



WESTMINSTER
SCHOOL

The Challenge (Specialism)

Specimen Paper First Examination 2027

HUMANITIES

Time: 60 minutes

Instructions to candidates:

- You should have two booklets: this booklet for Sections A and B, and a second booklet for Section C (the essay question).
- You have ONE HOUR for both sections.
- You should spend 30 minutes on **Section A and B**.
- You should spend 30 minutes on **Section C**.
- Answer **ALL** the questions in Section A and B, and **ONE** essay from Section C.
- You **DO NOT** need prior knowledge to answer these questions.
- Write in black or blue ink.

SECTION A

The three Enlightenment sources reflect key ideas that emerged during the eighteenth century, a period characterised by a growing emphasis on reason, individual rights, and challenges to traditional authority. Although each source presents a different perspective, together they illustrate how Enlightenment thinkers sought to apply rational thought to society, government, and human progress. Examining these sources in their historical context helps reveal the influence of Enlightenment principles on political and social change. Read the following sources before answering the questions below.

Source A: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (1651)

Before governments existed, people lived in what I call a "state of nature." In this condition, there was no common authority to make rules or keep order. People naturally desired the same things and feared for their own safety. As a result, they often came into conflict with one another.

Without a strong ruler, life would be full of fear and danger. No one could be sure that their property or even their life was safe. In such conditions, there would be little farming, trade, learning, or progress because people would spend their time protecting themselves.

To escape this situation, people agree to give power to a government. The ruler must be strong enough to enforce laws and keep peace. Even if people do not always like the ruler's decisions, order is better than chaos.

Source B: John Locke, Two Treatises of Government (1689)

All people are naturally free and equal. No person is born with the right to rule over another. Human beings have natural rights, including the rights to life, liberty, and property.

Governments are created by the consent of the people. People agree to obey laws because governments help protect their rights. A government that protects freedom is useful and necessary.

However, if a ruler takes away people's rights or governs without their consent, the people have the right to resist. Government exists to serve the people, not the other way around. Political authority is only legitimate when it protects natural rights.

Source C: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (1762)

Human beings are naturally good, but society often corrupts them. Inequality and selfishness grow when some people gain power and wealth over others.

A truly just society is one in which citizens work together to make laws for the common good. The law should express the general will of the people rather than the wishes of a king or a small group.

Citizens should obey laws that they have helped create. When laws reflect the interests of the whole community, people remain free even while following them. Freedom is not simply doing whatever you want; it is participating in making the rules that govern society.

Having read the three sources, answer the following questions:

Section 1: Multiple Choice Questions – circle the correct answer clearly. Answer ALL of these questions

1. According to Hobbes, why do conflicts occur in the state of nature?

- A. People are naturally generous and cooperative.
- B. People compete for what they want and fear for their safety.
- C. Governments encourage conflict.
- D. Trade causes disagreements.

2. What does Hobbes believe is necessary to maintain peace?

- A. Strong government authority
- B. Equal wealth for all citizens
- C. Religious unity
- D. Frequent elections

3. According to Locke, all people are naturally:

- A. Wealthy and educated
- B. Good and kind
- C. Free and equal
- D. Subjects of a king

4. Which rights does Locke describe as natural rights?

- A. Voting, education and religion
- B. Life, liberty and property
- C. Wealth, power and status
- D. Speech, assembly and travel

5. According to Locke, when are people justified in resisting a government?

- A. Whenever taxes increase
- B. When rulers remove people's rights
- C. During economic hardship
- D. Never

6. Rousseau argues that human beings are naturally:

- A. Violent
- B. Selfish
- C. Good
- D. Ambitious

7. According to Rousseau, laws should represent:

- A. The wishes of kings
- B. Religious leaders
- C. The wealthiest citizens
- D. The general will of the people

8. Which thinker places the greatest emphasis on a powerful ruler?

- A. Locke
- B. Rousseau
- C. Hobbes
- D. Montesquieu

9. Which thinker most clearly supports the right of citizens to remove a government?

- A. Hobbes
- B. Locke
- C. Rousseau
- D. None of them

10. Which statement would Rousseau most likely agree with?

- A. Citizens should obey any ruler.
- B. Freedom means having no laws.
- C. Citizens are free when they help make the laws.
- D. Property is the most important right

