2025.M106

2025L568A1EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Politics and Society

Higher Level

Tuesday 24 June Morning 9:30 - 12:00

400 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth / /

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

Centre Stamp

The 2025 examination papers were adjusted to compensate for disruptions to learning due to COVID-19. This examination paper does not necessarily reflect the same structure and format as the examination papers of past or subsequent years.

Instructions

There are three sections in this examination paper.

Section A	Short Answer Questions Answer **ten** out of 15 questions	50 marks
Section B	Data-based Questions Answer **all** questions	150 marks
Section C	Discursive Essays Answer **two** questions	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)…(o).

Question 1

(a) Identify a group that may be under-represented in the decision-making processes in schools and suggest one way to increase their representation.

Group:
Suggestion:

(b) Briefly describe why press freedom should be a key feature of any democratic society.

https://www.ifaj.org/freedom-of-the-press/42627/

(c) Explain the 'State of Nature' concept through the view of Thomas Hobbes **or** John Locke.

(d) Explain the role of the Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 in protecting against discrimination in Ireland.

(e) According to the CSO, 85% of candidates who sat Construction Studies (HL) in the Leaving Certificate in 2023 were male, while 88% of candidates who sat Home Economics (HL) were female.

Comment on these statistics in the context of educational equality/inequality in Ireland.

(f) Comment on the message in this image in the context of democratic countries today.

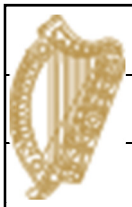
https://shop.gisreportsonline.com/product/taxation-ship/

(g) "Being poor controls how you see yourself, how you trust and speak, how you see the world and how you dream." Katriona O'Sullivan.
What is the relevance of this statement in the context of social class in Ireland?

https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/extract-of-book-poor-6083339-Jun2023/

(h) According to Oxfam, the world's richest 1% own more wealth than 95% of humanity.
Comment on this statistic in relation to global income inequality.

(i) Describe **two** functions of the President of Ireland.



https://president.ie/en

(j) In the context of sustainable development, how may technology help us solve our environmental problems?

https://greenstories.co.in/environmental-technology/

(k) Explain the main difference between direct and indirect discrimination.

(l) Name and briefly describe **one** non-democratic system of government.

(m) Describe **two** ways language diversity is protected within the European Union (EU).

(n) Bin shelves were introduced in Dublin city centre in October 2024 to prevent people from searching through bins for unreturned plastic bottles.
Comment on the need for these bin shelves in contemporary Irish society.

https://businessplus.ie/news/bin-dublin-city-re-turn/

(o) Name the Key Thinker associated with *The Capabilities Approach*. Briefly explain this theory.

Key Thinker:
Explanation:

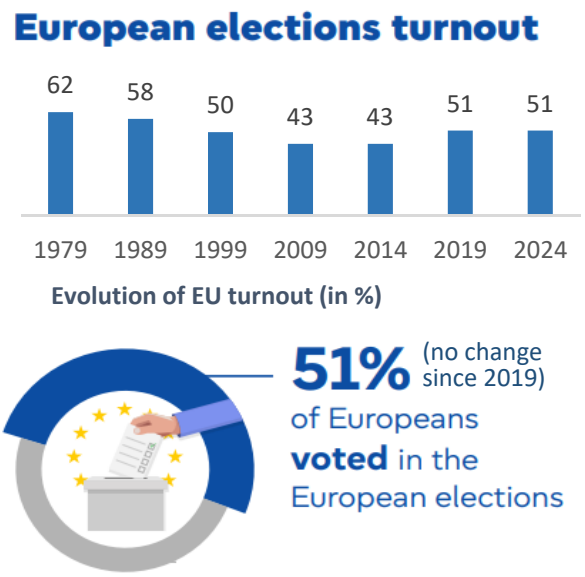
Section B	Data-based Questions	150 marks

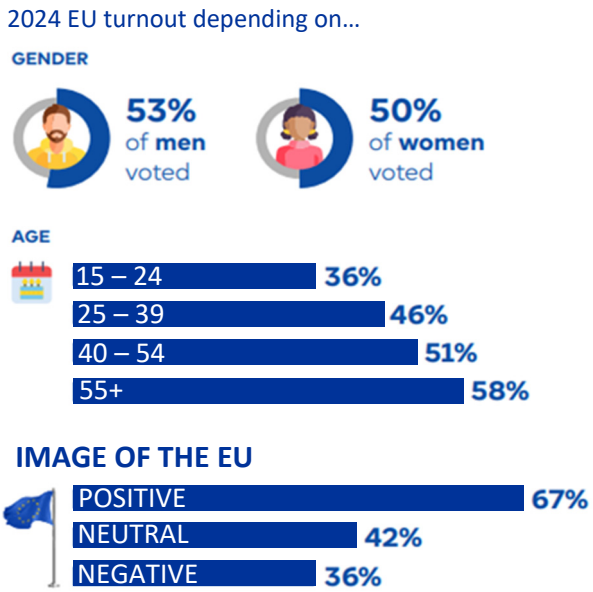
Answer **all** questions in this section. Answer in the space provided.

