

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YEAR 9 (13+) SCHOLARSHIP

May 2025
for entry in September 2025

GENERAL PAPER

Your Name: _____

Your School: _____

Time allowed: 1 hour

Equipment needed: Pen, pencil, lined paper, eraser.

Information for candidates:

1. Write your name and school on this page.
2. Write your answers on the **separate paper** provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
3. There are two sections, Section A and Section B. Answer **all** the questions in section A and choose **one** question from section B.
4. The paper will be marked out of 30. Section A and Section B are worth 15 marks each.

SECTION A [15 marks]

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

Finland is the happiest country in the world

(Adapted from Celia Fernandez's article for CNBC 20/03/24)

For the seventh year in a row, Finland has landed the top spot on the World Happiness Report's annual ranking of the happiest countries in the world.

What is the World Happiness Report?

Countries are ranked according to their citizens' responses to a number of different questions about their well-being. One of the most significant questions taken into consideration is the Cantril Ladder Question. This question asks respondents to think of a ladder where the best possible life would be a 10 and the worst possible life would be a 0. Using this, respondents are asked to rate where they would place their life on the ladder from 0-10.

The Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford, which publishes the report, says that in addition to using the Ladder Question and the citizens' responses, the report also considers the following six variables:

1. Gross Domestic Product per capita (the total monetary value of a country's goods and services per person)
2. Social Support from the government (e.g. free or discounted healthcare, education, benefits...)
3. Healthy life expectancy
4. Freedom
5. Generosity
6. Freedom from corruption

What are the top 10 happiest countries in the world?

According to the World Happiness Report, the top 10 happiest countries in the world are:

1. Finland
2. Denmark
3. Iceland
4. Sweden
5. Israel
6. Netherlands
7. Norway
8. Luxembourg
9. Switzerland
10. Australia

Why does Finland keep topping the list?

Life expectancy at birth in Finland is around 82 years (85 for women and 79 for men).

According to Frank Martela, a Finnish philosopher and psychology researcher, Finnish people are happy because they have a solid sense of community, strong social connections with others and a clear purpose for themselves.



Finland also outperforms the average country in education, work-life balance, environment quality, safety, and life satisfaction, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Better Life Index. The Finnish people's strong sense of community is further proven by this index, which states that 96% of people believe they know someone they can rely on in a time of need.

Questions:

1. In your own words, summarise why Finland keeps being named the happiest country in the world, according to the World Happiness Report. [2 marks]
2. Consider the 6 factors that are considered by researchers in addition to the citizen responses and the Ladder Question. Would you add any other factors to the list? Why/why not? [2 marks]
3. Why do many think that the World Happiness Report provides a reliable way of measuring how happy people are? [3 marks]
4. Why might some argue that it does not provide a reliable way of measuring how happy people are? [3 marks]
5. Do you think that reports like the World Happiness Report help people to learn about how they can live happier lives? Why/why not? [5 marks]

SECTION B [15 Marks]

Respond to **one** of the following questions. You should refer to real-life or hypothetical examples in your response to demonstrate why your points are both true and important.

1. Do new inventions always lead to progress?
2. To what extent can we judge people from different historical contexts?
3. What is more important: intentions or consequences?
4. To what extent do you think that it is possible for people to change?