



education

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NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 11

HISTORY P2

EXEMPLAR 2007

ADDENDUM

This addendum consists of 11 pages.

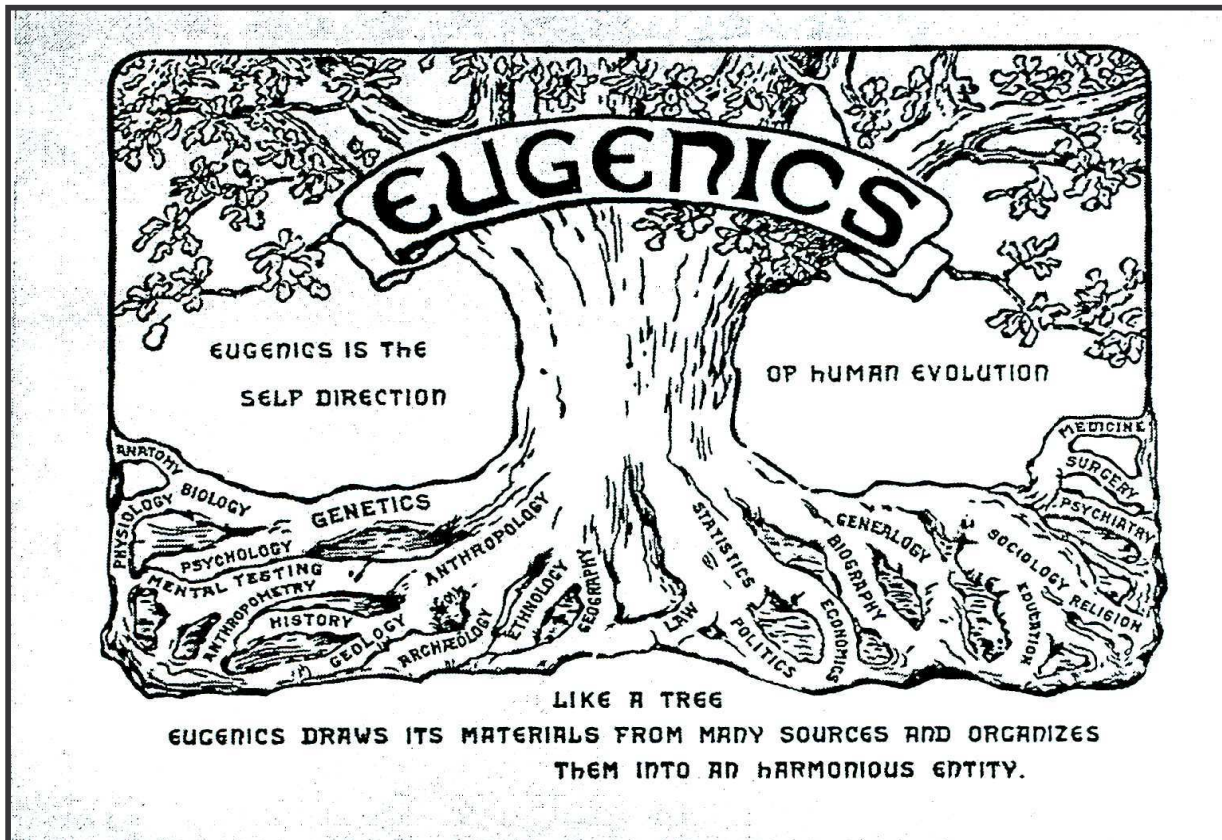
QUESTION 1**WHAT IMPACT DID EUGENICS HAVE ON PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC RACISM?****SOURCE 1A**

Charles Darwin's cousin, Francis Galton, developed a new branch of scientific enquiry based on the theories of evolution. He called it eugenics. Eugenics is the science of the improvement of the human 'race' by breeding the 'best with the best'. He believed that natural selection does not work in human societies the way it does in nature, because people interfere with the process. As a result, the fittest do not always survive. From this point, it was an easy step for some governments to become actively involved in promoting biological engineering, encouraging 'superior' elements of society to have more children and preventing 'inferior' elements from having children, in euthanasia and sterilisation programmes for the mentally ill, disabled and mixed-race children, as happened in the USA and Nazi Germany. In 1904 Galton explained how he believed eugenics would improve a human stock:

The eugenics is the science which deals with all influences that improve and develop the inborn qualities of a race. But what is meant by 'improvement'? We must leave morals as far as possible out of the discussion, on account of the almost hopeless difficulties, they raise as to whether a character as a whole is good or bad. The essentials of eugenics may, however, be easily defined. All would agree that it was better to be healthy than sick, vigorous than weak, well fitted than ill fitted for their part in life. In short, that it was better to be good rather than bad specimens of their kind, whatever that kind might be. There are a vast number of conflicting ideals, of alternative characters, of incompatible civilisations, which are wanted to give fullness and interest to life. The aim of eugenics is to represent each class or sect by its best specimens, causing them to contribute more than their proportion to the next generation. That done, to leave them to work out their common civilisation in their own way ... eugenics co-operates with the workings of nature by ensuring that humanity shall be represented by the fittest races. What nature does blindly, slowly, and ruthlessly, man may do providently, quickly and kindly The improvement of our stock seems one of the highest objects that can be reasonably attempted.

SOURCE 1B

This illustration is to show all the areas in which United States eugenicists thought that eugenics would be useful. These areas are listed on the roots of the tree. They thought that if eugenics were followed, a better and more harmonious society would be the result. This illustration is from the American Philosophical Society.



SOURCE 1C

Hitler admired the work of the eugenicists in the USA and used many of their ideas in his laws dealing with race. Long before he came into power, Hitler wrote about his beliefs about the purity of race and the hierarchy of race in *Mein Kampf*. These extracts are from *Mein Kampf*, translated by Ralph Manheim, 1969, pp. 195, 263, 279:

(a)

What we must fight for is to safeguard the existence and reproduction of our race and our people ..., and the purity of our blood, the freedom and independence of the fatherland, so that our people may mature for the fulfilment of the mission [given to us] by the creator of the universe.

(b)

It is idle to argue which race or races were the original representatives of human culture and hence the real founders of all that we sum up under the word 'humanity'. It is simpler to raise this question with regard to the present, and here an easy clear answer results. All the human culture, all the results of art, science and technology that we see before us today, are almost exclusively the creative product of the Aryan ... he alone was the founder of all higher humanity