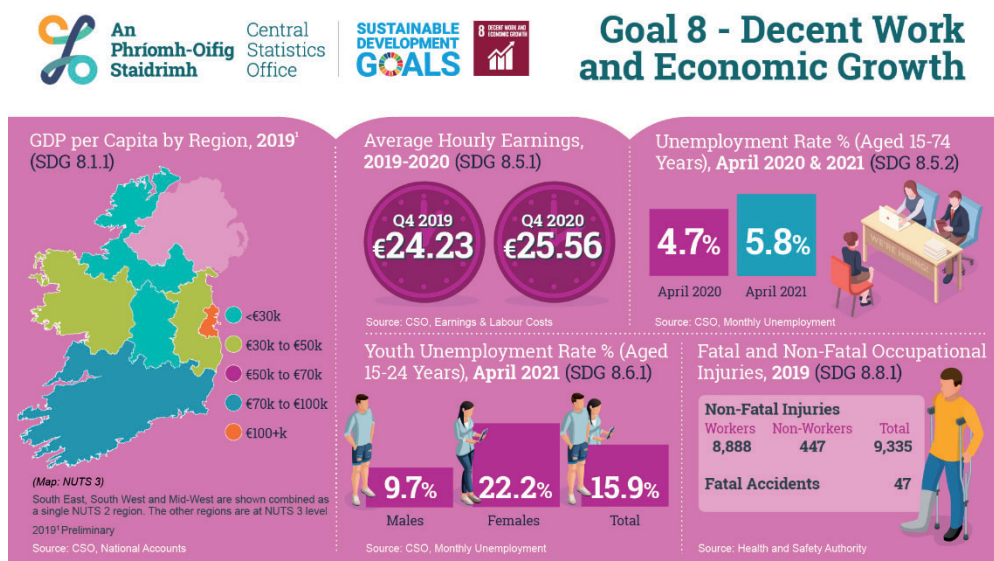
Disadvantage:

- (n) Why is it important that people have access to free and open media? Give a reason for your answer.

Explanation:

Reason:

- (o) Study the below infographic and answer the questions that follow:



- (i) What is the difference between average hourly earnings in 2019 and 2020?

- (ii) Which region of Ireland had the highest per capita GDP?

- (iii) How can information like this help government determine policy and changes needed in Ireland?

(t) How does this image contribute to the idea of gender stereotyping?



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

Document A: Edited extract from article from Irish Times March 2023

More than half of young adults turned to social media for mental health support during lockdown.

A study has revealed almost half of 18 to 25-year-olds surveyed said they turned to social media for mental health support during the first national lockdown.

SpunOut.ie and the HSE website were among the resources most widely accessed by almost 400 respondents.

The research conducted by University College Dublin (UCD) included almost 400 respondents, showing they accessed practical help through dedicated mental health social media accounts, in addition to apps and free services from charity groups, such as Jigsaw and SpunOut.ie.

Following a surge in referrals of young people by many mental health services last year, the study's co-lead, Dr Claudette Pretorius, said social media and online tools could be used in tandem with traditional services in order to best support young people.

The research found that different social media platforms were being used for different purposes, with Facebook being a source of support groups, while Instagram was used to engage with influencers who focused on mental health issues.

One-third of respondents said they also used mental health apps, including Headspace, Calm Harm, Moodpath, #selfcare, Woeboat and Youper.

A further quarter used formal online resources, such as charities (26%), or professional counselling services (13.2%), while SpunOut.ie (13.2%) and the HSE website (10.4%) were the most accessed resources.

Almost three-quarters of young people said they used apps like WhatsApp or Snapchat to contact mental health professionals for therapy or counselling, while Zoom and Instagram direct messages were also used.

"The purpose of the study was to get a better picture of what works for young people, so that services online can be enhanced," Dr Pretorius said.

She added lockdown was the first time many young people indicated they felt the need to pursue mental health supports, saying: "It is evident that they were pleasantly surprised".

"There is a strong argument for advertising these services more widely in the community and in our schools and colleges," Dr Pretorius said.

