

Politics Higher Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
<p><u>Human Nature:</u></p> <p>John Locke - argues that society should be organised, to promote diversity and the free development of individuality</p> <p>T.G. Green - suggested that people have a natural desire to enhance others' welfare as well as their own.</p> <p>(http://politicsforalevel.wordpress.com/2010/04/12/liberalism/or-human-nature/)</p> <p>Peter Lopston, 'Theories of Human Nature': "Conservatives think human nature has a leader's constancy to it that invariably defeats the utopian dreams of the do-gooders, reformers and revolutionaries. Moreover, the conservative thinks, these interfering schemes will, more or less, do more harm than good"</p> <p><u>Role of the Individual</u></p> <p>Will Kymlicka, 'Liberalism, Community & Culture': "Liberalism, as a political philosophy, is often viewed with being primarily concerned with the relationship between the individual and state. But, implicitly and explicitly, Liberalism also contains a broader account of the relationship between the individual and the state."</p> <p>Paul Spicker, 'The Politics of Welfare': "Conservatives believe in the importance of social order. This is reflected in a respect for tradition, an emphasis on the importance of inequality - such as inequalities of class, or caste - as the basis for structured social relationships."</p> <p>Lord Hailsham - "if we do not give them reform, they will give us revolution."</p> <p><u>Role of the State</u></p> <p>James W. Harrington, 'Principles, Practice and Policy': "The differences between the liberal and Conservative views lie in the degree to which they emphasise the rights and obligations of the state in a market-based society."</p>	

Higher Politics Assignment

Q The differences outweigh the similarities between Liberalism and Conservatism. Discuss.

An ideology is a set of ideas that supports the existing and social economic arrangements of a society. and are the ideas which carry the message of the elites through the agents of socialisation such as governments (political parties, pressure groups) schools, the media and families and peer pressure groups. Even though different ideologies share different views, they still have the same main features of each other such as the state of human nature, the role of the individual in society, the role of the state, the sources and limits of political authority and the preferred economic and social order. Through looking at these main features of the two ideologies which are liberalism and conservatism, it is clear they have ~~different~~ differences in their views.

Liberalism evolved as a political creed in the early 19th century, even though it was based on several ideas from as far as 300 years earlier. During the enlightenment is when liberal ideas arose, in the ~~rise~~ wake of the collapse of feudalism and the transition to an ~~exp~~ individual, market economy. Amongst the middle class, liberal ideas were popular. They were seen as aspirational and a revolutionary change,

They stress that humans nature is flawed, demonstrating both higher and lower qualities. Peter Lipton in the book 'Theories of Human Nature' says that "Conservatives think human nature has a leader conspiracy to it that invariably defeats the utopian designs of the do-gooders, reformers and revolutionaries. Moreover, the conservatives think, these interfering schemes will, more or less, invariably, do more harm than good." They also believe that without a hierarchy or rule, human ~~kind~~ kind becomes selfish and greedy. Liberals see the individual as a 'blank slate' without inherent qualities that impact on social life, and maintain that individuals can be improved under the right social conditions. Conservatives opposed this view of the liberals and believe that instead, the essential 'boundedness' of human rationality.

Another difference between the two ideologies is that liberals hold a 'atomic' view of society as aggregation of individuals. Individuals are seen to possess a right to life, liberty and property (the American constitution guarantees these rights). Liberal thinkers such as John Locke, argues that society should be organized to promote diversity and the free development of individuality. Individualism is viewed as a central feature of liberal democracy. It emphasises on 'limited' government as a means for preventing interference which are of

the private individual. In the book 'The Liberalism, Community & Culture' Will Kymlicka says "liberalism, as a political philosophy, is often viewed with regard primarily concerned with the relationship between the individual and the state. But, implicitly and inequality ~~is a core assumption~~ liberalism also contains a broader account of the relationship between the individual and the state. However, Conservatives argue that leadership and authority are essential principles of social organisation. Paul Spicker in the book 'The Politics of Welfare' says "Conservatives believe in the importance of social order. This is reflected in a respect for tradition, an emphasis on the importance of religion, and a stress on the importance of inequality - such as inequalities of class or state as the basis for structured social relationships". Conservatives assume that human well being can be best achieved in community's subject to political authority. They believe that respect for a hierarchy and authority is an obligation means for individuals to return something to the community which they are part of. They also believe authority is absolute and without restriction. "If we do not give them reform, they will give us revolution." - Lord Hailsham.

Another difference between them is their views on the role of the state. Liberals believe

in the equal worth of all individuals - functional equality - and that everyone should have equality before the law - formal equality. They understand justice ~~as~~ in a 'procedural' sense. Traditionally they favour a procedural concept of justice in which ~~the~~ the institutions of the state and judiciary adopt a 'neutral' rather than 'activist' position. It is important to know that liberals believe in equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome. They believe that individuals should be equal before the law and should enjoy civil and political rights. Although Conservatives believe that inequality is an inheritable feature of all organic society and that ~~there is~~ hierarchy and authority is natural. They believe authority develops naturally and there is no social contract eg. the authority of a parent over a child. Liberals believe the law is there to maintain order in society. James W. Harrington says in the book 'Principles, Practice and Policy': "the difference between the liberal and conservative views lies in the degree to which they emphasise the rights and obligations of the state in a market-based society".

In conclusion, liberalism believes in the supremacy of the individual and the goodness of the human nature, this view is shared by the socialists

ideology; in contrast, Conservatism regards humans as defective and flawed. Conservative approach of the State is what distinguishes from the Liberalism ideology. Furthermore, Conservatism does not share the equality aspect of the former with Liberalism. Although they have differences, their main objective of leading the Society for the better remains the same.