

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE General Studies A
GENA1 Exemplar Scripts



GCE General Studies A GENA1 Exemplar Scripts

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Introduction

This booklet contains a number of marked responses to the January 2009 GENA1 written questions.

The material demonstrates performance at different levels and is provided to give an insight into how examiners apply the published mark schemes. In doing so, it is hoped that teachers and students will be able to understand how some answers score highly whilst others struggle to gain many marks.

For GENA1 the presentation of the material is in three sections:

- The first section contains 'model marked scripts', annotated by a senior examiner to indicate strengths, weaknesses and reasons for awarding a particular mark.
- The second section contains responses without any examiner annotation, so that teachers and/or students can independently assess the quality of an answer against the separately published mark scheme.
- The third section contains senior examiner commentaries on the scripts in section 2, to enable comparison of teacher/candidate assessments against the standards set by AQA senior examiners.

How might the material be best used?

It is suggested that the model marked scripts are studied first before moving to the self-assessment exercise in sections 2 and 3.

When considering the material, teachers or students may wish to think about the following:

- What are the key words in the question?
- To what extent has the response addressed these?
- What are the strengths of a particular answer?
- What are the weaknesses?
- How might the mark be improved?
- Is the length of the answer appropriate, given the total number of marks available?
- When comparing responses, which is better, by how much and why?

It is hoped that by using the materials in this way teachers and students will be able to improve their exam preparation by gaining a valuable insight into what senior examiners are looking for when setting and marking questions.

Accessing the question paper and mark scheme

The January 2009 GENA1 question papers and mark schemes should be available on AQA's website from October 2009 (see web page http://web.aqa.org.uk/admin/qp-ms_library.php).

Printed versions can also be bought from AQA publications (<http://shop.aqa.org.uk>).

Teachers should also be able to access the materials via e-AQA, if they have registered for this secure service.

Any comments on this material?

If you have any comments on this exemplar material, please forward them to the AQA General Studies Mailbox (generalstudies@aqa.org.uk).

4 PAGE ANSWER BOOK

GCSE, GCE, VCE and GNVQ Examining Bodies

11
Examiner's initials
<i>EW</i>

GENA1 Section B Model Marked Script 1

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required in the spaces above.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Write the question number in the left-hand margin.
- Rule a line across the page after each answer.
- Do all your rough work in this answer book and cross through any work you do not want marked. Do not tear out any part of this book. All work must be handed in.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer in the order attempted in the left-hand column of the boxes opposite.
- Check that you have written the information required on each additional sheet used and have attached each sheet to this book.

Question number	Mark
2a	1
2b	1
3	6
4	3
Total	11

Write here how many additional sheets you have used (if any).

Question number	Answer
2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows England to have their say about their own community. Things that are wrong in England can be corrected quicker as a parliament exclusively for England will know more about England and its problems. England will be allowed to make things better.
2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could cause trouble for people coming into the country. Could cause problems for countries around England.

final?
not a source
agree - 1
ref to unity of UK?

Question number

• The parliament could be biased. ^{negve}

3. The public voting is less than 1950-1951. People aren't voting as much as the issues usually don't involve them. Low voting figures for younger voters is nothing new, you have to be 18 to vote. If the voting age was dropped to 16 and they talked to a informed Students throughout College and School then maybe Students and people generally will have a better understanding OF voting and politics. People may also not vote because when they watch T.V or read a newspaper or listen to a radio, the majority of things are about Celebrities and Fame, there is little reports about what is going on in the world but not enough to persuade someone to vote. It is also down to ignorance, if it doesn't involve them it doesn't matter, but if something e.g. a war was to start in England? the public would want other people to vote to stop it. Also, when people vote it makes little impact within the situation dis couraging the public to vote. - this needs

①
Leave blank

eg:

Lack of political education

is this true?

a year ago

explaining

Makes some points for source and a little OK.

Answer low key but just enough for L2

⑥

Queer
number

Resorts to bullet points & headings!

