



## **Proficiency**

Writing

## **Test 1**

**Time** 1 hour 30 minutes

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer the Part 1 question and one question from Part 2.

Write your answers on the answer sheet.

Write clearly in pen, not pencil.

You may make alterations, but make sure your work is easy to read.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Each question in this paper carries equal marks



## **Part 1**

Read the two texts below. Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible and include your own ideas in your answers. Write your answer in **240 – 280** words

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### **The Art of Protest**

The concept of mass demonstrations has a long and proud history. Indeed, history itself owes much to the simple disobedience of crowds, whether it be the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 or the Poll Tax Riots of 1990. Mass protest is an essential part of our culture and of democracy itself. Indeed, the reaction of any given regime to the mass mobilisation of its citizens serves as a direct measure both of that regime's legitimacy and its chances of survival. Therefore, popular protest serves a dual purpose, both as a restraint upon power and as an arbiter of democratic principles. Without the right to protest, the individual is left no recourse other than continued injustice or violence, and – with the awful consequences of the latter aside - no society has survived either in the long term. If we truly believe that our system deserves to endure, we must always support the right to protest.

### **The Cult of the Placard**

There once was a time when the street demonstration had its place. However, in our modern age where many of the important battles have been fought and won, mass demonstrations have become little more than unsightly carnivals of exhibitionism, providing the privileged with an opportunity to show all of us how politically virtuous they are. You may say that this alone is of no consequence, that they should be encouraged to exercise that right, but in recent years, many protests have become shrill and aggressive, promoting views that are becoming less and less accepting of scrutiny. The result of this is a culture in which every message, no matter how hateful, is encouraged in the name of free speech, and the rest of us must put up with it lest we be accused of being illiberal. When protests become intolerant and threatening, they serve only to limit the free speech of those with opposing views, and should not be permitted.

**Write your essay**



## Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2 – 4** in this part. Write your answer in **280 – 320** words in an appropriate style on pages **7** and **8**. Put the question number in the box at the top of page 7.

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- 2** A technology website has asked readers to send in articles on their favourite public gadget, a camera or a games console, for example. You decide to write an article in which you describe your favourite gadget, explain why it is your favourite gadget and assess its technical features for the modern user.

Write your **article**.

- 3** You work for a television company interested in reviving childrens' television from earlier decades. You have agreed to write a review of a television programme that you enjoyed as a child with a view to remaking it for modern audiences. In your review you should describe why it appealed to you as a child and say how you think it would appeal to children of today.

Write your **review**.

- 4** A popular English-language magazine has invited readers to send in letters describing travel experiences . You decide to send in a letter in which you briefly describe the experience, explain the reasons why it was memorable, and to outline what you learned as a result of going through the experience.

Write your **letter**. You do not need to write any postal addresses.

[illegible]