

Exam Question Overview

Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies

SAMS	Specimen	2018	2019
Study Source D in the Sources Booklet about the Human Rights Act. Then answer the questions that follow. 7a) Which of the following does Julian Huppert believe? [1] ☐ A The Human Rights Act was badly written. ☐ B People don't understand the importance of the Human Rights Act. ☐ C The Human Rights Act has given too much power to Parliament. ☐ D Fewer people go to prison because of the Human Rights Act. 7b) Which of the following does Bill Cash believe? [1] ☐ A Judges do not properly understand the Human Rights Act. ☐ B The Human Rights Act should be amended. ☐ C The Human Rights Act is being misused. ☐ D If you go to prison, you should lose all your rights. 7c) Analyse the sources to identify two views that the writers agree about. [2] 7d) Which writer do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the arguments made in both sources. [12] 8) 'Central government is wrong to cut funding to local councils as it forces them to make cuts to necessary and popular services.' How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered other points of view.[15] In your answer, you could consider: - central government and the funding of local councils - the services that local councils provide.	Study the Sources Booklet about the denial of the right for 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the EU referendum 2016. Then answer the questions which follow. 7a) Which of the following does Ebby Ferguson believe? [1] ☐ A Making political decisions is a burden for all. ☐ B The EU referendum is one of many major decisions made by the public. ☐ C If 16 and 17 year olds voted in the referendum the outcome would be less certain. ☐ D Politically active citizens are vital to a healthy democracy. 7b) Which of the following does Julia Hartley-Brewer believe? [1] ☐ A There are too many pressures currently on 16 and 17 year olds. ☐ B Alcohol and smoking are the key problems with 16 and 17 year olds. ☐ C Encouraging participation amongst existing voters is vital. ☐ D Over 18s should be forced to vote. 7c) Analyse the sources to identify two views that the writers agree about. [2] 7d) Which writer do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the arguments made in both sources. [12] 8) As the UK population steadily ages, we will have to ration health services for those aged over 65. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered other points of view. [15] In your answer, you could consider: - the changing composition of the UK population in terms of age - how governments and other service providers make provision for health services.	Study Source D in the Source Booklet about the request made to Parliament to bomb targets inside Syria. Then answer the questions that follow. 7a) Which of the following does Johnny Mercer believe? [1] ☐ A National security is not an essential concern in this debate. ☐ B Extremists need to be made more aware of our way of life. ☐ C MPs should vote as their constituents wish. ☐ D Military force is necessary in the world we currently live in. 7b) Which of the following does Alex Salmond believe? [1] ☐ A Spending money on bombing always produces successful results. ☐ B UK involvement will make a major difference to the outcome. ☐ C We should not be drawn into a conflict without a definite strategy. ☐ D It is impossible to stop people being radicalised. 7c) Analyse the source to identify two views that the writers agree about. [2] 7d) Which writer do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the arguments made in both parts of the source. [12] 8) Law in the UK does not keep up with changing attitudes, values and beliefs, nor does it reflect the changing composition of the UK population. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered other points of view.[15] In your answer, you could consider: - The role of law in everyday life in dealing with complex problems - The changing UK population	Study Source D in the Sources Booklet. It asks 'Should prisons make prisoners work?' Then answer the questions which follow. 7a) Which one of the following does Sarah Shemkus believe? [1] ☐ A It is highly unlikely that prison offenders will ever get a job. ☐ B It is better for the economy to use the cheap labour available in prisons. ☐ C Prisoners cannot do complex technical tasks that a modern economy requires. ☐ D If offenders work in prison they acquire a range of skills 7b) Which one of the following does Helen Brown Coverdale believe? [1] ☐ A Defendants have to play a role alongside offenders in rehabilitation ☐ B Prisoners will always riot no matter what changes are made. ☐ C Prisoners must be treated far more thoughtfully as individuals. ☐ D The state is not responding to the current high levels of crime. 7c) Analyse Source D to identify two views on which both writers agree. [2] 7d) Which writer do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to both the arguments made in Source D. [12] 8) Devolution has led to many UK residents believing that they are citizens of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland rather than citizens of the UK. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered other points of view.[15] In your answer, you could consider: - Identity - Government in the constituent parts of the UK.

