

Socialist Party of Great Britain

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION OF MUNICIPAL & PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES

Reprinted January, 1957

1. What is Wealth?
2. " " a commodity?
3. " " use value?
4. " " exchange value?
5. " " value?
6. " " surplus value - did peasants produce surplus value?
7. How is surplus value split up?
8. Do articles sell at their values?
9. Is there any surplus value in an hour's labour?
10. Will value exist under Socialism?
11. What is socially necessary labour?
12. What is profit?
13. What are prices?
14. What are wages?
15. What is labour-power?
16. What determines the price of labour-power?
17. Can real wages fall?
18. What is the standard of living and does it vary?
19. What is capital?
20. " " meant by the export of capital?
21. " " the function of trade unions and do we support them?
22. Do trade unions take part in the class struggle?
23. What are reforms and do we oppose them?
24. " " crises and their causes?
25. " " taxes?
26. " is monopoly?
27. Is Capitalism likely to collapse?
28. What is the basis of all societies?
29. " forms has society passed through?
30. " is the materialist conception of history?
31. " is the class struggle?
32. " was the English Revolution, the French Revolution, the American War of Independence, the American Civil War, the Paris Commune and the Russian Revolution?
33. What is the State?
34. " " Parliament?
35. What will be the attitude of a socialist if elected to Parliament?
36. Will he take the Oath of Allegiance?
37. What are Political Parties?
38. Do we support nationalist movements?
39. " " " Peace movements and what is our attitude to C.I.D. etc?
40. What is our attitude to backward nations?
41. Can we ally ourselves with any other Party for any object?
42. Why must we oppose all other Political Parties?
43. Why must we be independent?
44. What is our attitude to Rent reform and Tax reform?
45. What is the Russian economic system?
46. Do we support the General Strike or Industrial Unionism?
47. Is leadership a necessary social function?
48. What is democracy?
49. Has managerial control supplanted capitalist ownership of the means of production?
50. Is Capitalism moving towards Socialism?
51. What is our attitude to war - are there defensive wars?
52. " " " " " Automation?
53. " " the purpose of putting forward candidates in local elections?
54. " " the relation of Local Authority to Central Government?
55. " " our attitude to U.K.?
56. " " " " to the Common Market?
57. " " " " to restriction of immigration?
58. " " " " to Inflation?

NEW SPEAKERS TEST -- QUESTIONNAIRE, 1975

1. What is the basis of Society?
2. " forms have society passed through?
3. " is the Materialist Conception of History?
4. " is the Class Struggle?
5. " was the English revolution, the French revolution, the American War of Independence, the American Civil War?
6. " is wealth?
7. " is value?
8. " is Exchange Value?
9. " is Surplus Value?
10. How is Surplus Value split up?
11. Do articles sell at their value?
12. Is there any surplus value in an hour's labour?
13. Will value exist under Socialism?
14. What is socially necessary labour?
15. " is Profit?
16. " are prices?
17. " are Wages?
18. " is Labour Power?
19. " determines the price of labour power?
20. Do real wages fall?
21. What is the standard of living?
22. Does the standard of living vary?
23. What is capital?
24. What is meant by the export of capital?
25. What is the function of Trade Unions?
26. Do we support Trade Unions?
27. Do Trade Unions take part in the Class Struggle?
28. What are Reforms?
29. Do we oppose Reforms?
30. What are crises and their causes?
31. What is the division of the national income?
32. Has it changed since 50 years ago?
33. What is the division of property?
34. " are Taxes?
35. " is monopoly?
36. " is Imperialism?
37. Is Capitalism likely to collapse?
38. What is the State?
39. " is Parliament?
40. " will be the attitude of a socialist if elected?
41. Do our candidates take the Oath of Allegiance?
42. What are Political Parties?
43. " is the Russian system of government?
44. Do we support nationalist movements?
45. What is our attitude to backward nations?
46. Can we ally ourselves to any other Party for any object?
47. Why do we oppose all other Political Parties?
48. Why must we be independent?
49. What is the social revolution?
50. Do we support the General Strike?
51. Is Leadership a necessary social function?
52. What is democracy?
53. Has managerial control supplanted capitalist ownership of the means of production?
54. Is capitalism moving towards socialism?
55. What is our attitude to War?
56. Are there offensive and defensive wars?
57. What is our attitude to Automation?
58. What was Feudalism?
59. Did Feudal peasants produce surplus value?
60. Does poverty cause crime?
61. " " " prostitution?
62. What is the purpose of standing at Local Government elections?
63. " " " relationship of Local Authority to Central

Was this ever approved? Adam. 11/8

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES TEST. (H Walters, H Young, R Critchfield and C Slapper)

REPORT TO EC
-8th February 1983.

Dear Comrades,

We would suggest that the following questions be adopted as from this date as the basis for tests both for speakers and for parliamentary candidates, and that 300 copies be made.

1. What is the basis of capitalist society ?
2. What will be the basis of socialist society ?
3. What is the role of the Socialist Party in the move from capitalist to socialist society ?
4. Explain the materialist conception of history, with reference to slavery, feudalism, capitalism and socialism. What is the class struggle ?
5. Explain the labour theory of value, with reference to use and exchange value.
6. What is capital and how is it accumulated ?
7. What is surplus value, and how is it sub-divided ?
8. What is the relationship between value and price ?
9. What determines the price of labour power ?
10. What is the function of trade unions ? Explain the socialist position on trade unionism.
11. Explain in some detail the socialist position on reforms and reformism.
12. How does crisis and recession come about in capitalism ?
13. How would socialist production avoid suffering the booms and slumps of capitalism ?
14. Explain taxation. Do workers have a stake in the state ?
15. What is the nature of the state ?
16. What is the function of parliament and local government ?
17. Could socialism be produced by capitalism collapsing ?
18. What are political parties ? Explain the historical evolution of a) the Conservative Party b) the Liberal Party c) the Labour Party d) the Social Democratic Party
19. What are the basic principles of Leninism, and how are they opposed to socialism ?
20. Outline the forms taken by society in Russia in the twentieth century.
21. Explain imperialism. What is the way forward for workers in the 'underdeveloped' nations ?
22. What action do socialists advocate for workers living under the dictatorships of the world, such as Chile, Russia or Iran ?
23. Explain monopoly. How free is the market ?
24. How would SPGB Members of Parliament vote on reform measures ? Would our candidates take the oath of allegiance ?
25. Could the SPGB ally itself to other parties for any object ? Explain.
26. Could social revolution be brought about through a general strike ?
27. Is leadership a necessary social function ?
28. What is democracy, and how does it relate to socialism ?
29. Does the growth of pension funds, insurance companies and managerial responsibility mean the end of capitalism ?
30. What is the socialist attitude towards wars, weapons and CND ?
31. What is the socialist attitude towards the Women's Liberation Movement ?

Fraternaly,

H Walters

H Young

R Critchfield

C Slapper

8.2.83