Leave
blank

4.	In favour of Keeping the monarchy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It represents the past. - could be a point against • It projects an image of Britain - which is? • Gives the Country a feeling of Power. ? • Any orders given by the monarchy are his/her own, not decided among a group that may change it. ? • Allows other people to see that the Country is wealthy ? • Shows other Countries that Britain is run correctly. ? • Encouraged a Culture. - vague
	In favour of replacing the monarch by a republic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monarchy represent past rather than future. ✓ • a republic will have more views than one making it less biased. ? • Self respecting • Cement our Class Structure. - not a good thing! • a republic would give the prime minister the right power. - meaning it could be reduced? • May Consider other peoples views rather than just their own. - referring to ?
	Very poorly presented and lacks clear thinking. Level 1 only - (3)

4 PAGE ANSWER BOOK

GCSE, GCE, VCE and GNVQ Examining Bodies

For use of the centre

17

Examinee's initials
BO

**GENA1 Section B
Model Marked Script 2**

Question number	Mark
2a	2
2b	1
3	7
4	7
Total	17

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required in the spaces above.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Write the question number in the left-hand margin.
- Rule a line across the page after each answer.
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Write here how many additional sheets you have used (if any).

Question number

2a The parliament exclusively for England could make the best decisions for the rest of our country based on the current affairs going on around England.

The other members of the United Kingdom all have there own elected parliaments to decide for their countries, so England should also.

England do not get a say in what is happening around the rest of the United Kingdom, so why

Leave blank

unclear

AB04

Question number

Leave blank

Should they have the final say for England?
 Too vague
 Struggles to

(2)

2b It is good to have different countries opinions when making decisions on England as it means it could not only benefit our country but other as well.
 live?

The United Kingdom, should be united in making decisions together which is why we have the houses of parliament.

which should still exist

England already represents 81% of the House of parliament which is enough to have a good decision representing England but also a say from the rest of the United Kingdom.

could be done

(1)

3 There is a decline in public participation in British politics because young people are not being fully educated about politics and it doesn't seem to directly effect most of their

interests. The only politics that is generally known and talked about is the negative that is often on the news and in papers.

th?

This is a reason why less people are voting because no good or positive effects can be seen coming from any of the parties and not all the political parties reach out to the younger generation. - is this really true?

Trust has broken down between the people and politicians as politicians are failing to deliver what they are campaigning to do which means a greater number of people are not seeing the need to vote

egs needed here

Question number

Leave blank

their opinion which is not being counted.

Lots of people are now understanding ~~pol~~ politics and think that not voting is a better option than the vote of what they think would be socially acceptable.

In the past when ~~that~~ people who voted was approximately 80%, people admitted to being to having political ignorance and only voted according to class interest over

interest in politics. Now a days when this is not so much of an issue those people may have ~~meanly~~ decided not to vote bringing the percentages dramatically down to 59.4%.

In Conclusion there is a decline in public participation in British politics because the failure to reach out to the younger votes, the intense scrutiny by the media, failing to keep promises to the public and because less of an interest in class.

Some ideas but not always illustrated; justifies unclear.

4 Some people support keeping the monarchy because they like the idea of celebrating the nations heritage. The monarchy is a long tradition that Britain has had and keeps us from being like America. It is how Britain ~~was~~ is known and how Britain was when it was in great power. - could be put better

Monarchs have given the prime minister power which ~~more~~ makes them as powerful, or even more powerful than any president. This means we can still keep our heritage but at the same time have a democracy and still

||?

So?

Why?

a reasonable attempt at a conclusion

L2 (7)

image nostalgia

So?

Question number

Leav
blan

Some
balance here

have opinions and vote for how they think the country should be run. - needs developing.

On the other hand some people are in favour of the monarchy's replacement by a republic with an elected president.

This could be because it appears to be a way of moving forward and changing with the time. This way the monarchy could be remembered as a great powerful time where the UK ruled over a world-wide empire. - doesn't really follow

If we did vote to be a republic then we would change from ~~citizen~~ subjects to citizens. This appears to mean we would all be more equal and we would live in a self-respecting society which is run from the bottom-top rather than from the top down. - uses source here

a
conclusion

In conclusion there ~~is~~ are reasons supporting both sticking with the monarchy and changing to become a republic. The main factors being considered would be heritage and tradition but then moving with the times.

