RADLEY COLLEGE
Entrance Scholarships

HUMANITIES

March 2008

Time allowed: 90 minutes

Answer both sections.
Spend about 45 minutes on each section.

Write your answers to the History and the Geography sections on separate sheets of paper.

SECTION A - HISTORY

The Labour Party

A *From Encyclopedia Britannica*

During the 'Winter of Discontent' of 1978-79, the trade unions (traditionally allies of the Labour Party) went on strike. Increasingly unpopular as a result of the strike activity, the Labour Party lost the 1979 election to the Conservatives led by Margaret Thatcher, who was swept to office on a landslide. Following this, the Labour Party experienced a number of internal problems. Aided by the leaders of some major trade unions, the party's extreme left wing seemed to have the upper hand. In the 1983 general election the Labour Party suffered its worst national electoral defeat in more than 50 years. The new leader of the Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, tried to reestablish the party as a popular party worth voting for. Kinnock modernised the party, appealed to the middle classes by promising no rise in tax, and got rid of the extreme left wing. However, the Conservatives still won the elections of 1987 and 1992. The reform of the party continued under John Smith and Tony Blair. This 'New Labour' party finally won the general election of 1997, returning Labour to power after 18 years of Conservative Party rule.

B *From Tony Blair's official biography, published by 10 Downing Street*

The Labour Party won the 1997 General Election by a landslide, after 18 years in Opposition. At the age of 43, Tony Blair became the youngest Prime Minister since Lord Liverpool in 1812. The government began a major programme of reform, giving power back to the regions (Scotland, Wales and the City of London), thereby pleasing those who wanted to see more political decision-making at the local level. The government also reformed the House of Lords, ending the principle of hereditary peerage. The government also invested £42 billion in health and education.

These reforms were popular. Tony Blair was re-elected with another landslide majority in the 2001 General Election.

C *From a school textbook, published in 2005*

Tony Blair's approval ratings were higher than those for the three Conservative Party leaders (John Major in 1997, William Hague in 2001 and Michael Howard in 2005). In his first term as Prime Minister, an average of 56% of those surveyed by MORI (an organisation which measures public opinion trends) said they were 'satisfied' with Blair's performance. Only 23% were satisfied with Hague. The Conservatives did not lose the 2001 election simply because Hague was unpopular, but he had become an obstacle to Tory recovery rather than a catalyst for it.

Blair's popularity declined during his second term (2001-05), in part because the war in Iraq raised questions about trust. Dissatisfaction with Blair was a factor in the desertion or abstention of some former Labour voters in 2005. However, despite the fact that many voters were unhappy with Blair they preferred him to the alternatives. Blair outperformed Michael Howard (Conservative Party leader) and Charles Kennedy (Liberal Democrat leader) in polls asking who would make the most capable prime minister.

D *From 'The Economist' magazine, September 2003*

Mr. Blair will be criticised by his party next week over the war in Iraq, foundation hospitals (hospitals which are privately run, not government owned) and university tuition fees (the government was insisting in 2003 that students pay tuition fees, retracting an earlier promise that it would not expect them to do so). Problems on the ground in Iraq, increasing taxation, problems in the health service and education all seem to be adding up. Mr. Blair is not even as popular within the Labour Party as Gordon Brown [this article was written before Gordon Brown became PM in the summer of 2007].

In the event of another election the Labour Party can probably look forward to another big majority. What keeps Blair awake at night, however, is the prospect that he will be seen to have failed to deliver on his promises. And failure now seems more likely than ever.

Questions:

1. Study Source A.

What can you learn from this source about the history of the Labour Party? (4)

2. Study Sources B and C.

How useful are these sources as evidence of Tony Blair's popularity since 1997? (6)

3. Use all the Sources and your own knowledge.

"The years since 1997 have seen a reduction in support for the Labour Party; the Party which was incredibly popular in 1997 has, by 2007, become one of the most unpopular.'

How far do you agree with this point of view? (15)

(25 marks)

SECTION B - GEOGRAPHY

Answer any THREE sections. All carry equal marks. Credit will be given for detailed examples.

Section 1

i. Coastal erosion causes concern in many parts of the United Kingdom. Outline the measures employed to protect certain parts of the coastline and indicate how successful they have been.
ii. Using examples that you have studied show how the landforms created by EITHER rivers OR glaciers have been of use to man.

Section 2

i. In the past year disastrous floods have occurred in many parts of the United Kingdom. Why have some areas been affected more than others?
ii. How may this flood damage be prevented, particularly in the light of predicted rises in Sea Level?

Section 3

i. With reference to specific examples you have studied, describe how and explain why land use varies with distance from the centre of a town.
ii. How have increased car ownership and technological advances such as freezers and microwaves affected geographical patterns of retail activity since 1960?

Section 4

i. How has globalisation affected the locational pattern of manufacturing industry?
ii. Explain why agricultural activity varies from place to place in the United Kingdom. ?

Section 5

i. Why do people visit the United Kingdom's National Parks? What problems result from such invasions and how may they be resolved?
ii. It is intended to build a vast new drinking water reservoir [4 miles x 4 miles] just south of Abingdon. Why is it needed? Outline arguments in favour and against its construction.

Section 6

i. The European Union regards fish as a common resource. What are the difficulties in ensuring that a common resource such as stocks of particular species of fish are conserved in a sustainable manner?
ii. Outline the advantages and disadvantages of various strategies to provide electricity to the United Kingdom in the future.

(25 marks)