



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2015

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA3

Unit 3 A2 Culture and Society

Friday 12 June 2015 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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 **Paper Reference** is GENA3.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A, **one** question from Section B and **one** question from Section C.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

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.

Advice

- Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

Section A

Study **Sources A** and **B** on **State and Private Schools** 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.

Source A**Make state schools as good as private, says Michael Gove**

State schools will test children using private school exams for the first time under plans to make them the “best in the world”, the education secretary will say in a speech on Monday.

Michael Gove will say that schools must set their standards “so high” that they are indistinguishable from the best fee-paying schools like Eton and Harrow.

Mr Gove will say: “My ambition for our education system is simple – when you visit a school in England, standards are so high all round that you should not be able to tell whether it’s in the state sector or a fee-paying independent.

“We know England’s private schools are the best independent schools in the world. Why shouldn’t state schools be the best state schools in the world?”

“I want to see state schools where the vast majority of pupils have the grades and skills to apply for university, if they want to; where a pupil being accepted to Oxbridge is not a cause for celebration, but a matter of course.

“Where it is the norm for state pupils to enjoy brilliant extra-curricular activities like sports, orchestras, cadets, choir, drama, debating, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and more.”

Mr Gove will call for the “Berlin Wall between state and private” education to be broken down. He will suggest that teachers at state schools should set their children the Common Entrance exam when they are 13. This exam is used by private schools to help them to decide which students they should select, but Mr Gove wants the state sector to use them to help track pupils’ progress.

Also, under a tougher approach to discipline, unruly pupils will be forced to pick up litter, tidy classrooms or mop dining hall floors as part of a tough new approach to disciplining unruly pupils.

Source: adapted from Steven Swinford, Senior Political Correspondent, The Telegraph, 02 Feb 2014
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Source B

Michael Gove's latest attack on state schools proves he must do better

Mirror columnist Alison Phillips says that there is a lot of what Michael Gove has been banging on about this week that she agrees with.

Yes, she says, I agree with Michael Gove that we should have proper discipline in schools. Yes, I want kids leaving school literate, confident and with a healthy general knowledge.

Yes, I want my children and all children educated in the state system to give those indulged private school kids a run for their money in the jobs market.

But quite frankly, who doesn't want those things?

Where I don't agree with Gove is that his back-to-the-1950s plan is going to achieve them.

Gove's thinking quite simply seems to be 'private schools good, state schools bad'.

His only exceptions to this appear to be the state schools who've adopted 'private school' attitudes to learning and discipline.

Yes, private schools are long practised at taking average kids and spewing them out with armfuls of qualifications and heads full of confidence. We've got a government packed full of them.

But the reason for this is because they have small class sizes, the very best facilities and parents all deeply – and financially – committed to their child's success.

And let's not forget that many private schools are also selective so they are filled with bright kids to start with.

Troublemakers can simply be booted out – where they end up isn't the school's problem.

It is far harder for state schools to exclude children when there is nowhere else for them to go.

It is also enormously harder where a large proportion of pupils' first language may not be English.

Michael Gove's response to this is more discipline, more tests (even for four year olds), traditional teaching techniques and a school day stretching from nine until six. Rules, regulations, lines and laps of the playing fields – that's the only education Michael Gove seems to rate.

Source: adapted from Alison Phillips, Daily Mirror, 5 Feb 2014

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Assess and account for the differences between the **Sources A** and **B** in both their viewpoint and tone.

[10 marks]

0	2
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How far do you think it is possible or desirable to break down the 'Berlin Wall between state and private education'?

[10 marks]

Turn over ▶

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**

In many European countries, governments are responsible for the upkeep of historic buildings such as ancient monuments, churches, castles and important industrial sites. In the UK, most of the cost of restoring and repairing such iconic buildings is not provided by the state.

How far should the UK government be responsible for preserving our heritage?

or**0 4**

'Religious and moral education should take place within the home and family rather than being left to places of worship, schools or the media.'

Discuss how far you think that this statement is true.

or**0 5**

"Popular culture is a gateway through which many enter in order to discover how the rules that govern majority tastes can be undone, to subversive effect."

Stephen Mallinder: musician and sound artist

Explain what you think Stephen Mallinder meant by this statement and explore whether popular artists, musicians and writers attempt to change society or to reflect it.

or**0 6**

The BBC has for a long time been funded largely through a licence fee bought by users of televisions. The BBC's Royal Charter will soon expire and changes have been suggested.

Examine the implications of scrapping the BBC licence fee and suggest what might replace it.

END OF SECTION B

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

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It is said that to understand the future you must first understand the past.

How far do you think that this is useful or necessary?

or

0	8
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'It is important that people in the public eye should maintain higher standards of honesty and behaviour than the average person in the street.'

Discuss the implications of this statement and say how far you believe it to be true.

or

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Britain has experienced its first coalition government for more than 40 years.

Discuss how this coalition may have affected the attitudes and principles of supporters of the main political parties.

or

1	0
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A study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies has shown that the days when each generation could expect to be better off than their predecessors might be ending.

Discuss the social implications of this assertion and say how and why this could be the case.

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 05: Stephen Mallinder quote © editors M Goddard, B Halligan, N Spelman, 'Resonances: Noise and Contemporary Music', Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. 2013

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