Document A: Adapted from EU Post-electoral survey 2024

The European Parliament's 2024 post-electoral Eurobarometer looks at citizens' voting behaviour in the recent European elections, at the main issues driving citizens' voting decisions and at their attitudes towards the EU and the European Parliament.

Cost of living is citizens' main concern at the start of the new legislature: Rising prices and the cost of living (42%) and the economic situation (41%) are the main topics that motivated European citizens to vote in the last European elections in June 2024. A third of voters (34%) say that the international situation is a topic that encouraged them to vote, while a similar proportion mentions defending democracy and the rule of law (32%). Those who did not vote also say the cost of living (46%) and the economic situation (36%) could have motivated them to participate in the elections.





European elections - a democratic habit: The study also suggests that voting in European elections has become a democratic habit for many citizens. Asked why they voted, 46% of voters say they always do, while 42% say it is their duty as citizens, and 20% say they want to support the political party they feel close to.

Background: The European Parliament's post-electoral Eurobarometer survey was carried out by Verian research agency between 13 June and 8 July 2024 in all 27 EU Member States. The survey was conducted face-to-face, with video interviews (CAVI) used additionally in Czechia, Denmark, Finland and Malta. 26,349 interviews were conducted in total. EU results were weighted according to the size of the population in each country.

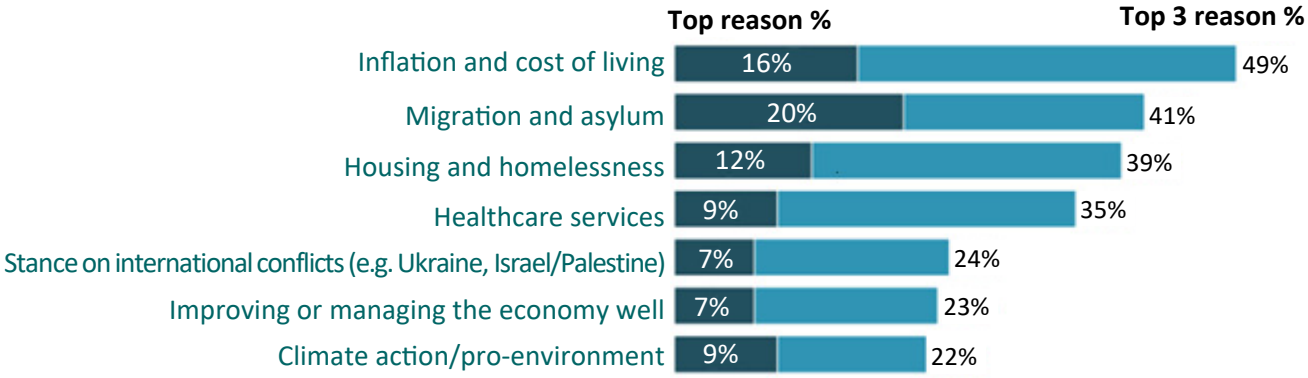
https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3292 -Adapted

Document B: Adapted from Post Local & European Elections Study - Data Report 2024

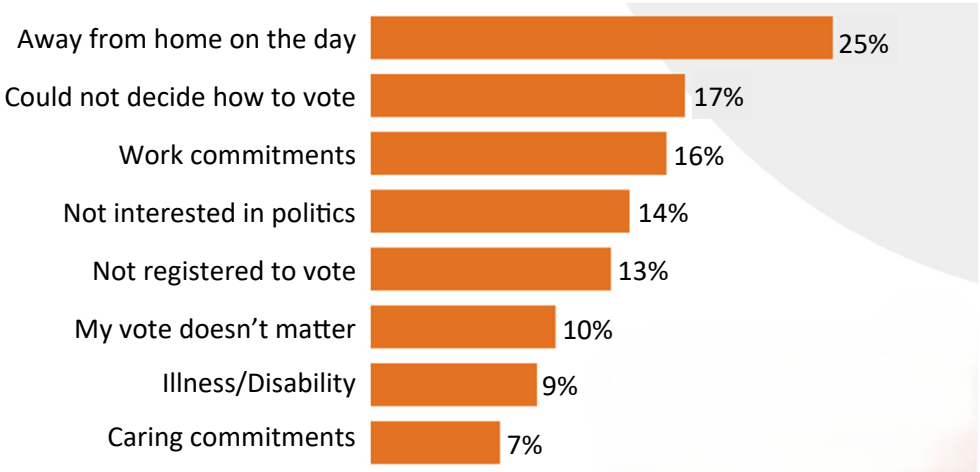
RED C conducted a comprehensive nationally representative survey after the local and European elections in June 2024.

