

# Reference Materials for HSE Global Scholarship Competition — 2022

## Social Sciences: Person. Society. State

### I. Recommendations for preparation

1. Thematically, this Competition subject is related to Sociology, Law, and Political Science - all subjects of the standard school course of Social Studies.

2. The structure of the Competition tasks for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades is the same. The differences are the increased complexity (grade-relevant) of tasks and a greater number of topics.

3. The Competition assignment consists of **six tasks** — three are focused on topics from the "Man and Society", three other — on the topics from the "State" section. (see "II. Contents. Section and Topic Overview").

4. Main types of tasks.

4.1. **Task 1** requires to analyze a certain statement on a sociological topic, define the discussed problem, propose its theoretical explanation, and illustrate it using the relevant examples.

4.2. **Task 2** describes a biographical situation, which shall be interpreted and explained using sociological concepts and theories.

4.3. **Task 3** requires analyzing any paradox taken from fiction or from the works of classical authors from various social sciences.

4.4. **Task 4** requires analyzing any statement related to the state and government problem or analyzing any real-world problem of state administration.

4.5. **Task 5** describes the situation that shall be interpreted and explained using social, political, and economic theories and concepts.

4.6. **Task 6** requires describing, interpreting, and analyzing any real historical event related to politics and the state.

5. When solving the tasks, the participant should demonstrate the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to specific situations, as well as the knowledge of social studies, including major terms and concepts, the ability to use them correctly, knowledge of key theories related to the considered problems of concepts, approaches, theories, their authors, and key categories.

6. The maximum total score for completing all the tasks is 100.

7. All tasks shall be completed in 120 minutes.

8. When solving tasks, the Competition participants are not allowed to use any auxiliary materials and devices.

## II. Contents. Section and Topic Overview

### Section 1. Human and Society

**Topic 1. Basic sociology principles.** The specifics of the teachings about a person before the emergence of scientific sociology. Main causes for the emergence of sociology. Aspects of a sociological approach to a person. The subject and method of sociology. Model of a sociological person. The main provisions of the positive method. The structure of modern sociological knowledge, the multi-paradigm structure of modern social sciences, middle-range theory.

**Topic 2. Social groups as the basic element of society.** The basic concepts of sociology — social category, community, social group. Main aspects of a social group. Group and quasigroup. Variety of social groups. Typology of social groups. Small, medium, large groups, primary and secondary groups, target and non-target, formal and informal, their characteristic criteria. Reference groups. The role of primary groups in human life. The importance of groups of various types in traditional, modern, post-modern societies. Social minorities. Types of interaction within a group. Stability of the social group.

**Topic 3. Social roles, norms and values.** The concept of social role. The role and group, group role-play structure. The concept of leadership. Role strain, causes, main types. Interrole and intrarole conflicts. Ways to resolve role conflicts. Social norms and values. Main classifications of norms. Formal and informal norms, "soft and hard" norms, prescribing and prohibitive norms. The concept of value, terminal and instrumental values. The concept of anomie, the role of anomie in the modern world. Ethical standards in the culture system. Approaches of sociology and philosophy to the understanding of nature of ethical norms.

**Topic 4. Social control and socialization. The problem of deviant behavior.** Objectives and functions of social control. External and internal social control. Formal and informal social control. The mechanism of external social control, the concept of social sanctions, their classification. The concept of deviance. Typology of deviant behavior by Merton. Main approaches to the explanation of deviant behavior. Socialization as a base for internal social control. The concepts of primary and secondary socialization, their main aspects. The main socialization concepts — the "looking-glass self" theory, "generalized other", "significant other". Socialization mechanism and agents. Socialization and deviant behavior.

**Topic 5. Social structure and stratification.** The concept of society, the main aspects of society. The concepts of traditional, industrial and post-industrial societies, their inconsistencies. Global problems of modern times. Social status of man. The connection of status and role, the concept of role set. Rank and nominal status variables. Biological, achieved and imposed statuses. Social classes and strata, basic division criteria. Intergroup and class conflicts. Objective and subjective factors in class formation. The lowest, middle and highest classes, their attributes. Territorial groups as a social structure element. Social stratification of Soviet and post-Soviet types of societies. Social mobility, its main types. Mobility channels, social elevators.