Lacks a range of ideas, quite clear ref. to the source but nothing in the way of personal knowledge L2

(7)



4 PAGE ANSWER BOOK

GCSE, GCE, VCE and GNVQ Examining Bodies

For	use
	examiners
29	
Ex	ams
amined	int

**GENA1 Section B
Model Marked Script 3**

Question number	Mark
2a	4
2b	2
3	10
4	13
Total	29

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required in the spaces above.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Write the question number in the left-hand margin.
- Rule a line across the page after each answer.
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Write here how many additional sheets you have used (if any).	1
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Question number

2a	Three reasons in favour of establishing a parliament exclusively for England are to ensure that England can have the final say on decisions that affect their own communities. In addition, England is the only country out of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that do not have their own, exclusive parliament to make decisions, which may not apply to the rest of the kingdom. Furthermore, the remaining MPs in the House of Commons - 19%, who are not
----	---

Leave blank

AB04

Question number

leave blank

English could end up deciding on key issues affecting only England ✓ if the English MPs did not vote together. Also, problems may arise such as those concerning university fees, and get worse if England did not establish an exclusive parliament as for example Scottish MPs voters may not act in the best interest of England.

Make 3 clear points

Why?

(4)

2 Three reasons against is that there may be arguments or disagreement between the countries if none get a say in each other's policies. Hence, Ireland (Northern), Scotland and Wales will protest. This may result in friction between the countries, which isn't worthwhile. In addition, the cost involved will be a drawback ✓ as MPs etc. will need to be informed and meet separately, resulting in location costs. Furthermore, time will be an issue and the other opportunities available instead of establishing an exclusive Parliament. It also reduces the extent of democracy ~~with~~ between the countries.

?

vague

points

(2)

Useful reference to cost/time

3. It can be stated that there is a decline in public participation in British politics. Equally, this can be backed up by statistics such that in 2001 turnout fell to 59.4%, which is the lowest figure since 1918. Therefore, this would seem to illustrate that people, especially the younger are disenchanted with voting and that the turnout has fallen due to a lack of trust in politicians. People see politicians as

valid offered

was figures

c.g.s.?

'Why lack of trust?'

Quest
num

only being concerned with pursuing their own self interests and deceiving the public as what they say does not match what they carry out once elected. ✓ - egs needed

? leave blank

However, conversely it can be argued that people are only inclined to vote when they themselves are directly affected or there is a large issue in dispute. This is illustrated by the results from the 1950 and 1951 elections when there was an 80% turnout. The suggested reason for this is that at the time the parties were sharply divided over the future of the nation. Hence, more people would be affected and want to vote.

fair comment.

Furthermore, today's voters could be considered more interested in politics due to the use of the media i.e. newspapers & magazines, but also the internet, allowing the public detailed access to information and about politicians.

|| OK

On the other hand, backing up this argument, people used to admit political ignorance and vote according to class interest. This implies people of today research more into politics and have a growing interest. - but still don't vote?

Despite this, today people feel their vote makes little difference in most constituencies, and instead would rather direct their attention towards campaigning towards single issues such as the environment where they feel they can make a difference.

Why?

Question
numberLeave
blankThis is a
view

Therefore, in conclusion it would seem that there has not been a decline to a large extent as even in the past, voters only vote when issues concern them. In addition, the younger generation comply to this, but also only take an interest in politics when they become older and more responsible in general. Therefore, if people feel they cannot make an impact they will not vote and direct their attention elsewhere, but this is the same as with years ago.

Some repetition and does not flow quite well. See below, little OK. Good to 2 (10)

4. People support replacing the monarchy with a republic and an elected president. This is due to the issue that as it stands Britain does not follow its status of democracy as it professes. If it was a true democracy, instead the head of state may be elected instead of a random outcome of a hereditary lottery. The idea that the head of state would be accountable to an electorate and their service could be discontinued at any time gives the idea of increased efficiency. This may therefore benefit the country ~~with~~ as productivity increases leading people to having a better standard of living. - drifts here.

