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NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
2016

**LIFE ORIENTATION
COMMON ASSESSMENT TASK
PART B**

EXAMINATION NUMBER

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Time: 2 hours

70 marks

INTRODUCTION

In the CAT A preparatory tasks, you explored different perspectives on the rise of the current student movement in South Africa. 2015 ended with the much publicised and controversial #FeesMustFall demonstrations across universities in South Africa. The voices of South African students brought the social and economic extremes of South Africa into focus. Many South Africans voiced different perspectives on this issue.



[Source: <<http://www.voicesofyouth.org/en/posts/-fees-must-fall--why-south-africa-needs-to-listen-to-its-young-people->> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

SECTION A SHORT QUESTIONS**QUESTION 1****SOURCE 1**

	#FeesMustFall: Campaigning for Free Education Posted at 08:20 in Campaigns by ROAPEadmin • 1 Comment • 0 Likes • SHARE By Ashley Fataar
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Since the middle of October 2015 students at universities across South Africa have been protesting. Beginning at Wits University in Johannesburg, the protest spread five days later to the University of Cape Town. By the end of the month universities across the country were witnessing protests **unprecedented** since the fall of racial apartheid in 1994.

Students across the length and breadth of the country rose up against fee hikes that would have made higher education expensive and forced tens of thousands of them out of the system, joining the millions who are already locked out because of the cost of fees and the difficulty of sustaining themselves through their degrees.

Many students who enter South African universities are under-prepared by poor schools in working-class townships and rural areas. As a result they struggle to deal with course-work.

After weeks of sustained protests across the country, students won the demand that university fees would not be increased in 2016. Winning zero percentage fee increase for 2016 does not address the issue of student debt. As many students argue, the demand that fees must fall is not only that fee increases must fall *but that there must be no fees at all*. Even with the cancellation of the increase, students from poor families will still bear the burden of paying fees.

[Adapted from source: <<http://roape.net/2015/12/07/feesmustfall-campaigning-for-free->education/>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

Glossary:

Unprecedented: unknown or unfamiliar

- 1.1 According to **Source 1**, what are the barriers to some students entering and succeeding at university? Name **THREE**.

(3)

- 1.2 Explain why the author of **Source 1** makes the claim that "students from poor families will still bear the burden of paying fees".

(2)
[5]

QUESTION 2



SOURCE 2

It is a privilege to go to university, not a right. If a student cannot afford it, they can apply for bursaries, scholarships, etc. They can also work and study. I spent four years at university and it cost my parents nothing. I had bursaries all the way through.

[Adapted from source: <<http://www.moneyweb.co.za/news/south-africa/so-you-think-that-sa-varsity-fees-must-fall/>> (Accessed: 16 April 2016) and source: <<http://www.thedailyvox.co.za/feesmustfall-at-uct-its-about-time-the-students-spoke/>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

SOURCE 3

For the past week, I endured the majority of our class proclaiming how inconvenient it was for their education to be interrupted, while sincerely believing that the "barbaric" protestors had no cause behind their movement. While these same students packed their bags for a long weekend at the beach, I experienced the true hopelessness of our country. Is this really what we want education to be? To **entrench** this idea of self-interest above that of our country?

[Adapted from source: <<http://www.timeslive.co.za/ilive/2015/10/30/Professor-Jansen-your-generation-failed-us-iLIVE>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

Glossary:

Entrench: establish belief or attitude firmly

SOURCE 4

I think it is a valid protest but it's sabotaging a lot of people's degrees. I am writing my final Accounting exam today and now the exam will probably be postponed because people can't get onto campus.

[Adapted from source: <<http://www.thedailyvox.co.za/feesmustfall-at-uct-its-about-time-the-students-spoke/>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

SOURCE 5

[Adapted from source: <<http://www.mediaforjustice.net/why-fees-must-fall-deserves-your-support-and-how-you-can-give-it/>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

- 2.1 Do you agree with the statement, "It is a privilege to go to university"? (Source 2)
Explain your answer in **two** sentences.

(2)

- 2.2 **Source 3** reflects two different perspectives on the student protests. Identify and describe each of these perspectives (**four** sentences).