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2020	2021	2022	2023
Study Source D in the Source Booklet which considers whether austerity has worked, and then answer the questions below. 7a) Which one of the following does Philip Hammond believe? [1] ☐ A Austerity helps the poorest in society. ☐ B Taxes have to rise sharply to end austerity. ☐ C Low taxes will harm industry and business. ☐ D Austerity was needed to reduce the debt 7b) Which one of the following does Jeremy Corbyn believe? [1] ☐ A Spending on the health service caused the financial crash ☐ B Overall living standards have not been affected by austerity. ☐ C Pay has risen at a faster rate for the higher-paid people in the UK. ☐ D The level of health spending is higher in the UK than Europe. 7c) Analyse Source D to identify two views that the writers agree about. [2] 7d) Which writer do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the arguments made in Source D. [12] 8) 'Governments inevitably restrict citizens' freedoms when they tackle terrorism.' How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered different views on the topic.[15] In your answer, you could consider: • Rights, duties and values that underpin democracy • Principles and sources of law.	Study Source D in the Source Booklet. Then answer the questions that follow. 7a) Which one of the following does the South Wales Police Force believe? [1] ☐ A The law permits them to use AFR technology ☐ B A citizen's private life is of no concern to the police ☐ C CCTV works better on the streets than at public events ☐ D There is an even balance between privacy and freedom of information 7b) Which one of the following does Liberty believe? [1] ☐ A Privacy in public places has always been limited ☐ B Inaccuracy is not a problem with current technology ☐ C AFR's benefit is overestimated ☐ D Criminals will always evade being caught 7c) Analyse the source to identify two areas on which there is agreement. [2] 7d) Which views do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the differing arguments made in both parts of the source. [12] 8) Discrimination has now been successfully eliminated in the UK. How far do you agree with this opinion? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered different views on the topic.[15] In your answer, you could consider: • Respect and understanding • The role of law in everyday life in dealing with complex problems	Study Source D in the Source Booklet. Then answer parts (a) to (d). 7a) Which one of these is believed by those who favour removing statues? [1] ☐ A The slave trade is now long forgotten and is not a current concern ☐ B We have to keep all statues as they reflect a multicultural society ☐ C Statues may be regarded by some people as a sign of past injustice ☐ D Our streets and squares are ideal places to display heritage statues 7b) Which one of these is believed by those who favour keeping statues? [1] ☐ A The public play no part in selecting and asking for new statues ☐ B Celebrating events from the past with statues should be avoided ☐ C Statues of fictional characters are the best examples of our history ☐ D Keeping statues of former leaders helps society remember its past 7c) Analyse the source to identify two areas on which there is agreement. [2] 7d) Which view do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the differing arguments made in both parts of the source. [12] 8) Devolution in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland has caused rights, duties, services and identities to differ for citizens across the UK. How far do you agree with this opinion? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered different views on the topic.[15] In your answer, you could consider: • the constitution and government in constituent parts of the UK • identity and the rights, duties and values that underpin democracy	Study Source D in the Source Booklet. Then answer parts (a) to (d). 7a) Which one of these is believed by Peter Tatchell? [1] ☐ A General elections tend to encourage violent law-breaking ☐ B Some groups in society break the law in order to achieve change ☐ C Human rights are no longer of major importance in today's society ☐ D All political parties keep the promises that they make 7b) Which one of these is believed by Dominic Grieve? [1] ☐ A Groups with competing rights or opposing views always break the law ☐ B The law cannot protect us all – some people will be injured ☐ C Leaders are failing to make decisions on key issues in society ☐ D Those who break the law are often selfish in their actions 7c) Analyse the source to identify two areas on which there is agreement. [2] 7d) Which view do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the differing arguments made in both parts of the source. [12] 8) Taxes must be increased by local and national government to provide essential public services. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered different views on the topic.[15] In your answer, you could consider: • paying for local services • taxation and government spending



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2024

Study Source D in the Source Booklet. Then answer parts (a) to (d).

7a) Which **one** of these is believed by Tony Blair? [1]

- ☐ **A** Northern Ireland was too troublesome to be granted devolution.
- ☐ **B** Scotland was unsure about accepting devolution.
- ☐ **C** Support for Welsh devolution has grown since it was introduced.
- ☐ **D** The Mayor of London has too much power.

7b) Which **one** of these is believed by the Institute for Government? [1]

- ☐ **A** Devolution was long overdue for Scotland.
- ☐ **B** Wales is too small an area for devolution.
- ☐ **C** Community divisions are no longer a problem in Northern Ireland.
- ☐ **D** Devolution operates in an uneven manner across the UK.

7c) Analyse the source to identify **two** areas on which there is agreement. [2]

7d) Which view do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the differing arguments made in both parts of the source. [12]

8) The ages at which people become legally responsible- such as to drive, to marry, to work and to vote – need to be increased. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing you have considered different views on the topic.[15]

In your answer, you could consider:

- rights, duties and values that underpin democracy
- the role of law in everyday life in dealing with complex problems.

2025

Study Source D in the Source Booklet. Then answer parts (a) to (d).

7a) Which **one** of the following is believed by those who say 'Yes' privacy is secure? [1]

- ☐ **A** The common law acts to uphold and secure many aspects of our privacy
- ☐ **B** Over time there have become too many laws dealing with privacy.
- ☐ **C** Monitoring phone calls and letters is acceptable if they reveal vital information.
- ☐ **D** The Human Rights Act no longer applies now we have left the EU.

