



St Paul's School
FOUNDED 1509

16+ Examination

SAMPLE PAPER

Politics

45 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates:

- Please write your answers on lined paper and ensure to write your full name and school at the top of each new sheet.
- You should spend half your time on part 1 and half your time on part 2.
- The number of marks available is shown in brackets [] at the end of each question. The total marks for this paper is 50.

Part I

Source A

Under the exploitative conditions of the capitalist economic system, the surplus value of the proletariat is appropriated by the bourgeoisie. Marxists claim that this leads to an acute sense of alienation because workers do not benefit from the products being made. They become de-personalised from their own work and the fruits of their labour are stolen by the bourgeoisie. The interests of these two social classes are therefore in conflict. This represents a key area of disagreement between socialists and conservatives. Whereas Marx compares capitalists to “vampires” and “werewolves,” conservatives emphasise the goal of social harmony based upon shared values.

Socialism also entails a rejection of the liberal assumption that the individual is somehow free to exchange their labour. In reality, the worker is little more than a cog in a heartless and brutal capitalist machine. He/she is reduced to the status of a wage slave in which their labour is exploited by the owners of capital driven solely by the profit motive. Under the capitalist system labour is bought and sold in a manner little different to how slaves were treated in feudal times. As such, the only solution to this wretched economic mess is radical change – a view best summarised in the provocative final words of the Communist Manifesto (“The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries, unite”).

Glossary

Bourgeoisie – In this context, factory owners, capitalists and sections of the middle class.

Proletariat – The urban factory workers.

Answer the following question

1. **Read source A.** Evaluate the accuracy of this representation of capitalism [25]

Part 2

Answer **one** of the following questions

1. Social media has strengthened democracy. How far do you agree? [25]
2. Countries should open their borders to all migrants. How far do you agree? [25]