Furthermore, the monarchy can be seen as out of date and represents the past, whilst failing to adapt to other changes. This therefore portrays Britain to be an insular country that is clinging to its past when it was a great power with a vast empire. The implications of a republic would change these ideas and give Britain the

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SHEET

GCSE, GCE, VCE and GNVQ Examining Bodies

Examining body	AQA	Centre number			
Candidate name		Candidate number			
Paper reference	GENA1	Sheet number			

Question number

	image of moving with the times and wanting to be even more successful. ✓
	In addition, it can be observed that the degree of power given to the Prime Minister currently is too much and poses a possible danger. - <i>exposed</i>
	It is also not well received that in the UK people are subjects rather than citizens. This should change and a ^{Prime Minister} president would not be as powerful and become more accountable to Parliament to ensure they are acting in the country's best interests only. ✓
	On the other hand it can be argued that the monarchy is a celebration of our nation's heritage, and many countries do not have one and are unable to do this. The monarchy draws lots of attention and is a great attraction. Much revenue is gained from tourists who come to admire places such as Buckingham Palace and to study the monarchy. It would be unrealistic to suggest replacing the monarchy in financial terms due to the revenue it creates for businesses. ✓

Leave blank

ASL1

Question number

Leave blank

Furthermore, the republic is not a guaranteed success ✓ and may not prove any better ~~keep~~ the monarchy is replaced it would be gone forever and may be a bad decision. ✓ good
 Therefore, as it is not creating any significant problems it may seem worthwhile to stick to what is a success. Also, it would mean changing the image of the UK which is very powerful currently. ✓
 Whilst the republic offers various appealing aspects such as a self-respecting society, the cost and impact of time involved would be enormous. As it is not a proven success it may not be beneficial to do so therefore, it would appear that keeping the monarchy would be the most practical option currently as there is no drastic need for change. The people who want to preserve the monarchy will take the approach - 'why fix what isn't broken?' ✓
 Uses the source effectively and adds something like the way of personal knowledge - useful and balanced conclusions and generally clearly written
 Level 3 - a good answer (13)

useful conclusion

to change

4 PAGE ANSWER BOOK

GCSE, GCE, VCE and GNVQ Examining Bodies

For examiner's use
Examiner's initials

**GENA1 Section B
Self Assessment Script 1**

Question number	Mark
2a	
2b	
3	
4	
Total	

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required in the spaces above.
- Use both sides of the paper.
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Write here how many additional sheets you have used (if any).	
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Question number

2a	Sometimes the vote only affects England, therefore why should foreign parties become involved. Also the English MPs in the House of Commons very rarely agree; and vote together, resulting in the mere 19% of non-English members deciding results on key issues. Showing more often than not, the English members of the House of Commons do not make the
----	---

Leave blank

AB04

Question
numberLeave
blank

decisions and surely as these decisions will affect the English members they have the right to over rule the mere 19%; if disagreement occurs. ~~As~~ Hence ~~the~~ Finally an example of where a parliament exclusive to England ~~is~~ my opinion would have benefitted the country is the ~~is~~ issue of University tuition fees. The majority of English MP's voted against this, but ~~was~~ were overruled with votes from other foreign parties, who this would not affect, negatively. Overall ~~is~~ Source B shows by not having a 100% English parliament, the voices of England's ~~is~~ inhabitants ^{are} not being heard.

- 2b
- some cases the outcome on key issues can affect other ~~are~~ countries in the UK.
 - a variety of people will bring forward all arguments, sometimes it is good to get an outsiders opinion.
 - we don't want to be seen as being obnoxious, excluding other peoples views just because they don't live in our country.

Que
number

3 I believe there is a large decline in public participation in British politics for many reasons. This decline is portrayed for us all very clearly when looking at statistical figures. The participation in the election dropped by 10% from 1997 to 2005. This figure alone ~~st~~ represents the public's interests in politics falling. And is it any wonder? With the "intense media scrutiny" that occurs nowadays, ~~it~~ ~~is~~ the public find it hard to respect those in parliament, especially when you hear of MP's having affairs, and ~~leg~~ or assaulting people. Some may say it's their private life which we can't take into account, but why would you trust someone whose ~~par~~ wife can't even trust them? I also believe the public are now more interested in the drama behind the scenes rather than the false speeches and weak promises. A lot of the decisions parliament has made have had a negative come back from the public, ~~once~~ ~~again~~ e.g. sending our troops to Iraq. When the public see the chaos ~~3~~ ~~hurt~~ that parliament's decisions cause I think ~~it~~ they lose faith, ~~3~~ hence lose interest.