7b) Which **one** of the following is believed by those who say 'No' it is not possible or desirable to secure our privacy? [1]

- ☐ **A** Governments have no power to remove an individual's right to privacy.
- ☐ **B** Protecting an individual's right to privacy is no longer possible or practical.
- ☐ **C** An individual's right to privacy must never be sacrificed or handed over.
- ☐ **D** There is no limit to any persons right to privacy in any area of life.

7c) Analyse the sources to identify **two** areas on which there is agreement. [2]

7d) Which view do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the differing arguments made in both parts of the source. [12]

8) Local government and central government are both failing to provide adequate services such as welfare, health, care of the elderly and education. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered different views on the topic.[15]

In your answer, you could consider:

- Citizens and local government
- Taxation and government spending.

2026

Study Source D in the Source Booklet. Then answer parts (a) to (d).

7a) Which one of the following does Kelsey Mohamed believe [1]

- ☐ **A** Prison sentences on violent crime must be increased immediately.
- ☐ **B** Reform of prisons is the most important action required to lower crime levels.
- ☐ **C** Many senior figures in society avoid imprisonment and escape justice.
- ☐ **D** Many prisons are now full of serial killers and multiple murderers.

7b) Which one of the following does Andrew Neilson believe [1]

- ☐ **A** It is apparent that many prisons have become like 'holiday camps'.
- ☐ **B** Community sentencing has lowered the numbers sent to prison.
- ☐ **C** The media and government campaign for the abolition of prisons.
- ☐ **D** Society could not cope with violent prisoners being released.

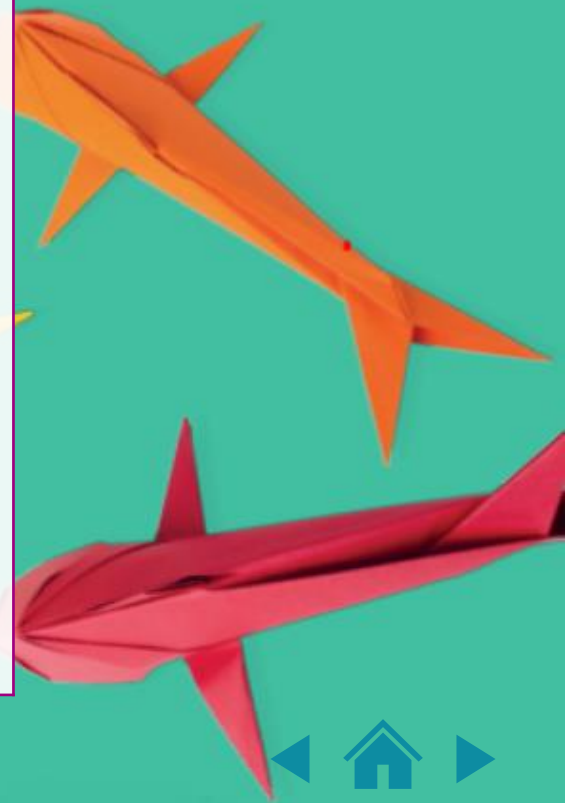
7c) Analyse both parts of the source to identify two areas on which there is agreement. [2]

7d) Which view do you agree with more? Explain your answer, referring to the differing arguments made in both parts of the source.. [12]

8) With record numbers of older citizens, the state must now limit welfare and health services for the elderly. How far do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your opinion, showing that you have considered different views on the topic.[15]

In your answer, you could consider:

- the changing UK population
- taxation and government spending.



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Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

SAMS – Source D

Should we scrap the Human Rights Act?

Julian Huppert says NO

Which rights do critics of the Human Rights Act (HRA) object to? Is it the right to life? The right to freedom of thought, religion and belief? The right to free elections? The rights protected in the HRA come directly from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The ECHR was written mainly by British lawyers and adopted by the Council of Europe. The ECHR was a great achievement, and it would send a terrible message to our European allies and to the rest of the world if we withdrew from it.

The chief argument used to introduce the HRA wasn't based on the proud British principles that many of us would have liked but it was a practical piece of legislation: it was designed to avoid costly trips to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg every time someone wanted to challenge a law that they believed was damaging their rights. Scrapping the Act would bring back that expense, and result in more decisions about Britain being made in Strasbourg, rather than by our own judges. The error made with the Act was failing to explain its benefits. The HRA has had a huge impact on our politics. It has acted as a reminder of the need to strike a balance between freedom and security, and to preserve the freedoms that grew up naturally as a result of our common law.

Julian Huppert was the Liberal Democrat MP for Cambridge 2010–2015.

Bill Cash MP says yes

Last year, over 300 foreign prisoners – including killers – successfully avoided being sent back to their home countries by the Home Office after claiming they have a human right to a 'family life' in Britain, under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. The badly worded and outdated ECHR, as understood through the Act, has interfered with press freedom and privacy law, among other difficulties.