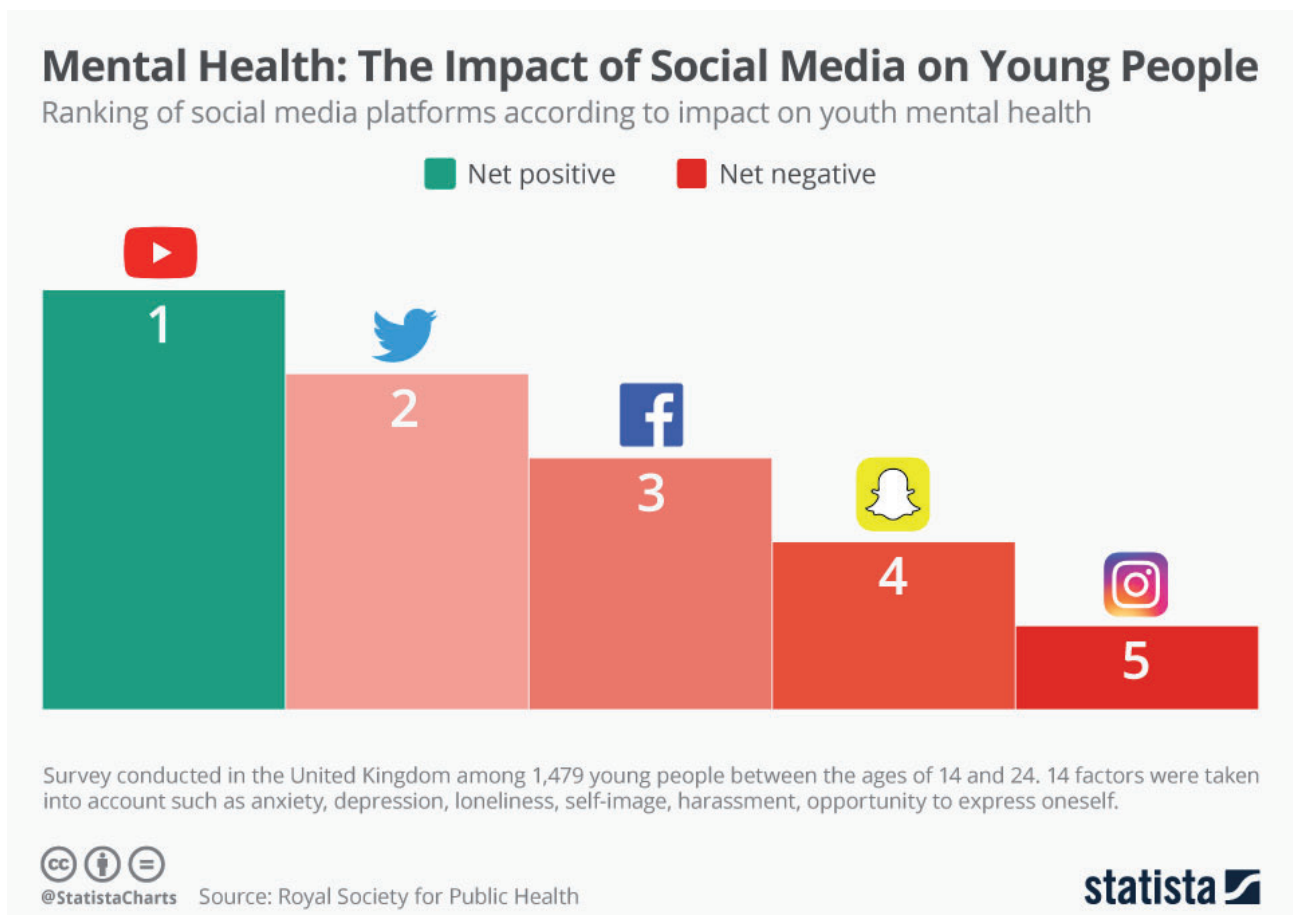


Mental Health: The Impact of Social Media on Young People

Is the end of the “like” coming? According to TechCrunch, based on the findings of researcher Jane Manchun Wong, Facebook is currently carrying out tests to reveal only a limited number of likes on a post. The social networking giant is currently conducting the same type of experiment in seven countries on its Instagram app.

