



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2011

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA3

Unit 3 A2 Culture and Society

Tuesday 25 January 2011

1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is GENA3.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A, **one** question from Section B and **one** question from Section C.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 (20 for Section A, 25 for Section B and 25 for Section C).
- This paper consists of three sections.
 - Section A** contains two compulsory questions based on source material.
 - Section B** contains four alternative essay questions based on aspects of culture.
 - Section C** contains four alternative essay questions based on aspects of society.
- Write your answers in continuous prose as if you are addressing the intelligent general reader. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

Section A

Study **Extracts A** and **B** on **Politics and the Internet** and then answer **Questions 01** and **02**.

Use your own words, rather than simply repeating those used in the sources, to show your understanding of the points being made.

Extract A

Tweet lands Twitter user in jail

A computer geek in Guatemala has become one of the first in the world to be arrested for Tweeting.

Jean Anleu was so tired with corruption in his country that he decided to vent his feeling with a 96-character message on the social-networking site.

The message, or tweet, has now earned him a potential five-year prison sentence.

Mr Anleu urged depositors to pull their money from Guatemala's rural development bank, whose management has been challenged in a political scandal. He illegally undermined public trust in Guatemala's banking system, according to prosecutor Genaro Pacheco. Authorities proved Mr Anleu sent the message by searching his Guatemala City home, and then put him in prison with kidnappers, extortionists and other dangerous criminals for a day and a half before letting him out on bail.

His lawyer, Jose Toledo, believes the government wants to make an example of him.

"Clearly, the message was: Watch out, any of you guys that want to post messages, this can happen to you. ... It was a dissuasive measure," Mr Toledo said.

Source: *Belfast Telegraph* 30th June 2009

Extract B**John Prescott's Tweeting**

Blogging every day can be a bit hard when you've got other work to do. I haven't updated my own blog for a while. But I have kept tweeting. The "140 characters or less rule" is a challenge for me but the limit is a great discipline. You can get your message across just as well as in a big blog post. In fact, less is more. Just look at "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime". It comes in at under 45.

So I had to smile at Cameron's radio interview about Twitter yesterday. He says he doesn't use it. I find it ironic that he didn't think about what he had to say before swearing live on air. If he'd tweeted it, he could have deleted it! He certainly looked like he was thinking on his feet trying to come up with the "right" reply.

But I think Cameron's missing a trick here. I've found Twitter is a great way of getting my opinions across and just as importantly, to read and respond to what other people are saying. The big benefit is having that two-way conversation. I first discovered this with Facebook. It really helped our campaign against Royal Bank of Scotland's bankers' bonuses because people were able to instantly message me to contradict the bank's position that cashiers would be hit by axing the bonuses.

It's a great channel for whistleblowers, especially in a 24-hour news environment.

And I don't have to worry about being misquoted. I publish myself. More and more politicians are blogging, logging and tweeting. Interestingly, according to the Hansard Society, MPs like me born before 1940 are more likely to blog than their younger colleagues.

Source: John Prescott (former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party) *The Guardian* 30th July 2009

Question 1

0	1
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 Compare and contrast the style, content and purpose of Extract A and Extract B about Twitter. (12 marks)

Question 2

0	2
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 To what extent should governments be nervous of political opinions expressed on the internet? (8 marks)

END OF SECTION A

Turn over ►

Section B

Answer **one Question** from **3** to **6**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0	3
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How far do you agree that only those who live a blameless life and act according to their beliefs can justifiably claim to be religious?

OR

0	4
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'Fashions reflect the prevailing morality of their time'.

Discuss this view and say how far you believe it to be true.

OR

0	5
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Discuss what objective criteria can be used to judge the merits of works of art and examine whether they should be judged by objective criteria alone.

Draw your examples from **one** of the following areas:

(a) music, (b) dance, (c) painting, (d) conceptual art, (e) literature, (f) plays, (g) film.

OR

0	6
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'After due thought, deliberation and counselling, people should be free to seek voluntary euthanasia.'

'Existing laws should be enforced to make it more difficult for people to help others to end their lives.'

Discuss both of these arguments before offering your own conclusion.

END OF SECTION B

Section C

Answer **one Question** from **7** to **10**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0	7
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'Violent crime should always carry a custodial sentence. All other crimes should be punished by such measures as community service.'

To what extent do you support these views?

OR

0	8
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Outline the criteria you think should be used to decide who to vote for at a General Election.

Discuss ways in which more people could be encouraged to vote.

OR

0	9
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'British troops should only be used in conflicts which are a direct threat to citizens of the UK.'

Examine this statement and say how far you believe it to be true.

OR

1	0
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'Being a media celebrity brings with it the responsibility of a role model.'

Discuss whether you believe the statement to be true and explain the kind of responsibility that media figures should have towards the general public.

END OF QUESTIONS

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