The HRA undermines the best traditions of British freedoms where Parliament was in charge. We had to abandon measures for restricting the movements of terrorist suspects because we had tied the hands of Parliament under the terms of the HRA and the ECHR. To govern the British people on our own terms, we must repeal the Act. I am all for a Bill of Rights: this must give the priority to Westminster to decide what happens. We must have British law for British judges if we are truly to defend and govern the British people.

Bill Cash is the Conservative MP for Stone.

Source D adapted from: www.totalpolitics.com

Specimen paper – Source D

Should 16 and 17 year olds have been allowed to vote in the EU referendum?

Ebbi Ferguson says Yes

Living in a democracy is a balance between appreciating both rights and responsibilities. The right to vote has been a hard won battle for citizens of the UK. Being allowed to vote in the referendum would have inspired 16 and 17 year olds to be more politically active; instead they are being excluded completely. All citizens using their political voice is vital to make democracy work. Participation matters.

At age 16 people can work, pay taxes, leave home, get married, join the armed forces and make other crucial decisions about their futures – but they do not get a say in how our country is run.

I am beyond disappointed that 16 and 17 year olds have been denied the right to vote in the European referendum. What is more, the outcome of the referendum matters more to this age range than any other age group; their input is vital and important in shaping the outcome. As young people, we are often told we need to take responsibility for our futures. How are we supposed to do so if our decisionmaking powers are stripped from us? How are we to develop as engaged citizens if we are continually sidelined when faced with the biggest political decisions of our age? It is only by being involved and participating that we create the active citizens which a democracy needs.

Ebbi Ferguson is the NUS Wales Deputy President.

Julia Hartley-Brewer says NO

If we want to encourage 16 and 17 year olds to engage with the political process, then we need to do more than give them new rights; they need to start understanding about their responsibilities too. Decision making does empower people but it is too soon at this age.

Wouldn't our democracy be better served if we spent more time, effort and resources on engaging the people who already have the right to vote. It is vital for democracy to get all citizens participating in politics.

In actual fact, we don't allow our 16 and 17 year olds to do very much at all. They can't legally drink alcohol or smoke. 16 year olds are allowed to get married, but only with the permission of their parents so that doesn't really count either. They can join the army at 16 but they aren't allowed to risk life and limb fighting on the front line until they are 18. They can get a job and pay income tax but the law now requires them to be in full-time education or training until they're 18. Voting is, after all, not a privilege like getting pocket money or being allowed to stay out past your usual curfew on a Saturday night. It's a right and a hard-won right at that. There is absolutely nothing wrong in making people wait until they're 18 to vote.

Julia Hartley-Brewer is a columnist in The Daily Telegraph.

Source D <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/nus-is-disappointed-mps-have-blocked-the-move-to-let-16-and-17-year-olds-vote-in-the-eu-referendum/>

2018 – Source D

Should Parliament approve the UK bombing targets in Syria?

Johnny Mercer Conservative MP for Plymouth Moor View says YES

We are under threat from a group of individuals who seek to destroy our very way of life. In this country, we must accept some uncomfortable truths. There are some, thankfully few, who trade on man's inhumanity to man. They use fear of religion and violence to promote their own self-interest and power. The so-called religion they proclaim is far removed from Islam, a religion of peace, and from any Muslims I have ever known.

The serious challenge is that this group will never be reconciled to the peaceful, democratic, equal society that they hate so much. They want to die. They want to kill all those who do not conform.

Until they are killed they will not abandon their goals. Military action is therefore a necessary part of national security.

Finally, I respect and to an extent understand those who disagree with me. However, this action is absolutely necessary: we must do all we can to keep our people safe. A part of that involves foreign military engagement. I am not prepared to say to my constituents that I was fully aware of the threat that we face, but was not prepared to vote to protect them.

Alex Salmond former Scottish National Party MP for Gordon says NO

This debate has stirred great passions on either side of the argument. I accept that there are genuine and honest views held by other politicians. However, we are being asked to intervene in a bloody civil war of huge complexity without a clear plan and no indication that we are going to make a difference.

It is impossible to engage in a bombing campaign in Syria without there being civilian casualties.

We have spent 13 times as much on bombing Libya as we did on rebuilding that country, and now the country is in total disarray. We must consider what else can be done. The claims and actions of the so-called Islamic State go against the principles of the great religion of Islam. Much more can be done by destroying their internet operations. For the cost of one fast smart bomb, we could pay a whole squadron of people to take down their websites. This would stop the contamination of the minds of young people across the world. Crucially, we need to interrupt the financial resources of this evil cult, without which they could not function.

Source D adapted from: © Parliamentary Copyright



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Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

2019 – Source D

Should prisons make prisoners work?

Two commentators have expressed differing views:

Sarah Shemkus says YES

UK prisons should copy the example of the US where 88% of inmates participate in productive prison work. Prisoners run laundry rooms and kitchens, transcribe textbooks into Braille and build desks. They can also be found moulding dentures, grinding lenses for glasses, upholstering chairs as well as more skilled and complex work such as computer coding.