(4)

- 2.3 **Source 3** refers to a tension between self-interest and the interest of the country. Discuss these **two** conflicting aspects with regard to the student protest movement.

(4)

- 2.4 **Source 5:** Do you agree with the statement, "'Freedom' includes education"? Justify your answer in **two or three** sentences.

(3)

2.5 Choose any **two** of the above sources which you consider to represent perspectives that conflict with each other. For **each** perspective:

2.5.1 Describe the perspective (**one** sentence).

(2)

2.5.2 Name **one** factor that you think has helped to create this perspective.

(2)
[17]

QUESTION 3

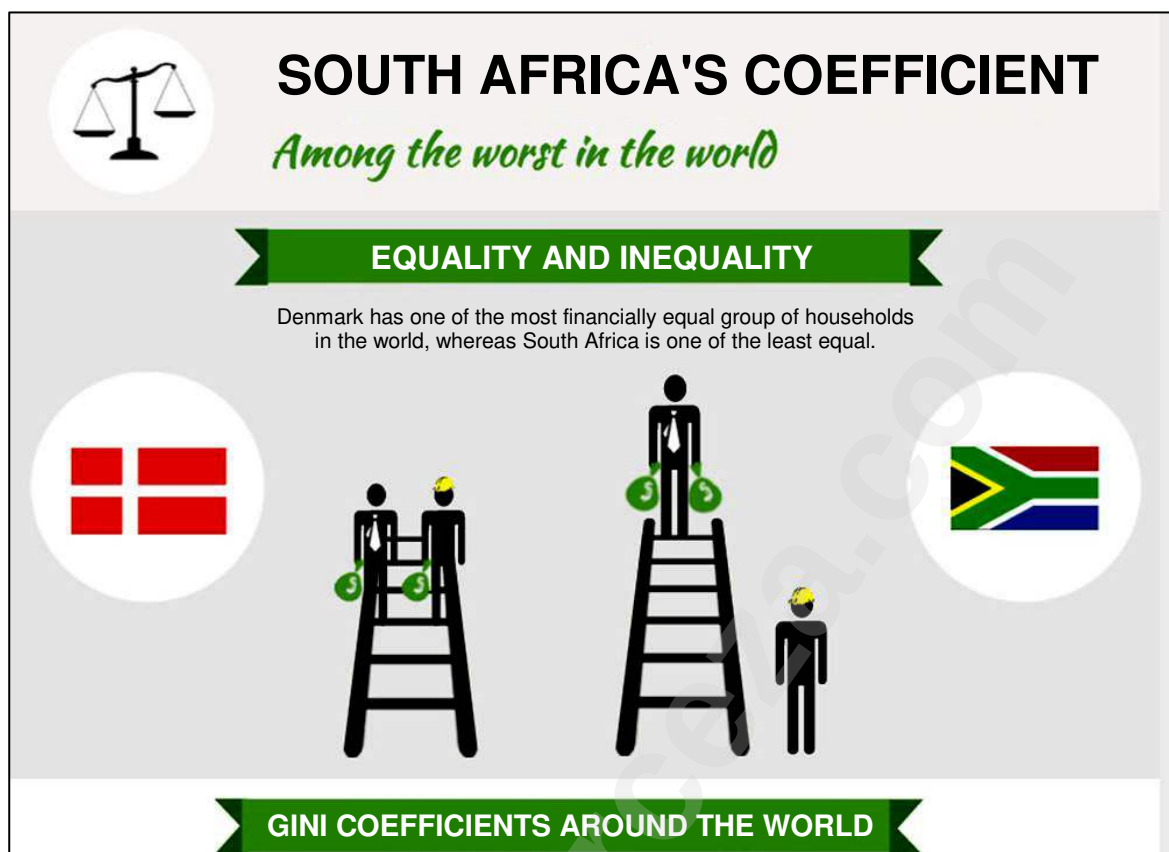
Definition: The Gini Coefficient measures how evenly the income of a country's residents is distributed. The number ranges between 0 and 100. If every person in the country has the same **income** (i.e. income is perfectly equally distributed), the Gini Coefficient will be 0. On the other hand, if one person in the country has all the income and everyone else has none (i.e. income is entirely unequally **distributed**), the Gini Coefficient will be 100.