**Topic 6. Culture and society. The variety of cultures.** The concept of culture, multiple meanings of this term. The material and spiritual culture, the relativity of these concepts, their interconnectedness. The concepts of dominant culture, subculture and counterculture. Youth subcultures in modern society, the role of countercultures in the social world. Culture and group. The problem of the variety of cultures, a dilemma of evolutionary and pluralistic approaches, the main exponents of these approaches. Modern concepts of culture classification.

**Topic 7. System of social institutions. Religion as an institute.** The concept of social institution, main elements of the social Institute. Functions of social institutions, the concept of explicit and latent functions. Institutionalization process. The most important institutions of modern society. Religion as a phenomenon of culture and social institution. Conditions for the formation of religion sociology, aspects of the sociological approach. The main types of religious organizations — church, sect, denomination, cult, their dynamics aspects. The main functions of religion, the specifics of religion functions in the modern world. The main trends of the development of religions, the concepts of modernization, secularization, ecumenism. Major world religions.

**Topic 8. Family as a social institution.** Definitions of family and marriage. Family as a small group and social institution. Marriage types — monogamy, polygamy (polygyny, polyandry), their causes (basic concepts). Family types — nuclear, extended (patriarchal), incomplete. Social functions of the family — economic, reproduction of the population, socialization, status, relaxation, regulation of sexual relations. Family in modern society, modern family development trends, main controversies. Gender as a sociological category. Gender equality problem.

## Section 2. State

**Topic 9. State administration as a science.** Stages of the development of state administration science. Bureaucratic model of state administration. Management model of state administration. Network model of state administration. Justice and morality as regulators of the behavior of public sector employees. Remuneration of the state service.

**Topic 10. The structure of state administration bodies.** Organizational structure. Assessment of state activity results. Structural and functional transformations in the state administration system.

**Topic 11. Civil society.** Non-profit sector and civil society. Approaches to the civil society structure definition. The involvement of the population in the informal practices of civil society. Civil society development stages. The role of NGOs in solving social problems. State policy in the promotion of civil initiatives. Forms of interaction of state authorities and non-state NGOs.

**Topic 12. Regional governance and sustainable development of territories.** Multi-level government system. Regional management. Management of social and economic processes in the regions of the Russian Federation. Basics of strategic management of the development of near-border and coastal regions. Strategic management of sustainable development of regions rich on raw materials. Management of territorial ecological and economic systems. Marketing of territories. Management of public welfare. Smart cities.

**Topic 13. State regulation of the economy.** Fiscal policy. Budget process. State administration bodies regulating the economy. Monetary policy. Price regulation. Investment policy. State regulation of foreign economic activity.

## III. List of recommended sources for preparation

*Giddens A. Sociology. - 8th ed. - Cambridge: Polity Press, 2017.*

Robinson, J. A., Acemoglu, D. (2012). *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity and poverty.* London: Profile.

Yew, L. K. (2012). *From third world to first: The Singapore story, 1965-2000.* Marshall Cavendish International Asia Pte Ltd.

John, P. (2018). How far to nudge? Assessing behavioural public policy. Edward Elgar Publishing.

#### IV. Online sources

Crash Course Sociology. 2017-2018. URL:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB\\_7J1538YKWkZAnGA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMJ-AfB_7J1538YKWkZAnGA)

Why nations fail. James Robinson, TEDxAcademy; October 07, 2014. URL:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsZD1BU36n0>

Understanding Public Administration. October 22, 2018. URL:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXGQsfgF4L8>

Smart specialisation strategies in the EU and their policy impact. Prof. Frank van Oort; March 31, 2016. URL: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kleiqA\\_rgZU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kleiqA_rgZU)

Public Economics. Introduction. Harvard University; December 06, 2012. URL:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjuKvgQv51Y>