We need prisons to protect the public but they can do much more. Supporters say the training they offer is essential for preparing prisoners to succeed in life after release. Such training includes improving literacy skills. These programmes produce goods and services that are often sold to outside customers, such as government agencies and schools.

Advocates of these programs believe working while in prison can teach inmates technical and also transferable skills. Work keeps prisoners busy and less likely to cause problems inside. Many offenders have never had a legal job. So they need to learn the basics such as showing up on time, listening to a supervisor and working as part of a team. The advantage of this is that prisoners pay back to society and to the individuals they harmed when they committed their crimes. In addition many US states note that prisoners who participate fully in work are less likely to reoffend following release. That is a core aim of prison, to reintegrate them into society.

Helen Brown Coverdale says NO

Making all prisoners work will not make prison work. US work programmes often verge on enslavement, with inmates paid little or no wages. Often the tasks they are given are unmatched to their skills, interests and ambitions. Prisoners at work are often denied the health and safety benefits and protections a civilian job would provide. It is not work in a real context. Work is not the answer to the crisis in the prison system in England and Wales. Work will not solve increases in unrest, riots and escapes. It will not put a stop to prisoner assaults on staff and prisoners, as well as prisoner self-harm and suicide.

Almost 100 years ago, Prison Commissioner Alexander Paterson argued that people are sent to prison as punishment, not for punishment. The purpose of prison is to protect the public, reform and rehabilitate offenders. It also prepares prisoners for life outside prison and to maintain an environment that is safe and secure. We do need prisoners to play a full part in society but forcing them into hard work will not achieve this. We need a wider solution for them not to reoffend.

We must not lose sight of prisoners as people, with pasts and presents. They also have families and futures. For them - just as much as victims and society - we must remember how to care.

Sources: *Beyond cheap labor: can prison work programs benefit inmates?* By Sarah Shemkus © Guardian News and Media Ltd December 2015

Helen Brown Coverdale <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/prison-doesnt-work-why-dont-we-care/>

2020 – Source D

Has austerity worked?

'Austerity' means government cuts back on spending nationally and locally, reducing services and benefits. Philip Hammond for the Conservative Party praised the austerity process and Jeremy Corbyn responded for the Labour Party. This exchange took place in October 2018.

Philip Hammond, Conservative MP for Runnymede and Weybridge – the case for austerity

Thanks to the determination of the British people, the era of austerity has worked and is finally coming to an end. The period of austerity has been difficult but necessary in order to reduce our debt. Now we can see pay rising fairly for all workers in our recovering economy. The proportion of low-paid jobs is at its lowest since 1997 with regular pay growth at 3.1%, its strongest in a decade. We have faced the biggest economic challenge since the 1930s. Furthermore, it was an international challenge all countries faced. It is only by dealing with our debts that we can move forward, carrying it out was necessary for survival. Ending austerity does not involve increasing people's tax bills.

I did not come into politics to put taxes up. That is the clear dividing line in British politics today: between a Conservative Government delivering on key priorities, supporting our public services, investing and keeping taxes low and now thankfully getting our debt down; or the Labour Party, whose idea of ending austerity is to raise taxes to their highest level ever, which would send our debt soaring, wasting the hard-won achievements of the past eight years.

Response by Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North – the case against austerity

Austerity is not over, it continues to damage our economy. It has delayed and weakened the recovery, without repaying the debt: it has failed. It has caused real hardship to millions and held down living standards for the majority. Debt has to be paid off, but it has to be done fairly. The Government claim that austerity has worked, so now they can end it, but that is absolutely the opposite of the truth. This is not a strong economy but a weak one, with low investment, low wages and low productivity. The UK economy is still in recession.

The Conservatives have wrongly argued that the last Labour Government crashed the economy by overspending on public services—as if investing to bring health spending up to European levels, as the last Labour Government did, was a fault. We faced a global financial crash, but we still need to levy taxes to pay for essential services, and wealthy sections of our society can meet this need. The gap between those at the top and the rest is growing. The pay of the bosses of our biggest companies rose by 11% this year. They are paying themselves 145 times more than the workers in their companies. This Government are harsh on the weak, and feeble with the strong.

Source: *adapted from government's budget of 2018: © Parliamentary Copyright*

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Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

2021 – Source D

Closed-circuit television and automated facial recognition cameras are praised by some and feared by others. Some infer that they breach our human rights. However, others claim the authorities have a right to know and there should be freedom of information to protect the public.

Yes – facial recognition cameras prevent crime and protect the public, say South Wales Police Force.

Automated facial recognition technology (AFR) maps faces in a crowd and then compares them with a watch list of images of suspects, missing people and persons of interest to the police. South Wales Police Force believe this can be useful for the prevention of crime, the apprehension of offenders and the protection of the public. They imply that freedom of information is far more important than any right to privacy. Approaches to dealing with and preventing crime have to be reviewed and updated.

