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# 3

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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
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## Level 3 Social Studies, 2016

### 91598 Demonstrate understanding of how ideologies shape society

2.00 p.m. Friday 2 December 2016  
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of how ideologies shape society.	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of how ideologies shape society.	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of how ideologies shape society.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

If you need more room for your answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–16 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**Excellence**

**TOTAL**

**8**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Use a named society you have studied this year to complete the task below.

You must use **social studies concepts** and **specific evidence** in your answer.

You should answer in essay form or in a series of paragraphs. You may support your answers with diagrams, pictures, graphs, etc.

Space for planning is provided on page 3. Begin your response on page 4.

**TASK: HOW IDEOLOGIES SHAPE SOCIETY**

With reference to a specific society you have studied this year:

- Describe TWO ideologies and the beliefs that underpin them.
- Describe at least ONE change that has occurred in society as a result of EACH ideology.
- Use differing points of view, values, and perspectives to explain how and why ideologies and social processes have led to these changes.
- Evaluate the extent to which the ideologies have shaped society by discussing the positive and/or negative consequences of each ideology for society, then make a reasoned judgement about which ideology has shaped society the most.

Begin your answer here:

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The society I have studied this year is New Zealand. NZ is currently being shaped by liberal and Conservative ideologies. One area where this is particularly evident is in regards to Voluntary Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide, which is currently illegal, but which Liberals want to change and Conservatives want to preserve. ||

### IDEOLOGIES

One ideology shaping NZ society is Conservatism. Conservatism promotes maintaining and holding onto traditional values and customs within society. Conservatism opposes change, particularly the radical change that Liberalism promotes because they see it as too abstract and as an ideology too focussed on freedom and equality. \* Conservatives see opportunities to keep society stable and concrete by preserving laws like the current euthanasia ones. ||

Another ideology shaping NZ is Liberalism. Liberalism promotes free thinking and values equality and freedom. Liberalism rejects 'natural authority' and unlike Conservatism, the idea of holding onto traditional methods simply because it is tradition. \* Liberalism recognises society's need for progression in all areas, which is why it is pushing for euthanasia legalisation.

### SOCIAL PROCESS

Conservatism is shaping NZ through the social

process of political pressure. Political pressure involves lobbying MPs and gaining public support to put on MPs in order to influence ~~and~~ their thinking on an issue in either support of or opposition to a cause. Their aim is to ensure laws are all preserved. An example of political pressure being used //

- (\*) Conservatism is currently reflected in NZ through the role religion still plays in our schools, restrictive drug & abortion laws, and in our national anthem.
- (\*) Liberalism is currently reflected in NZ through the legalisation of abortion, liberal drinking laws, the Prostitution Act and the legalisation of same-sex marriage. //

is in the case of Lecretia Seales. The Core Alliance, an anti-euthasia group, applied to be an intervenor in her court case and were successful, allowing the group to oppose Seale's appeal to die. In addition, CA was permitted to supply additional evidence and effectively helped the judge rule that Lecretia did not have the right to die.

Another example is the initiation of Euthanasia Free NZ. This anti-euthasia group has a website dedicated to outlining the dangers of VE with various resources, videos and ~~enough~~ research.

Their site also has an online petition aim is to increase public opposition to VE, thus putting pressure on MPs to keep the current laws. The site also has an online petition which will soon be presented to parliament to place more direct pressure on politicians. ||

~~Conservatism has brought around several changes to NZ society through political pressure, the most significant~~ Liberalism is shaping NZ through the social process of activism. Activism is the use of direct, often confrontational action such as strike or demonstration, but also lobbying and petitions. ~~The~~ The aim is to gain attention that will lead to law change. An example of activism being used is in the case of Lesley Martin. In 2002, Lesley Martin, ~~was~~ a nurse taking care of her dying mother, published a book; To Die Like a Dog, in which she confessed to attempting to kill her mother due to the pain she was in. Martin was shortly arrested and sentenced to 15 months. Despite knowing she would be punished, she published the book anyway to gain support and attention and awareness as to why she wanted euthanasia legalised. Martin also joined with pro-VE activist Philip Nietzsche

to form EXIT NZ - a group dedicated to pushing for euthanasia legalisation.

