



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2012

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA3

Unit 3 A2 Culture and Society

Monday 30 January 2012 9.00 am to 11.00 am

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 **all** questions in Section A, **one** question from Section B and **one** question from Section C.

Information

- 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 to C** on **Prince Charles and modern architecture** 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

Angry architects will boycott a speech by Prince Charles on Tuesday, after he reportedly intervened in building plans for London's former Chelsea Barracks.

Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, where the Prince will speak, think he threatened the democratic process by contacting the site owners to oppose a plan to build steel and glass towers there.

In his speech celebrating 175 years of the institute, the Prince is expected to urge architects to turn away from pure innovation and to base designs on existing architecture, community needs and modern technology.

Prince Charles is known for his criticism of modern architecture, previously calling a £6m university lecture hall "a dustbin" and a proposed extension to London's National Gallery a "monstrous carbuncle".

Source: adapted from 'Should Prince Charles criticise modern architecture?', BBC News at bbc.co.uk/news,
12 May 2009

<http://newsforums.bbc.co.uk/nol/thread.jsps?forumID=6428>

Extract B

Richard Rogers, the architect who was sacked last week from a multibillion pound development in London after Prince Charles complained about his designs, has accused the Prince of “an abuse of power” and “unconstitutional” behaviour.

Speaking for the first time since the Qatari royal family abandoned his plans to build 552 new homes on the site of Chelsea Barracks, Rogers called for a national inquiry into whether the Prince has a constitutional right to become involved in matters such as planning applications which have economic, political and social ramifications.

The 75-year old Labour peer claimed the Prince “single-handedly destroyed the project” and attacked him for using his influence behind closed doors to persuade the Qatari royal family, which owns the site, to drop his scheme. He said by interfering in the democratic planning process, the Prince had broken “a bond of trust” with the British public.

Last week, the Qataris withdrew a planning application that had taken two and a half years to prepare. The Prince had written to the Qatari prime minister, complaining that Rogers’ designs were “unsuitable” for a site so close to Sir Christopher Wren’s Royal Hospital.

The Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment, a charity of which Charles is president, has been appointed to help design an alternative scheme at Chelsea Barracks. “Bringing in the Foundation, his own boys if you like, is unbelievably questionable,” said Rogers. “I absolutely don’t think this is acceptable. It is directly self-serving and is unconstitutional.”

“The Prince always goes round the back to wield his influence, using phone calls or, in the case of the Chelsea Barracks, a private letter,” Rogers said. “It is an abuse of power because he is not willing to debate. He has made his representations two and a half years late and anyone but him would have been shown the door. We should examine the ethics of this situation. Someone who is unelected, will not debate but will use the power bestowed by his birthright must be questioned.”

Source: adapted from ROBERT BOOTH “Prince Charles’s meddling in planning ‘unconstitutional’”,
The Guardian, 15 June 2009
© Guardian News and Media Ltd
www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jun/15/prince-charles-richard-rogers-architecture

Turn over for Extract C

Turn over ►

Extract C**Three views on Prince Charles's intervention.**

Surely it is Prince Charles's job to support the views of ordinary people on buildings and town planning, especially in the countryside. Nobody else will dare to confront greedy developers and rich architects and he is a wonderful champion of traditional views. If the Royal Family can't stand up for tradition who can?

David, Walton-on-Thames

The Prince has always criticised contemporary architecture and favoured the path of restoration and preservation. We have come to expect him to help trim the worst excesses of those who favour turning our city centres into concrete jungles.

Peter, Huddersfield

It must be His Royal Highness's role and duty to make sure that the views of those who might never be heard receive some exposure. I suppose that for many developers, hearing the views of locals is unusual and very unwelcome. They're only interested in making huge amounts of money.

Barry, Liverpool

- 0 1** Compare the views expressed in extracts **A**, **B** and **C** about Prince Charles's involvement in modern architecture. *(12 marks)*
- 0 2** How far should Prince Charles be able to use his position to influence people's lives? *(8 marks)*

END OF SECTION A

Section B

Answer **one Question** from **03** to **06**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER**0 3**

'Poetry communicates emotion; prose merely conveys information.'

Examine this view and say how far you believe it is true.

OR**0 4**

Discuss the criteria that could be used for deciding whether one work of art is better than another.

Choose your examples from **one** of the following art forms:

music, film, painting, novels, drama, conceptual art.

OR**0 5**

When the Coalition Government came to power it was reported that they talked of cutting half of the jobs and 40% of the budget of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Discuss the value of having such a government department and how such cuts may affect the country's artistic, cultural and sporting life.

OR**0 6**

'The problem with today's media is that too much is designed to appeal to the lowest common denominator.'

Examine this view and say how far you believe it is true.

END OF SECTION B

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C

Answer **one Question** from **07** to **10**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0 7 Discuss what features the major world religions have in common.

OR

0 8 In the 18th century, Rousseau wrote “Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains”.

Examine the meaning of Rousseau’s statement and explain the extent to which personal freedoms are threatened in the world today.

OR

0 9 ‘The coalition government of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats formed after the 2010 general election was the start of a new era for British politics.’

Discuss the benefits and difficulties of a coalition government.

OR

1 0 ‘Ethical banking and fair trade are worthy aims but are difficult to achieve.’

Discuss the intentions and impact of ethical practice in business.

END OF QUESTIONS

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