The cameras in the South Wales trial project scan faces in large crowds in public places such as streets, shopping centres, football crowds and music events. Police believe they have the power to use visual imagery for the 'prevention and detection of crime' as long as they adhere to data protection rules and have a code of practice for the management of information. South Wales Police Force believe neither Article 8 of the Human Rights Act – which enshrines rights around private life – nor the Data Protection Act is breached by the use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) or AFR cameras.

AFR was used at an anti-arms trade protest in Cardiff in 2018; a woman had made a bomb threat at the same event in 2017 and was therefore on a watch list. It's of obvious value for the police to know whether that person is there so that if another bomb threat is made, they can deal with it accordingly. Using technology saves valuable police time and the procedure is constantly improving. However the Court of Appeal in August 2020 rejected their claim.

Source from: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/may/22/facial-recognition-prevents-crime-police-tell-uk-privacy-case>



(Source: VectorStory/Getty Images)

No – we don't want more CCTV cameras and automated facial recognition, say pressure group Liberty.

The pressure group Liberty has denounced automatic facial recognition (AFR) as 'poison in the water supply of democracy'. It could abolish privacy in public places. It could mean that there was nowhere in any city anyone could walk with their face uncovered without being potentially visible to the police.

Liberty argues that the use of AFR technology is grossly disproportionate to its crimefighting benefits. Its use has already been banned in San Francisco. Using it even more widely will create a surveillance state – as is emerging in China. We would see our democracy and human rights vanish literally before our very eyes. We have to consider new methods of dealing with crime as new techniques become available – but these must be reviewed. One of the arguments against the police's deployment of the technology is that it doesn't yet work very well, especially when used against people of colour. But inaccuracy may no longer be the most pressing problem as technology constantly improves. Anyone who unlocks their phone or laptop by pointing the camera at their own face already trusts it to work well enough.

Once the technology is overwhelmingly reliable, the fearsome world of government surveillance foreseen by Liberty will have become a reality.

Source from: *The Observer*, Sunday 9th June 2019 at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/09/the-guardian-view-on-facial>



(Source: kuzmaphoto/Shutterstock)



(© Shonagh Rae/Financial Times)

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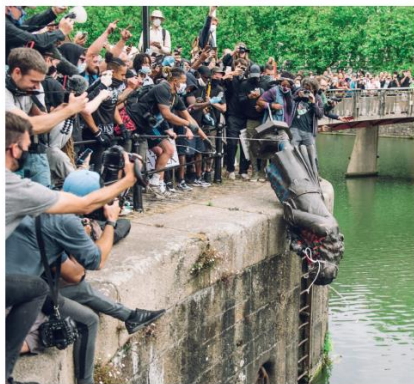
2022 – Source D

Should we keep statues which commemorate our past or remove them?

Yes – statues should be removed if attitudes change

In the summer of 2020, a group of people illegally toppled the statue of 17th century slaveowner, Edward Colston, into the harbour in Bristol (pictured). It took place during the Black Lives Matter protests. Edward Colston had been involved in the slave trade and many thought the statue was an insult to former slaves. We must learn more about our past. However, when we discover truths and values at odds with what we believe today, then it is wrong to retain the statues: they depict people and events we no longer wish to celebrate and identify with. However, removal should be with agreement and not done illegally.

When the harsh regimes of Eastern Europe fell, so did the statues of Marx and Stalin. When the dictator Saddam Hussein fell from power, the people of Iraq gladly toppled his statue (pictured) as a symbol of ending former oppression. There is controversy over Cecil Rhodes' statue in Oxford – Rhodes enslaved millions of Africans on their own land for the benefit of white settlers – and arguments continue over the statue of Confederate leader, Jefferson Davis in Virginia, USA who supported white people having black slaves. Put simply, we should not use our streets and squares to celebrate the lives of disgraced former leaders and their values.



(Source: NurPhoto / Contributo)



(Source: © MBI/Alamy Stock Photo)

Acknowledgements:

Image 1: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/08/the-fall-of-a-statue-and-victory-for-the-oppressed>

Image 2: <https://www.esquire.com/uk/latest-news/a32821261/edward-colston-statue-bristol-saddam-hussein-iraq/>

No – statues should remain as they are part of our history, identity and culture

Statues are about the identity of peoples and regions. They cast a light onto our history and help us learn about our past. Outside Parliament are statues of Oliver Cromwell, Winston Churchill and King Richard I – elsewhere we even have statues to celebrate fictional heroes such as Robin Hood and Peter Pan. After the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore there were calls for a statue to celebrate his life. The public readily contribute to statues such as the one in Belfast commemorating the sinking of the Titanic.

Statues sometimes tell us things about the past we might not wish to know – but these are better revealed than concealed. It is both illegal and immoral to let mobs vent their fury and topple statues. Understanding our history and its consequences are vital parts of our own development. Many statues from Roman times tell us about life in ancient Rome and we have to be thankful they survived to tell their story. We should celebrate that we have modern heroes such as Nelson Mandela (pictured) who struggled to achieve a multi racial South Africa and in Amsterdam seeing the statue of Holocaust victim, Anne Frank (pictured), reminding us of the strength of the human spirit.