Another example is the case of Lecretia Seales. Seales was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer and after applying to the high Court she started up a blog and Facebook page sharing her plight and reasoning as to why she wanted to die. Her controversial case gained great media attention, her Facebook page with nearly 10,000 followers. Although she lost the case, Seales started a nationwide conversation and gave people a chance to understand why VE legalisation was necessary.

### CHANGES

Conservatism has brought change to NZ Society through political pressure, the most significant being the slowing down of the pace of liberal, pro-VE, activists and preserving the current Euthanasia Laws. Each time the law has been under threat, political pressure has been applied and the law unchanged. This was the case with the first Death With Dignity Bill in 1995 which failed 60-29 due to a Nationwide campaign, and also the case with the more recent 2003 bill. \*

Liberalism has brought 3 changes in NZ society. ~~changed~~ NZ society through activism.

Firstly it has changed Public opinion. In 1995, a Colmar Brunton poll showed only 42% of New Zealanders supported euthanasia, but by May 2015 this had increased to 75%, showing NZers becoming increasingly liberal and open to euthanasia. Secondly, it has changed political opinion. Although no success has been had through an actual law change, when the first Death With Dignity Bill in 1995, it lost 60-29, but by the 2003 bill, although it lost, it lost 57-61, showing a vast increase in support and a prediction that the next bill should logically pass. Finally, the judicial system has become more sympathetic in assisted suicide cases. In 2012 a man was sentenced to 5 months home detention for helping his mother die and Aucklander, Evans Mott was uncharged for killing his dying mother. This shows huge progress in understanding and acceptability of VE, especially when we compare it to the 3 year sentence of Chris Simpson in 2001 and the 15 months for Lestey Martin in 2004. || \_\_\_\_\_

HOW / REASONS WHY

Conservatism has led to change because of Secularisation. NZ is becoming increasingly

a poll in 1995 showing NZ to be 29.6% secular  
and a poll in 2015 showing us to be 61.9%  
Secular

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less and less religious, which Conservatives see as a threat ~~so~~ because with dismissal of religion, comes too the dismissal of the traditions and values of Conservatives and an increase in the ones they have traditionally opposed such as VE legalisation. Conservatives have lost to liberal law changes already such as Prostitution Act (2003) Abortion Law Reform (1977) and Gay marriage (2013) and with those losses, they lose more and more of their ideal society, so by trying to preserve and hold onto the laws NZ as an originally Christian country held onto, they feel they are protecting society from unnecessary radical change and preserving their ideal society. // \_\_\_\_\_

\* It was not until 2013 that Gay marriage was legalised and the same procrastinative preserving is occurring with VE. In 2003 the bill did not pass by a very slight 61-57 and this is because of the consistent lobbying of MP's, ~~for~~ organising of interviews and meetings that pressured them to leave the law alone. Brian Johnston was even granted direct access to parliament, to persuade "on the fence" politicians. // \_\_\_\_\_

Liberalism has led to change because activism forces social change. We have seen this already through the history of NZ as we've fought for Maori rights in the 19th-20th Century, Female reproductive rights in the '60s '70s and fighting for Nuclear Free NZ in the 2000s. We've had laws passed for abortion and prostitution, drinking and gay marriage because of activism and with these historical accomplishments in mind, it seems inevitable that we will soon have Euthanasia legalised. People have begun to recognise the importance of social justice and equality issues and there is now a great understanding and push for euthanasia legalisation. Wesley Martin led the way for VE Liberal activism in 2002 and gained a huge following with immense media coverage. Leeretia Seales followed suit with her own ordeal and now as a society, activism has shown us the necessity of euthanasia legalisation and with our secular percentage at 71.9% and rising, we face less and less opposition to legalising euthanasia.

