



WESTMINSTER
SCHOOL

The Challenge (Core)

Specimen Paper First Examination 2027

GENERAL

Time: 60 minutes

PART A

Read the text and answer the questions which follow, in around 25 minutes.

'The use of digital platforms and AI systems is driving profound changes in public and political communication. Tools that could foster dialogue and participation are often used to construct distorted narratives and blur the boundaries between truth and falsehood, mixing facts with opinions. Disinformation did not begin with AI, yet today it finds a powerful amplifier in AI. The ability to manipulate content, images and videos exposes people to biased or misleading perspectives. This problem has both cultural and moral dimensions, since the quality of public communication depends directly on social trust and, in turn, shapes it. At the same time, truthful information does not arise from centralized or automated control. In public discourse, the truth of facts has a rational dimension, as it requires verification, cross-checking of sources and responsible argumentation. Moreover, it is deeply relational, built through bonds of trust and shared practices, as well as an honest exchange with others and with the world. Only the shared pursuit of the authenticity of facts, perceived as a common good, can provide a solid foundation for just communication.

Those who command powerful technological and economic resources, along with substantial human capital for intervention, possess significant capabilities for influencing cultural change. Ultimately, they can influence a significant number of people concerning the truth about humanity, the world, the meaning of existence, the family and even God. This is pure power detached from truth, which subtly or overtly imposes what it wishes others to accept as true. At its root lies a deeper and often unrecognized "sickness": the fact that "modern man is wrongly convinced that he is the sole author of himself, his life and society. This is a presumption that follows from being selfishly closed in upon himself." Consequently, people believe that they can construct reality, and that whatever best suits their claims corresponds to what is true.'

An extract of Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* ('Magnificent Humanity'), published on 25 May 2026. An encyclical is a general letter from the Pope on spiritual matters, addressed to all the faithful.

1. Summarise Pope Leo's argument in fewer than 75 words. **[10]**
2. How might we decide what is 'true' in a world shaped by AI? Explain your answer using your own ideas and knowledge, together with the text above. Write about half a side, in a single paragraph. **[15]**

PART B

Answer ONE of the following essay questions in around 35 minutes. You will be rewarded for the clarity of your thinking and writing.

1. Can violent protest against politicians and their policies ever be justified? **[25]**

2. What should a good museum do? **[25]**

3. Is it worse to be cruel to a dog than to a spider? **[25]**