
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & RESEARCH

9239/12

Paper 1 Written Examination

October/November 2019

1 hour 30 minutes

INSERT (RESOURCE BOOKLET)

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Resource Booklet contains Documents 1 and 2 which you should use to answer the questions.

You should spend approximately 10 minutes reading the documents before attempting to answer the questions. This is allowed for within the time set for the examination.



This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

The following documents consider issues related to **political systems and changing national identities**. Read them **both** in order to answer **all** the questions on the paper.

Document 1: Adapted from *Empowering the Egyptian youth is a necessity, not a favor*, an online article by Mohammed Nosseir. It was published in 2016 by Arab News. The author is a liberal politician from Egypt and a strong campaigner for political participation and economic freedom.

In Egypt, young people, who account for roughly two-thirds of Egypt's population, are idealistic and motivated by moral values. Yet Egypt is neither ruled, nor even slightly influenced, by its youth. The country is manipulated by greedy politicians and self-interested media people. Additionally, the older generation believes it must continue to force its outdated beliefs and old-fashioned mentalities on the younger generation.

Sadly, when dealing with Egyptian youth, the government continues the old model of iron-fist ruling. Unfortunately, the current government believes that a tough attitude toward youth is the best option, and the only one that will stabilize Egypt. Meanwhile, young people who oppose the government consider violence to be the only course of action left open to them. Sadly, each side believes it is entitled to take revenge on the other.

"We are a strong and powerful state," is the government's message to society, especially Egyptian youth. The government believes that by imprisoning a few thousand young people, it will succeed in frightening the remaining millions from engaging in politics. The president created a Detained Youth Committee to review the situation of young people in prison, especially students. Youths who disagreed with the government were completely excluded. The committee members, known for their loyalty to the state, were carefully chosen by the government. They have also been given good jobs in public bodies, such as Parliament and human rights councils. Most committee members favor keeping young people in prison for longer periods!

"Stability" is the magic word that the government repeats and a large section of society supports it. However, I doubt that imprisoning our youth will bring about any kind of stability. On the contrary, at a certain point our youth — who are suffering from a lack of freedom, justice, employment and a chance to live in a modernized nation — are sure to react strongly. I learned from the Egyptian revolution in 2011 that a few thousand citizens can easily trigger millions into action. Young people, who share the same moral values, who are strongly motivated to change their country, are certainly stronger than the security apparatus. This is true worldwide, not only in Egypt.

Without political parties and other genuine political organizations that could use their ideas and energies, young people are left with a single option: to be angry at the government. Everyone in Egypt agrees that the fragile legal system does not provide truly equal justice. The tough, restrictive protest law punishes more and more young people and forces them to oppose the government. The government focusses on blocking revolution, and has succeeded in doing so by making protest illegal. Facing political isolation, injustice and restrictive laws, I am afraid that our youth may find new ways to revolt, due to their frustration.

The government must think again about its treatment of youth. It may be misinterpreted as a success, but in reality it is only building up anger. Egypt must release most of the youths in prison, encourage them to engage in politics and thus build a modernized nation.

Document 2: Adapted from *Building a Better Tomorrow: Including Youth in the Development of Mongolia*, published in 2016 by the Government of Mongolia and the United Nations Development Programme in Mongolia.

Governments everywhere recognize the importance of dealing with young people's concerns and needs. They are passing youth legislation and adopting relevant policies. Of 198 countries, 122 have national youth policies, a 50% rise since 2013.

Mongolia needs a youth development policy. Youth issues are not reflected in national policy, planning or the budget process. The 15–19 age-group, over 244,000 individuals in 2014, needs good quality education, including health education. They need sports and leisure facilities and adolescent-friendly health services for healthy physical, emotional and psychological development. Nearly 20% of 15–19-year-olds have migrated to find better education or employment.

The 25–34 age-group, over 563,000 individuals in 2014, needs career-development, good incomes, independent accommodation, high-quality nutrition, child-care, and family-planning services. Over 60% of young employees cannot cover their daily expenses. 50% need financial support to survive, and 60% of those who are married are living with parents. One policy cannot cover all the issues and concerns of such a large group. The Government might, therefore, use several different strategies to deal with them.

Young people in Mongolia are under-represented in politics. Unless youth are included, their concerns may be ignored, leading to economic and social instability. Youth are even more poorly-represented than women. In the current 76-member State Great Khural (Mongolian Parliament) there are 11 female members. Since 2008, there has been only 1 member under the age of 35 in the State Great Khural. This may be because young people do not trust political institutions and feel that participation is pointless. This lack of political participation contrasts with their active involvement in social issues – through civil society organizations and volunteering. Social involvement is encouraging and welcome. However, it cannot replace political participation, so young people's disengagement from the political process is worrying.

Young people must be encouraged to participate more in politics. Governmental organizations must learn to communicate with youth more effectively. They must make programmes attractive to young people and involve them as partners. If they support youth in developing their potential, they will be able to use their ideas, enthusiasm and creativity, and make the national development process more inclusive. Policymakers must include youth on issues influencing the whole country, in the development of youth policy, and in planning to build a better future together.

This is all about Mongolia's youth: their challenges, struggles and frustrations. It is also about their hopes, aspirations and achievements, as they build a better future for Mongolia, in a rapidly-changing world. Despite their enormous potential, youth in Mongolia face numerous challenges. However, with appropriate policies and support and through their own efforts; youth can overcome these challenges and enhance their development potential. If these issues are addressed by policymakers and others, including, most importantly, young people, this would be the biggest contribution to the development of youth in Mongolia.

The time to focus on youth is now. Tomorrow's youth have already been born. They need inclusive and sustainable economic growth; equitable, good-quality education and healthy lifestyles. Sustainable and decent work opportunities, empowerment, and safer, secure conditions for young people are critical to building a better tomorrow.

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