

General Certificate of Education  
January 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**SOCIAL SCIENCE: CITIZENSHIP**  
**Unit 1 The Citizen and the State**

**SSC1**

Thursday 17 January 2008 9.00 am to 10.00 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is SSC1.
- Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for part questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- Where appropriate, you should use local and/or national and/or international examples and/or case studies.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question carries 30 marks.

1 Read **Sources A** and **B** below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

**Source A**

**Law Student, 19, Becomes Youngest Magistrate**

A law student, whose hobbies include shopping for shoes and watching television, has become Britain's youngest magistrate at 19.

Her appointment to the bench has been controversial. Some people believe that she is too young to be a magistrate.

However, she has been praised for coming through a rigorous recruitment process.

She was recruited after a £4m government advertising campaign to attract more young people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds to the bench.

Lay magistrates are not required to have legal qualifications and usually make

judicial decisions relating to minor criminal offences and some family cases. The minimum age was reduced from 27 to 18 in 2004.

The chairwoman of the committee responsible for recruiting magistrates said, "The committee was very impressed by this girl's maturity and judgment. Magistrates should reflect the community they serve. Her appointment was based solely on merit."

Another magistrate said it was "an absolute folly" to have someone so young making important decisions. He said, "Some magistrates are very disillusioned about her appointment. What life experience does she have at 19?"

Source: adapted from MARTIN CHARLESWORTH, 'Law student, 19, becomes youngest magistrate', *The Guardian*, 11 September 2006

**Source B**

**Youthful Justice: a Letter to the Editor**

My mother was appointed as a lay magistrate in the 1940s. She was then in her 20s and at the time was the youngest person to be appointed as a magistrate. When first appointed, she was also faced with considerable doubts and hostility.

At that time her fellow magistrates tended to be local Tory landowners who were mainly concerned with protecting property rights rather than tackling such problems

as drunken drivers. They regarded these with some sympathy. As the mother of two small children, my mother challenged such prejudices and over the course of 20 years' service helped change attitudes in the courtroom.

She would have welcomed the appointment of this young person as a magistrate and fully supported her admirable desire to serve her local community. So should we!

Source: adapted from a letter to the Editor, *The Guardian*, 12 September 2006

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Your answers should refer to the sources as appropriate, but you should also refer to other relevant information.

- (a) Briefly outline **one** argument from either of the sources **in favour** of the appointment of the young magistrate and **one** argument from either of the sources **against** her appointment. *(4 marks)*
- (b) Briefly examine the role of lay magistrates in the English legal system. *(10 marks)*
- (c) ‘All judicial decisions should be made by professional lawyers and not by lay magistrates.’ Assess this view. *(16 marks)*

**EITHER**

- 2 (a) Briefly examine, using examples, why most ‘rights’ have a corresponding ‘duty’. *(10 marks)*
- (b) ‘The purpose of a modern welfare system should be to enable all citizens to become self-sufficient.’ Assess this view. *(20 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 (a) Briefly examine different meanings of the term ‘citizen’. *(10 marks)*
- (b) ‘Citizens will always prefer to settle disputes in Court rather than by using the alternative methods of dispute resolution that are available.’ Assess this view. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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