

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2013

GENERAL II

(One and a half hours)

Answer **both** parts. Each of the two parts is worth the same number of marks.

You need not answer the parts in the order set,
but you must start each one on a separate piece of paper.

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

Spend about 45 minutes on each part.

Do not open the paper until instructed to do so.

[This page intentionally blank]

Part 1 : ***START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER NOW***

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

In 2001, a strange encounter took place in the German village of Rotenburg. Bernd-Jurgen Brandes, a forty-three-year-old software engineer, responded to an internet ad seeking someone willing to be killed and eaten. The ad had been posted by Armin Meiwes, forty-two, a computer technician. Meiwes was offering no monetary compensation, only the experience itself. Some two hundred people replied to the ad. Four travelled to Meiwes' farmhouse for an interview, but decided they were not interested. But when Brandes met with Meiwes and considered his proposal over coffee, he gave his consent. Meiwes proceeded to kill his guest, carve up the corpse, and store it in plastic bags in his freezer. By the time he was arrested, the 'Cannibal of Rotenburg' had consumed over forty pounds of his willing victim, cooking some of him in olive oil and garlic.

When Meiwes was brought to trial, the lurid case fascinated the public and confounded the court. Germany has no law against cannibalism. The perpetrator could not be convicted of murder, the defence maintained, because the victim was a willing participant in his own death.

(a) Why do you think that 'this lurid case fascinated the public'?

[5]

(b) 'Some actions should be against the law in all countries, no matter how many people practise them'. Do you agree? Explain your reasoning.

[8]

(c) In Meiwes' defence it was argued that the victim, Brandes, was a willing participant in his own death and that, therefore, Meiwes was not guilty of murder. Imagine that you are the prosecuting lawyer. Construct an argument to claim that Meiwes was guilty of murder even though Brandes had given his consent to being killed.

[12]

Part 2 : START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER NOW

Write a response of no more than 700 words, in whatever style seems appropriate, to ONE of the following.

EITHER

It is better to be funny than clever. Do you agree?

OR

Is democracy the best form of government? Explain your answer.

OR

Beauty

[25]