#### POINTS OF VIEW

One person with a point of view on the matter

is Simon O'Connor. O'Connor believes euthanasia should remain illegal and he "ambiguously opposes VE in this country." He believes "There is not a right to die, there is a right to life." He believes this because he values tradition and the idea that there are less extreme solutions to such extreme issues. Clearly he has been shaped by a Conservative ideology, an ideology that also values tradition and is current wholly against law change in general but particularly to VE. //

Another individual with a view on the debate is David Seymour. Seymour believes the law on VE is well over due to be legalised and that it is "Politically, morally and socially the right thing to do." Seymour believes this because he values equality and the freedom to choose. Clearly his views are shaped by a liberal ideology as liberalism promotes free thinking, equality, radical change and is currently using activism to push for a VE law change. //

#### EVALUATION

Both Conservatism and Liberalism have ~~shaped~~<sup>impacted</sup> NZ society in both positive and negative ways. Conservatism has shaped New Zealand ~~negatively~~ most evidently through its preservation of the current euthanasia laws, thus limiting the freedom and equality of society,

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a negative effect. The preservation of the law is effectively pushing ideas and values into society, that statistics show most people don't show support of eg; a right to life over the right to die which a poll from 2015 shows 75% of people disagreeing. Conservatism is hindering the opportunity for progress in our society, by lobbying and using political pressure to preserve outdated and irrelevant laws. Conservatism is simply slowing down feats that will inevitably happen and by doing so, they prevent liberals, who are the majority of society from moving forward, and they create a resentment against them for these actions - overall a negative effect. Environmentally, Conservatism also creates a negative effect as they ~~liberalism~~ are tied to industries that are unsustainable and because they oppose change, they will not unweave themselves from these ties, causing environmental damage. (\*)

Liberalism has also impacted society. Firstly, to counter Conservatism, it

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is the more sustainable ideology. But most importantly, socially Liberalism has changed a lot of views and overturned many outdated laws with newer, more inclusive ones; legalisation of abortion in 1977, Gay marriage in 2013, Prostitution in 2003 and many others. These were all social justice issues just like the current one of VE, which just goes to show it is very likely Liberalism will be able to do the same for that issue, especially with opinions already changing as we can see from the poll in 1995 that showed 42% for VE & then the poll in 2015 that showed 75% for VE. Liberalism has increased in the amount of subscribers it has as its use of unignorable activism has helped people care more about injustice and inequality. NZ is now 61.9% secular and growing more as people reassess the importance of social justice to them. Social justice is about being inclusive & Liberalism has thus made this society more selfless. Politically, no big impact

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have been made, ~~but~~ most politicians wanting to avoid controversy, John Key saying, "It's a very hard legislation to get right" and Labour, "currently has more pressing issues," but a bill was submitted last year in October, so although no huge moves, the conversation might be politically starting. //

Although historically Conservatives have shaped the issue of euthanasia most over the last ~~ten years~~ 10 years, Liberalism has gained more ground in respect to the issue, Mary Panko of Euthanasia Society NZ says "Back then it was a very controversial view to hold; Now, it's normal." Since 1995's ~~vote~~ <sup>vote</sup> for euthanasia legalisation failing 29-60, the 2003 bill failed to 57-61, support clearly rising even though ultimately failing. With last year's proposed bill it seems logical to predict it will pass, at the very least, support will have risen, because Liberalism recognises Society's need for progression and encourages

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It is human nature to evolve, physically and mentally, and Liberalism, using activism helps us do so. Euthanasia will be legalised and it will be soon, because Conservatism is becoming less and less of a threat. Religious tradition is not valued to the extent it once was, but viewed now more as oppressive due to its refusal to change. 67% of NZ is secular and Conservative support is limited to those remaining religious, the wealthy and the elderly. But the elderly are dying and new, liberal millennials are being born and they won't shy from change. We can see society's want and need for progression through polls and stats and votes and the current fight to legalise the drug, marijuana. Conservatism has preserved euthanasia laws yes, but their power is dying and NZ is becoming more progressive and liberal and will see that euthanasia is soon legalised, just as it should be. //

\* But Conservatism has arguably positively impacted society in the past. Originally a Conservative Christian Society, Conservatism helped

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create a stable, proper and moral society. This benefitted us as a relatively New country, but we are older and New Zealand began to see injustice so fought for it, and now, more progressive ideologies are what we can benefit from. //

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91598: Exemplars				
Excellence exemplar 91598 2016			Total score	E8
Question	Grade score	Annotation		
1	E7	The extent to which both ideologies – conservatism and liberalism – have shaped Indian society are explained with detail. A summary of which ideology has shaped the society the most has been presented with a constructive argument and excellent specific evidence.		