(Source: Renata Sedmakova/Shutterstock)



(Source: Marc Venema/Shutterstock)

Acknowledgements:

Image 3: <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/london-may-23-nelson-mandela-memorial-122880505>

Image 4: <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/utrecht-netherlands-april-09-2017-statue-627190322>

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Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

2023 – Source D

Peter Tatchell and Dominic Grieve debate whether it is acceptable to break the law. Peter Tatchell feels that there are occasions when it is not only acceptable but is necessary to do so. In contrast Dominic Grieve believes that breaking the law is always wrong.

Source D Adapted from : <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/is-it-ok-for-protesters-to-break-the-law-insulate-britain-extinction-rebellion>

Peter Tatchell: says YES, there are times and valid reasons for protestors to break the law:

Our democratic traditions are full of brave people who have broken the law to achieve change and fairness—women such as the Suffragettes, and others who campaigned for civil rights and for equal rights for gay people. Basic human rights are so important that any action to defend them is acceptable. Reform and change in society come about through the actions of law breakers. The media is now an increasingly important messenger highlighting and making important causes well known.

General elections by themselves are not enough to achieve changes needed. They occur only once every five years or so and they do not reflect the wishes of the people in the UK. Indeed, many political parties that win an election do not keep the promises they made. Protesting and breaking the law is justified if this represents the wishes of most people. Protests and demonstrations may be a nuisance, but this is a price we pay for living in a democracy. In many ways we must admire the courage of people who break the law, showing their beliefs and bringing change for the good of others.



(Source: © Pictorial Press Ltd/Alamy Stock Photo)

A suffragette being arrested before 1914

Dominic Grieve: says NO, there are no occasions when it is valid for protestors to break the law:

The law is there to protect all of us, and we all have to obey it – otherwise disorder and chaos would break out if we just obeyed the laws we liked; you cannot run a society on those principles. We must accept that there are competing rights which means that different groups conflict. However, the one side which causes more damage or inconvenience should not become the winner – that is not justice. We cannot allow law-breaking protest to escalate – it is a type of blackmail, they are saying 'do this or else ...' How can this be considered democratic? Many actions of law breakers are selfish and expose others to harm.

Society works on compromise and at times we all must accept that leaders take necessary but difficult decisions; we cannot rebel at every action we do not like. Widespread and illegal actions break down the way we live in society and break the rule of law. The media is a powerful and influential tool but, all too often, it glorifies lawbreakers and this cannot be tolerated and should not be encouraged. The ballot box and voting is the way to achieve change. Protesting is acceptable, but it must be done legally.



(Source: © TOLGA AKMEN/Getty Images)

Police arrest a climate change activist

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Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

2024 – Source D

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister who introduced devolution over 20 years ago, defends it. However, several voices from the Institute for Government question whether devolution has really delivered any advantage or has brought more harm to the UK.

Source from: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/has-devolution-worked-essaycollection-FINAL.pdf>

Tony Blair's view of devolution: the case *for* devolution

The purpose of devolution was to bring about a new settlement between the different parts of the UK so that decision making was brought closer to the people, thus creating a strong sense of cultural identity.

It was also done to prevent the breakup of the UK, by curbing Scottish independence. Scotland previously had felt let down by UK governments. Devolution also addressed the injustices and identity problems across the UK.

In Wales support for devolution was borderline in 1998, but now devolution has widespread support. The Welsh appreciate devolution and their powers have been increased.

In Northern Ireland we saw lasting peace after decades of violence and devolution saw two opposing camps sitting down and sharing government.

Devolution means that the great cities of London and Manchester have elected mayors with broad powers like all other great cities across the world.

We have seen different policies introduced in various regions as each devolved government delivers its own agenda, enabling devolution to win the trust and confidence of the people.



The Scottish Parliament,
Holyrood, Edinburgh



Senedd Cymru (the Welsh
Parliament), Cardiff



The Northern Ireland
Assembly, Stormont, Belfast

The view from the Institute for Government: the case *against* devolution

Devolution has failed – and it has failed differently in each region of the UK.

Firstly, in Scotland – devolution has not ended the desire for independence – support for independence has grown from 27% before devolution to about 45% today.

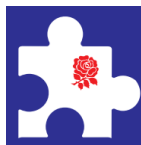


In Northern Ireland the devolved assembly has been suspended for as long as it has been in operation; furthermore, it has not resolved the bitter community problems where people still have different identities and loyalties. Communities are not healed – they remain divided.

In Wales the provision of public services, such as health and education, has fallen behind other parts of the UK.



Devolution has failed because it has been delivered in an uneven manner to the different regions. New policies have emerged in the devolved areas with some making little difference.



However, others have caused problems. Scottish or Welsh university students leave with less debt than English students after three years of study.