What is the reason for this? To reduce the feeling of permanent competition and social pressure. As recent research has shown, this decision could be particularly beneficial for the mental health of young people. Based on the results of a survey of 1,479 people aged 14 to 24 years by the UK’s Royal Society for Public Health, the top 5 social networks have been ranked according to their impact on mental health.

It emerges that Instagram is the social media platform with the most negative effect on the psychological state of young people. On the other side, YouTube is considered to be the most positive network in this area and the only one in the research considered to have a ‘net positive’ influence. To establish this ranking, 14 factors were taken into account such as anxiety, depression, loneliness, self-image, harassment, and the opportunity to express oneself.



Question 2

- (a) According to Document A what was the purpose of the study?

- (b) According to Document A, what percentage of respondents availed of 'official' mental health services as provided by HSE.ie?

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- (c) According to Document B, which social media platform has the most negative impact on the mental health of 14 to 24-year-olds?

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- (d) According to Document B, what factors were taken into account when establishing the ranking of social media platforms?

- (e) Based on your reading of both documents above, do you think social media has a more positive **or** negative impact on the mental health of young people?

Question 3

(a) Comment on the source of data used in Document A.

(b) Describe **one** strength **and one** weakness of surveys as a research method, as used by both documents above.

(c) Do you think the presentation of visual data in Document B helps you to understand the findings better? Give a reason for your answer, referring to the document.

(d) Which document do you think is a more reliable source of information? Give a reason for your answer, referring to both documents.

- (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) Outline an alternative method of research or information gathering that you could conduct to add to the findings of both documents above.

- (b) Would the findings in the documents above change your attitude to and use of social media? Give specific reasons and explain your answer.

(c) Which social media platform would you have chosen as having the most negative impact on mental health as detailed in Document B? Give **one** reason for your choice.

(d) What potential positives can social media platforms and the use of technology have for the mental health of young people?

Section C**Discursive Essays****150 marks**

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

Question 5**50 marks**

Does the spread of global communities and brands imply a globalisation of culture?

Discuss, using examples of recent changes in Ireland to support your argument.

Areas to consider in your answer:

- Causes of globalisation
- Spread of globalisation
- Communities and culture
- Nationalism and identity
- Culture and identity

**Question 6****50 marks**

“We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.” (Malala Yousafzai)

Discuss this quote in relation to one or more of the following: human rights, patriarchy, inequality.

Areas to consider in your answer:

- Causes of discrimination
- Impact of marginalisation and discrimination
- Gender inequality
- Racial inequality
- Access to human rights

**Question 7****50 marks**

“Rules provide protection for weaker members of the community from stronger members and provide a framework for orderly engagement at school.”

Discuss this statement, drawing on information studied on your Politics and Society course.

Areas to consider in your answer:

- Agree/disagree?
- Power and decision making
- Who has the power and how is it used?
- What would school/the world look like without rules?
- Protection, safety and law and order

Question 8

50 marks

How well does Ireland uphold the UNDHR and UNCRC?

Discuss at least one article and one context in which issues may arise.

Areas to consider in your answer:

- Importance of Human Rights
- Human Rights vs. Children's Rights
- Human Rights organisations
- Mechanisms and access to Human Rights

Question 9

50 marks

“Marginalised groups are often treated as irrelevant and/or inferior.”

Discuss the above statement in relation to one group of people who you feel are or have been marginalised in Irish society.

Areas to consider in your answer:

- Causes of marginalisation
- Creation of them vs. us
- Groups that are marginalised or discriminated against
- Ways to combat marginalisation
- Laws and rules that impact marginalisation



Question 10

50 marks

“Human Rights are a western idea with a western bias.”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? In your answer, discuss the work of two key thinkers and use relevant research and data.

Areas to consider in your answer:

- Agree or disagree?
- Do Human Rights apply to all?
- Judgement of other cultures through our cultural biases
- Edward Said/Kwame Appiah/Samuel Huntington

Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

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Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

[illegible]

Handwriting practice lines on page 23.

Section C – Answer to Question ____

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

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