

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2014

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 turn over until told to do so.

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

Study the following extract carefully.

EXTRACT A

To the evil of monarchy we have added that of hereditary succession; and as the first is a degradation and lessening of ourselves, so the second, claimed as a matter of right, is an insult and an imposition on posterity. For all men being originally equals, no one by birth could have a right to set up his own family in perpetual preference to all others for ever, and though himself might deserve some decent degree of honors of his contemporaries, yet his descendants might be far too unworthy to inherit them. One of the strongest natural proofs of the folly of hereditary right in kings, is, that nature disapproves it, otherwise she would not so frequently turn it into ridicule by giving mankind an ass for a lion.

Secondly, as no man at first could possess any other public honors than were bestowed upon him, so the givers of those honors could have no power to give away the right of posterity, and though they might say, "We choose you for our head," they could not, without manifest injustice to their children, say, "that your children and your children's children shall reign over ours for ever." Because such an unwise, unjust, unnatural compact might (perhaps) in the next succession put them under the government of a rogue or a fool. Most wise men, in their private sentiments, have ever treated hereditary right with contempt; yet it is one of those evils, which when once established is not easily removed; many submit from fear, others from superstition, and the more powerful part shares with the king the plunder of the rest...

...The most plausible plea, which hath ever been offered in favor of hereditary succession, is, that it preserves a nation from civil wars; and were this true, it would be weighty; whereas, it is the most barefaced falsity ever imposed upon mankind. The whole history of England disowns the fact. Thirty kings and two minors have reigned in that distracted kingdom since the conquest, in which time there have been (including the Revolution) no less than eight civil wars and nineteen rebellions. Wherefore instead of making for peace, it makes against it, and destroys the very foundation it seems to stand on.

(Thomas Paine, "Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession", in *Common Sense*, 1776)

Now answer the following questions:

- (a) (i) What does Paine mean by "hereditary succession"? [3]
- (ii) Explain, in your own words, two grounds on which he opposes it. [6]

[Part 1 continued]

Now study the following extract carefully and answer the questions which follow.

EXTRACT B

The nation is divided into parties, but the crown is of no party. Its apparent separation from business is that which removes it from enmities and desecration, which preserves its mystery, which enables it to combine the affection of conflicting parties – to be a visible symbol of unity to those still so imperfectly educated as to need a symbol.

(Walter Bagehot, “No. III: The Monarchy”, in *The English Constitution*, 1867)

- (b) How could Bagehot’s point be used to defend the role of monarchy today?

[4]

DEFINITION C

Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people.

(adapted from Abraham Lincoln, *Gettysburg Address*, 1863)

- (c) “Hereditary monarchy has no place in a modern democracy”.
To what extent, if any, do you agree with this claim?

[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

Why is there so much emphasis on examinations in British education?

OR

“Man is the measure of all things.” (Protagoras c481-411 BCE)

Do you agree?

OR

Envy

[25]