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Global politics
Higher level and standard level
Paper 1

Wednesday 8 May 2019 (afternoon)

1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

Unit 2 Human rights

Nature and evolution of human rights: Developments in human rights over time and space

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Source A “Expelling Roma¹ migrants”, a cartoon by Paresh Nath, *The Khaleej Times* (2013).



[Source: © Paresh Nath Courtesy of Cagle Cartoons]

Source B Adapted from “Why is EU free movement so important?”, an article by Sonia Sodha, www.bbc.co.uk (2015).

Free movement of people – alongside free movement of goods, services and capital – is one of the four founding principles of the European Union² (EU). It gives all citizens of EU countries the right to travel, live and work wherever they wish within the EU.

Where did the idea of free movement of people come from? The EU was formed as European leaders came together after the Second World War, wanting to prevent another catastrophic war. The idea was that allowing people to move across the continent – from countries where there were no jobs to countries where there were labour shortages – would not only boost European growth, but would help prevent war by getting people to mix more across borders.

Over time, the idea of Europe as an economic union evolved into a more political project. According to a Belgian political scientist at the London School of Economics, the Treaty of Maastricht³ “changed the nature of the EU from an economically-oriented project towards a more politically-oriented project.” He explains that one of the important outcomes was that we had something called European Citizenship. “Before that, European rights were only for people that were economically active, that moved across borders to work or to provide a service in economic terms. After that it became much more of a political concept whereby every European citizen had certain rights to free movement”.

[Source: adapted from “Why is EU free movement so important?” by Sonia Sodha, 2015, www.bbc.co.uk. Used with permission.]

Source C Adapted from “France: UN expert says new terrorism laws may undermine fundamental rights and freedoms”, a news article from United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner (2018).

An independent expert on the protection of human rights in the context of countering terrorism, who visited France at the Government’s invitation, acknowledged the serious and ongoing security challenges being experienced by France, and the indisputable necessity of providing security for all citizens. The expert underlined that France’s counter-terrorism action must continue to be rooted in, and comply with international law including human rights, humanitarian and refugee law. Echoing the recommendations of the United Nations Global Strategy on Counter-terrorism adopted by consensus by all 193 States, she stressed that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary.

She has praised efforts by France to combat terrorism but has raised concerns about the effect anti-terrorism laws have on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights including liberty, privacy, association, movement and religious freedom. She was particularly mindful of the effects of these laws on the full enjoyment of rights by French citizens of the Muslim faith highlighting, as an example, the closure of mosques as a limitation on the enjoyment of religious freedom.

[Source: from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23130&LangID=E>
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Source D “Global Challenges to Human Rights Today”, a lecture delivered by Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2017).

[...] the universality of rights is being contested across much of the world. It is under broad assault from terrorists, authoritarian leaders⁴, populists⁵ and those who claim to support “traditional values”. All seem only too willing to sacrifice, in varying degrees, the rights of others for the sake of power. Their combined influence has grown at the expense of the liberal order⁶.

Two months ago, I visited Facebook⁷ in the US, to discuss how it determines content online, specifically with respect to freedom of expression, and removal of incitement to hatred. Rather than use the international standard, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which regulates the freedom of expression, the company appears to be using as a guide the US Constitution. But it’s not the applicable law in most countries. Facebook simply did not know which countries are legally bound by the Covenant; and had never thought to ask.

I also travelled to Libya [...] a country so broken and dangerous that the UN cannot maintain a permanent presence. Thousands of people, mainly migrants, are subjected to slavery, trafficking and sexual violence, and almost anyone may be the object of unnecessary violence.

Our inability over decades to communicate to a wider audience, comprehensibly, simply, humbly, the supreme importance of universal human rights, has left the door open to the enemies of rights. Their claims, that human rights are simply a vehicle for Western values and interests, have stifled progress and cut off the formation of a popular base for rights world-wide.

Today, the legitimacy and necessity of human rights faces a test. There is growing ignorance of the origins of this rights architecture and fewer of the WWII generation alive to remember why this rights architecture came to exist.

[Source: from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23130&LangID=E>
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- ¹ Roma: an ethnic group of traveling people who originated in northern India
- ² European Union: The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of certain European states
- ³ Treaty of Maastricht: a treaty agreed by all European member states in 1993 which includes a section about political union and economic and monetary union
- ⁴ authoritarian leaders: an individual who takes control of all the decisions, with little or no input from members of the group
- ⁵ populist(s): a person, particularly a politician, who aims to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are ignored by established elite groups
- ⁶ liberal order: the idea that international relations are organized around a number of principles such as multilateral institutions, free markets and liberal democracy and led by the US and its allies
- ⁷ Facebook: an online social networking website with company headquarters in Silicon Valley, US.

1. Identify what Source A says about the nature of human rights. [3]
 2. With explicit reference to Source B and to **one** example you have studied, suggest why free movement of people is viewed as important. [4]
 3. Compare the challenges to human rights as described in Source C **and** Source D. [8]
 4. To what extent do you agree with the claim that conflict poses the greatest threat to the evolution of rights? Use all the sources **and** your own knowledge. [10]
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