To be filled in by the Jury. Please do not make any notes here!							
CODE	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	**Total points**
	Max 15	Max 15	Max 20	Max 15	Max 20	Max 15	Max 100

SOCIAL SCIENCES: PERSON. SOCIETY. STATE

Grade 11
Variant 1

To be completed within 120 minutes
Maximum score – 100 points

Task 1. *(maximum score − 15 points)*

A popular expression says: "The end justifies the means".

What arguments for and against this viewpoint can you suggest? What sociological concepts can be used to interpret this expression?

Task 2. *(maximum score − 15 points)*

Ivan has been a blood donor for a long time. Every six months, he makes regular visits to a hospital and helps other people. After donating blood, he is offered a free lunch and then allowed to go home.

Why does Ivan get free meals instead of money? What reaction would you expect from Ivan if, instead of being invited to the dining room, he were offered an envelope containing an amount equal to the cost of his lunch? What sociological concepts can be used to interpret Ivan's behaviour?

Task 3. *(maximum score − 20 points)*

We can see a spike in popularity for freelance work today. Freelancers look for orders themselves and rely on direct arrangements with customers. Often, they share successful past cooperation experience with their partners. Even though thanks to modern technologies, an employer and their employees may be thousands of kilometres apart keeping in touch exclusively online, they rarely sign a formal contract, making oral agreements instead.

Without a formal contract, what do you think are the guarantees for customers to get high-quality services and for freelancers to get paid for their work? Why is mutual deception relatively rare? What sociological terms/concepts can help us better understand this situation?

Task 4. *(maximum score − 15 points)*

At the beginning of the 20th century, the German sociologist Max Weber developed his concept of ideal bureaucracy. In his concept, a civil servant was considered as a cog in a huge impersonal bureaucratic machine operating exclusively within the framework of laws and regulations to which it abides. The main features of this ideal management system are strict hierarchy, specialization and standardization of job responsibilities, unified rules, and impersonal relationship.

Task. Answer the following questions:

1) What do Weber's concept of ideal bureaucracy and other management theories of that time have in common?
2) Can Weber's concept apply to contemporary public administration? Which elements remain relevant to this day?
3) Weber assumed that a well-organized bureaucratic system could one day overtake all administrative processes in the state. What measures can you suggest to prevent this?

Task 5. *(maximum score − 20 points)*

In many countries, the state's functions go beyond being a "night watchman"; it can also be engaged in the production and distribution of economic goods (mostly public goods, such as education, healthcare, etc.). At the end of the 19th century, a German economist Adolf Wagner in his work "The Fundamentals of Political Economy" mentioned a statistical trend showing that *public spending was growing faster than national production* (the state-owned share of the economy was growing faster than the actual economy). Later, researchers started to refer to this phenomenon as "Wagner's law".

Task. Answer the following questions:

1) *Why does the state often act as a producer and supplier of certain economic goods?*
2) *Select any country of your choice and show how Wagner's law works in this country, or, conversely, how it doesn't work in this case.*
3) *Do you think Wagner's law has been still in effect over the last 50 years? Use specific examples to support your answer.*
4) *What are the key weak points of the model when the state plays a major role in the economy?*

Task 6. *(maximum score − 15 points)*

Since the 2010s, China has been developing a social credit system. It implies that citizens get assessed in line with various parameters which are then used to form their social profile. Depending on the result, the state can control a person's access to multiple services: higher education, insurance payments, bank loans, etc.

Task. Answer the following questions:

1) *What are the key strong and weak points of such a system? Consider this issue from three points of view: at the level of the state, society, and individual.*
2) *What do you think the key contradictions between the state, society and individuals are in the context of this system?*
3) *Propose your ways to mitigate these tensions.*