

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2024

GENERAL II

(One and a half hours)

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

You must answer both questions.

Each question is worth the same number of marks.

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

Spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

Question 1: START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER NOW

The extract below is from Chapter 2 of J. S. Mill's *On Liberty*. The chapter is entitled 'On the Liberty of Thought and Discussion'. Mill begins by laying out his argument for free discussion, before turning to consider extreme cases.

Strange it is, that men should admit the validity of the arguments for free discussion, but object to their being 'pushed to an extreme'; not seeing that unless the reasons are good for an extreme case, they are not good for any case. Strange that they should imagine that they are not assuming infallibility, when they acknowledge that there should be free discussion on all subjects which can possibly be doubtful, but think that some particular principle or doctrine should be forbidden to be questioned because it is so certain, that is, because they are certain that it is certain. To call any proposition certain, while there is any one who would deny its certainty if permitted, but who is not permitted, is to assume that we ourselves, and those who agree with us, are the judges of certainty, and judges without hearing the other side.

- (a) Why does Mill think we should tolerate 'extreme' views? [3]
- (b) Why does Mill think we should discuss views which some deem to be 'certain'? [7]
- (c) Do you think there should be limits on free speech? If so, what should the limits be? [15]

[Total mark for Question 1: 25]

Question 2: *START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER NOW*

Write a response, in whatever form seems appropriate, to ONE of the following.
It is recommended that you write no more than 700 words.

EITHER

- (a) To what extent do comparisons help us better understand certain ideas or experiences?

OR

- (b) Consider the following statement:

‘The confessions of evil works is the beginning of good works’ (i.e. we start to do good when we admit that we have done wrong).

To what extent do you agree ?

OR

- (c) What is the more influential on the experience of our lives: the circumstances that come our way or the mindset we have when facing those circumstances?

[Total mark for Question 2: 25]

END OF PAPER