1. The survey was designed to be representative of all adults in Ireland who are eligible to vote.
2. The survey was conducted in the week following the elections on 7 June.
3. An Coimisiún Toghcháin also requested a breakdown of the questions regarding experience and satisfaction specifically for respondents with disabilities in line with its post electoral event review function under Section 68 of the Electoral Reform Act 2022.

Importance of voter issues in European Elections



Reasons for not voting in European Elections



Methodology:
Research was conducted online using RED C's bespoke online platform RED C Live.

- Through an online panel of over 45,000 members, RED C Live allows us to reach a representative sample of the adult population 18+ across Ireland in a cost effective and timely manner.
- Quota controls were used to ensure a nationally representative sample of ROI adults.
- Data was weighted across gender, age, region and social class so as to ensure a nationally representative sample based on latest CSO projections.

https://www.neds.ie/reports/NEDS-2024-local-european-elections-report.pdf -Adapted

Question 2 **(150 marks)**

(a) Based on the evidence in **Document A**, what reasons did people give for voting in EU elections?

(b) Referring to **Document B**, comment on the reasons Irish adults gave for not voting in the EU elections.

(c) Comment on the European election turnout of 51% in **Document A**.

(d) Critique the methodology employed in **Document B**.

(e) Based on the evidence in **both** documents, what concerns of Irish voters are common across the EU?

(f) Evaluate the relevance of the data in **both** documents to EU policy and decision-makers.

(g) Using the information in both documents and the statement below, what conclusions can we draw about the importance of citizen participation in the context of the social contract?

'Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.'

Reinhold Niebuhr

https://artpictures.club/autumn-2023.html

Optional space to help you prepare your answer

Answer

Section C	Discursive Essays	200 marks

Answer two questions from 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

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

Critically assess if increasing inequality poses a threat to the functioning of democracies around the world.

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

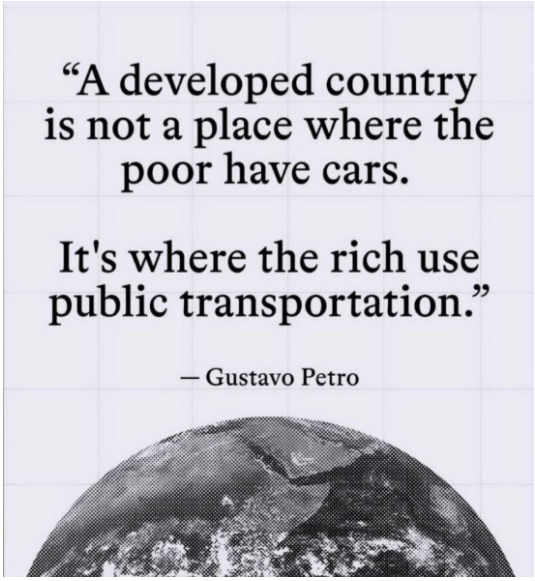
OR

Question 3(b) **(100 marks)**

Critically analyse if the right to protest is essential in a democracy and whether it supports democratic principles.

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

Question 4 **(100 marks)**



Discuss this statement from Gustavo Petro in the context of sustainable development.

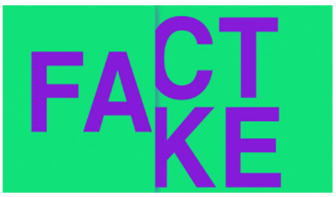
[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence such as COP 29 or other relevant national or international agreements to support your argument. You should also refer to the ideas of at least one theorist named on your course.]

https://al.linkedin.com/in/herjon-muca-267a5b139

Question 5 **(100 marks)**

"A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." - Mark Twain.

Discuss the impact of misinformation and disinformation through the use of new media in the modern world.



https://www.dictionary.com/

[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence from a local and/or global context to support your argument. You should also refer to the ideas of at least one theorist named on your course.]

Question 6 **(100 marks)**

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/62176590

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*, 1994.

Critically assess Paulo Freire's theory of education as a revolutionary act that can bring about social change.

[Your answer should include contemporary examples and evidence from a local and/or global context to support your argument. You should also refer to the ideas of at least one other theorist.]

Question 7 **(100 marks)**

"Nationalism of one kind or another was the cause of most of the genocide of the twentieth century. Flags are bits of coloured cloth that governments use first to shrink-wrap people's minds and then as ceremonial shrouds to bury the dead." - Arundhati Roy, *War Talk*, 2003.

https://www.abc.net.au/13337816

Discuss the rise of Nationalism in the contemporary world in the context of Benedict Anderson's theory of *Imagined Communities*.

[Your answer should include examples from a national and/or international context and make reference to at least one other key theorist.]

Section C – Answer to Question ___

Optional space to help you prepare your answer.

Answer

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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.

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Politics and Society

Tuesday 24 June

Morning 9:30 - 12:00