

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

GENERAL STUDIES

2964

THE SOCIAL DOMAIN 1

Thursday **19 JANUARY 2006** Afternoon 1 hour 15 minutes

Additional materials:
8 page answer booklet.

TIME 1 hour 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- Write your answers in the answer booklet.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the answer booklet.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 100.
- **Where an answer requires a piece of extended writing, the quality of your written communication will be assessed, including clarity of expression, structure of arguments, presentation of ideas, grammar, punctuation and spelling.**
- You may use an approved calculator.

This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Section A

Answer **all** of the questions in this section.

1 The end of the day spells danger

Around many primary schools, each afternoon, five days per week, parents collect children from school. Four-by-four vehicles, pedestrians and pushchairs provide a lethal mixture for the 'lollipop person' to handle whilst drivers in white vans disregard the school sign and hazard lights as they talk on their mobile phones and strive to get their deliveries through.

People living near to the school, the teachers, parents and drivers have very different views about what should happen to reduce this hazard. As one parent put it, "At the end of the day no one knows the facts or is taking any action. People just get angry and voice their strong opinions."

- (a) Briefly outline **four** reasons for many parents insisting on collecting their children from primary school in cars. [12]
- (b) Briefly outline **four** measures that could be taken to reduce hazards and dangers around school entrances at the end of the school day. [12]

2 Here are two differing views of the problems around a primary school at the end of the school day. "You take your life in your hands every day when you drive to school to collect the children." (Young mother with two children at the school)

"The most dangerous drivers on the road are young mums in four-by-four 'Chelsea Tractors' at 3.30 pm with two toddlers and a frustrated school child in the back." (White van driver)

- (a) Describe how you would set up an investigation to determine the facts about the road conditions and dangers around a local primary school at the end of each school day. [16]
- (b) Describe **three** difficulties you might encounter in finding out the facts about road conditions and dangers created around the school. [10]

[Total: 50]

Section B

Answer one question from this section. Answers must be in continuous prose.

- 3 (a) In an opinion poll 1005 adults aged 18 and over were interviewed by telephone. The interviews were carried out across the country. The responses to one of the questions are summarised below.

Tax Increases

Should the party you support pledge to increase, hold or reduce taxes?

A table has been removed due to third party copyright restrictions

Details: A table showing results from an opinion poll in which voters were asked whether they thought the political party they support should pledge to increase, hold or reduce taxes

For each party, identify one conclusion they might come to from these results. [10]

- (b) In their coverage of politics the media regularly make use of opinion polls. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of relying on opinion polls as a measure of public opinion. [40]
- 4 (a) Although twenty years ago few full-time students had a part-time job, today it is commonplace. Describe two advantages and two disadvantages of students in full-time education, aged 16 to 20, now having part-time jobs. [10]
- (b) In the last one hundred years, in the United Kingdom, the following developments have taken place:
- universal suffrage (women now having the right to vote as well as men);
 - reliable contraception (including barrier methods and the pill);
 - secondary and tertiary education freely available to all;
 - economic developments (including widespread ownership of cars, domestic appliances and computers).
- Select one of these developments and explain why you consider it to have been the most important for either men or women in the UK. [40]

- 5 (a) Describe how 'congestion charges' and 'parking restrictions' are intended to help make the journey to work easier and quicker. [10]
- (b) Consider these two statements relating to the problems of getting to work each morning.

Person A

I chose to live in the country and expect my journey to work to be longer and more expensive than most. However, the conditions on the roads are far worse than I anticipated. I have paid my taxes and believe the government should do more for me.

Person B

I believed the advertisements and paid extra money to buy a house in the country near a railway station. My improved quality of life is, however, jeopardised by the condition and reliability of the trains I have to use to get to work. I pay enough in taxes to expect better.

How far can you support the views expressed in these statements? [40]

[Total: 50]