Glossary:

Income: money earned, on a regular basis, for work done
Distributed: divided or spread

Based on calculations of the Gini Coefficient, South Africa is one of the world's most unequal countries. The infographic in the source below illustrates this.

SOURCE 6



[Source: <<http://www.rawson.co.za/news/south-africas-gini-coefficient-is-the-highest-in-the-world-id-874>>
 (Accessed: 11 April 2015)]

- 3.1 Explain how the infographic (**Source 6**) communicates the notion that Denmark (the ladder on the left in the info graphic) is an "equal" country.

(1)

- 3.2 Based on the infographic (**Source 6**), how does the situation in Denmark compare to the situation in South Africa?

(2)

- 3.3 What does the infographic (**Source 6**) suggest about the difference between high income in Denmark and high income in South Africa?

(2)

- 3.4 Name **two** challenges that face countries which have high levels of inequality like South Africa.

(2)

One perspective on inequality or the wealth gap is expressed in the source below:

SOURCE 7

Not everyone has the drive or ambition or talent to get rich or even maintain a comfortable standard of living. We look around and see big, natural differences and great inequality all round us. There are obviously major differences in intellect, and in physical ability, but we don't **fret** about closing the IQ-gap, or the golf-handicap-gap. The world would be a different place if we could decrease the extremes. There would be no gap and everyone would be comfortably "average".

Rather than trying to close the wealth gap, we should invest ourselves in closing the opportunity-gap, especially the gap in educational opportunity. Every child and growing person should have access to a good education. There should be sufficient opportunity so that everyone has the ability to earn a living. What they do with it afterwards is up to them and will no doubt again depend on individual differences.

[Adapted from source: <<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2014-01-27-the-wealth-gap-and-inequality-cannot-be-fixed/#.VxY0PDZ96qA>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

Glossary:

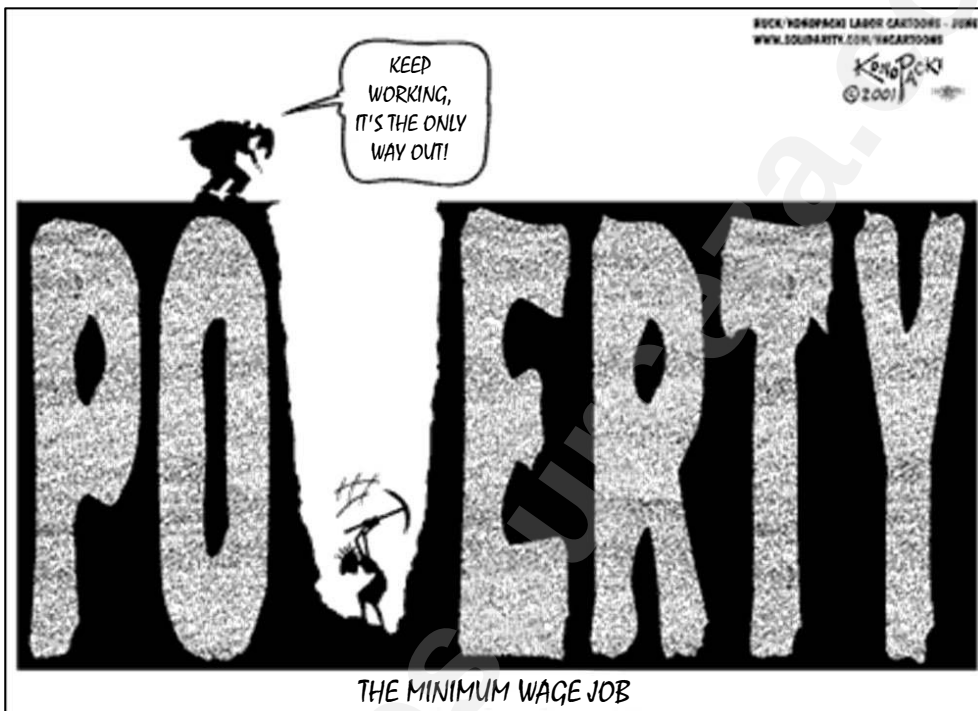
Fret: worry

- 3.5 In **one** sentence, summarise the main thought contained in the perspective reflected in **Source 7**.