Devolution has been rejected by some English regions – the take-up of electing city mayors is uneven.

Scottish Parliament photograph
© scottishcreative/Alamy Stock Photo

Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament) photograph
© Jason Smalley Photography/Alamy Stock Photo

Northern Ireland Assembly photograph
© Mary Baratto/Getty Images

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Citizenship Studies

Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

2025 – Source D

Are our rights to privacy secure in the UK today?

Privacy has a broad meaning. It means you have the right to live your life without interference by the state or other external organisations. However, there are times when others (governments and organisations) claim that privacy cannot always be protected

Yes – our rights to privacy are secure.

Long before the Human Rights Act 1998 was passed, the common law in the UK protected our privacy– such as the right to protect ourselves and our property. This meant that we could defend our personal lives with the law on our side. Crimes against individuals such as robbery and assault were protected by the laws of the land. The Abortion Act of 1967 allowed women control over their own bodies. Rules on data held about us are covered with GDPR – the General Data Protection Regulation. Protecting privacy is hard to ensure, but well worth the effort.

It was the Human Rights Act 1998 which incorporated Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. This protects our rights to privacy in our private life and family life in our homes and with our correspondence. This means that we have privacy over personal affairs and matters which we may wish to keep private, such as our sexuality and our private conversations. In modern society there are more opportunities to share private information than ever before. However, information about our personal lives should not be available to anyone or published for others to know. These private issues remain securely protected. Article 8 ensures this.



No - it is not possible or desirable to secure our rights to privacy

In an open society such as the UK there is a limit to an individual's right to privacy. Ensuring privacy in society is difficult. Personal information shown on social media may be circulated more widely than an individual might wish, and the law might not adequately protect them. There has been a huge growth in opportunity and means to share widely information about others.

Article 8 of the ECHR is a qualified right, and this means that there are occasions when the government in the national interest can override this. These include national emergencies, public safety, protection of the economy, public health, and morals, protecting disorder and crime and to protect the freedom of others. With such a long list it is easy for a government to end any right to privacy. A government has to act if there is a health scare or if terrorism threatens our normal way of life. Individual privacy has to be sacrificed in order to protect the many who may be in danger. Furthermore, some people say that "If you've got nothing to hide you've got nothing to fear" – so why fear any invasion of your privacy?



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Sources relating to Paper 1, Section D: Citizenship issues and debates

2025 – Source D

Should prisons be abolished? The prison population in England and Wales in 2023 reached almost 89,000 – the highest in history. In addition, more people are in prison in the UK than anywhere else in Europe, with the population almost doubling since 1992. With a growing prison population and increased rates of crime, Kelsey Mohamed, a member of the Cradle Community, which aims for a different type of justice, and Andrew Neilson, a Director at The Howard League for Penal Reform, debate if prisons should be abolished.

YES, we should abolish prisons says Kelsey Mohamed

We need to abolish our prison system. No matter how much we try to reform the system, it does not reduce the violence and crime in society. 24% of prisoners grew up in the care system and 29% suffered child abuse. A person is labelled 'violent' because of who they are, not what they have done. Someone who has perpetrated violence won't be encouraged to do better by being locked up and exposed to further violence and abuse. Reforming prisoners does not work, and reforming prisons has failed also. Prisons are used to control and cage those already discriminated against because of their class, race, gender and disabilities; but we protect the most powerful from being held accountable. The Grenfell Tower fire tragically took many workingclass lives – the majority Black and Brown lives – yet nobody has been held accountable. If we look at incidences of serious violence, we know it's powerful people – managers, celebrities, artists, sports coaches and religious leaders – who are protected and continue to cause harm. The media and the government fuel fear in the population, for the majority in prison are not serial killers, yet those are the cases which are promoted to the public. This false view makes radical change, such as abolition, difficult. We have to repair people out in the community in which they live and teach them to become worthwhile citizens. We have to offer counselling and therapy to criminals not imprisonment.

NO, we should not abolish prisons says Andrew Neilson

We must consider reform, not abolition, of prisons, because we have to be realistic about what we can achieve. Society would not manage if prisons were abolished. There are undeniably people who commit serious and violent crimes, who cannot be safely managed in the community. There are sadly some individuals who must be imprisoned for what they have done and for what they may do to others if released. Hence removing them from society is necessary. Prison as a punishment is wrongly depicted by the government and the media. There is strong support among many citizens for ever-longer prison sentences and a popular view that prisons are 'holiday camps', even though prisoners in England and Wales face continued violence and disorder when inside. Therefore, reform is desperately needed. We need not only to re-educate criminals, but also to educate the public on the prison reform we choose. As it stands now, communities are not equipped to care for and support vast numbers of criminals from our prisons. When community sentencing was introduced over 50 years ago as an 'alternative to prison', it brought more people into the criminal justice system and eventually prison, rather than reducing the prison population as it was intended to do. Abolition of prisons is not possible until an agreed solution is discussed by all, and society supports any radical change.