(2)

- 3.6 Does the cartoon in **Source 8** (below) reflect the same perspective as **Source 7**? Give **one** reason for your answer.

(2)

SOURCE 8

[Source: <<http://www.doomsteaddiner.net/blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/minimum-wage-poverty.gif>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

- 3.7 Write a short, **one** sentence response from the worker at the bottom of the pit in the cartoon (**Source 8**). Your response should reflect the worker's perspective.

(2)
[13]

QUESTION 4

SOURCE 9

#FeesMustFall is really about inequality

NEWS/HOMEPAGE / 31 October 2015 at 15:58 pm

By: Andrew Gasnolar

The national conversation stimulated by students through the #RhodesMustFall, #FeesMustFall and #NationalShutDown campaigns, and the often violent events that have accompanied them, have been **bittersweet**.

There is inspiration in seeing young South Africans risk their safety near Parliament and on university campuses. Their principle is to fight for access to education, to confront **entrenched** inequality.

There is disappointment and sadness, too, at the incapability of leadership by our government to meaningfully engage in that conversation with students. Students are right when they say if leaders continue to talk about the percentage fee increase, they are not listening.

Inequality continues to **fester**, despite long being identified, because of a lack of leadership. Make no mistake; inequality is the result of a very, very broken society.

In the most unequal society in the world, leaders find it acceptable to deny the marginalised their education – the great equaliser – and support this nonsense that a university education is a privilege.

[Adapted from source: <<http://www.iol.co.za/news/feesmustfall-is-really-about-inequality-1938680>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

Glossary:

Bittersweet: a mixture of pleasure and pain

Entrenched: an attitude or belief firmly established and difficult to change

Fester: become worse or more intense

4.1 According to the author of **Source 9**, what is the student protest really about?

(2)

- 4.2 In what way does the author of **Source 9** believe the leaders of South Africa have failed?

(1)

- 4.3 The word "**bittersweet**" (**Source 9, first paragraph**) implies that there are positive and negative aspects to the student protests. Describe **one** positive and **one** negative aspect from the text.

(2)

[5]

40 marks

SECTION B DISCURSIVE ESSAY

The previous four questions have exposed you to different perspectives on #FeesMustFall and how inequality impacts on these perspectives. Throughout your engagement with "perspectives" in CAT Part A in your Life Orientation classes, you have:

- reflected on what life factors influence your perspective.
- examined how your reality may differ from the reality of others.
- become more sensitive to the complexity of multiple perspectives, none of which is more important than the other.

Deciding what to do after school can be very intimidating and confusing. Our life circumstances and the perspectives we form influence the choices we make.

QUESTION 5

Read the following extracts and answer the essay question below.

SOURCE 10

A gap year is a 12-month break from study taken by some students before they start their degree, to help them gain work experience and valuable life skills. If you decide to take a gap year, there are many different things you can choose to do: volunteer, get a paid job, learn new skills, or travel round the world. There is something to suit every taste, so if a gap year sounds like an attractive option to you, read the rest of our Gap Year Guide to find out more!



[Source: <<https://www.studential.com/gap-years/guide/why-take-a-gap-year>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

SOURCE 11

So, how 18-year-olds could afford brand-new cars was an absolute mystery to me until I learnt of the privileged rituals of many of my white compatriots' lives. University was not the hit and miss of my generation but a thing of certainty. They went on overseas holidays. Every year. After university you could take a gap year. The only thing I would ever have got is a gap tooth if my plans were not to find work immediately after university. Truth be told, I had to work all the way through university as everything from shop assistant to a butcher to pay my own way. So, a gap year? No such.

– Ferial Haffajee

[Adapted from source: <<http://panmacmillan.bookslive.co.za/blog/2016/01/07/how-the-hell-do-all-these-white-students-have-cars-excerpt-from-what-if-there-were-no-whites-in-south-africa/>> (Accessed: 11 April 2016)]

Taking into account the relevant perspectives reflected in the sources in SECTION A and SECTION B of this paper, as well as your own perspective, answer the following question:

Is taking a gap year between school and tertiary study a responsible choice for young South Africans?

Answer this question in an essay of between 500 and 600 words.

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[illegible]

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[30]

Total: 70 marks