In "1950 & 1951 more than 80%" of the public cast a vote in the

Leave
blank

Question
numberLeave
blank

election. But then, parties had very different opinions, on how the country should be run. However now, politicians always seem to promise the same things & fight back with what the other person has previously failed on. Public are losing interest because false promises are being made. John Willman also suggests, "voters still turn out when real choices face the country", This suggests implying the public's decline in participation is due to the lack of important issues. If the public believe what the parliament are making decisions over is unimportant, they have no reason to vote. Overall I believe the decline is largely due to lack of interest, honesty, ~~trust~~, and trust.

4. There are mixed opinions on Britain becoming republic & electing a president. Currently the monarchy is said to be the rulers of our country, however they "have given the Prime Minister powers that make him or her more powerful than any president"; so some may say why don't we elect a president & allow the Prime Minister to "become more accountable to parliament." Older members of our society ~~As~~ sometimes refer to the Monarchy as part of our heritage, it's what separates us from many other countries, ~~Although~~

GCSE and GCE Examining Bodies

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SHEET

Examining body	AQA	Centre number	
Candidate name		Candidate number	
Paper reference	GENA1	Sheet number	1

Question number

Leave blank

and takes us back to times when we were more powerful. This makes some people feel proud, patriotic, therefore do not want to see Britain become a republic. The Monarchs do alot of charity work & help our country keep a good name, but as they aren't even making decisions on key issues, why should they rule. If we did elect a president & the ~~rest~~ public believed he wasn't doing what was right for our country, he/she could be thrown out. This could be seen as an advantage or a disadvantage. Although ~~getting~~ removing power from a ruler we see unfit may seem a large benefit; how many times would our country do this? Do we really want our President changing more than our socks. ~~the~~ Britain as a Republic would give us, ^{the} public who are currently at the 'bottom of society' more of a say, and surely that can only be right. As the people lower down the ladder of society are normally the ones who are most greatly affected by the decisions made higher up. There are many different opinions on this matter

ASL1

Question
numberLeave
blank

be any different? I personally don't see this as fair. (3) England having/electing a parliament would ensure the country gets its "final say" on matters to do with education, health and housing.

2B Three reasons against the establishment of a parliament exclusively for England from my own knowledge are as follows. (1) It can cause conflict with English MP's. (2) Things such as Tax can increase. (3) Can cause conflict between other countries such as Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

3, ~~that~~ There is a decline in public participation in British politics mainly from young people. The reason for this in my opinion is due to the fact that they are not fully aware of the issues that are affecting their ~~country~~ country. I think that maybe if ~~that~~ political issues were broadcasted more this would make a difference. I think voting should also be made more accessible. Disabled people may find it difficult to find a voting poll and young people could simply just not be bothered. By making the means of voting more accessible, figures should rise.

4, Some people favour the monarchy while others favour its replacement by a ~~fast~~ republic with an elected president. |

Que:
num...

Leave
blank

Personally think this is due to the fact the ~~voters~~ ~~people~~ monarchy have done something / made a decision and people disagree with it. People who run for president need to show a lot of hard work and commitment. I think the public want to see more of this as it shows that ~~they~~ there will be a change in decision. Also, the voters/public will want someone ~~to~~ (a president) who will listen to them and take on board their views and opinions on matters. By electing a new president annually this will mean they will have fresh ideas on how to resolve problems and how to stop new problems arising. I think the "older generation" of people will support the keeping of monarchy whilst the "younger generation" will think otherwise as ~~the~~ in source D their way of work "projects Britain as an insular country, clinging desperately to a time when it was a great power, ruling over a world-wide empire". The source also states that "At present, in the United Kingdom, we are subjects rather than citizens" this, in my opinion should not be the case. The citizens ~~who~~ should have their say in what happens in their country.

**4 PAGE
ANSWER BOOK**

GCSE and GCE Examining Bodies

For office use

**GENA1 Section B
Self Assessment Script 3**

Question number	Mark
2a	
2b	
3	
4	
Total	

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required in the spaces above.
- Use both sides of the paper.
- Write the question number in the left-hand margin.
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Question
number

⑦	
②	From source B, we can see that although the other UK countries have their own elected parliaments for decisions that affect only their communities, England does not. Non-English members of parliament can therefore decide the outcome of issues that only affect England. Even if a majority of English MPs vote in favour of a decision, the example here being university fees, votes from MPs from the other countries can cause them to be defeated, which is not really seen as fair.
③	A parliament purely for England could be a bad thing, as it would

Leave blank

AB4

Question
numberLeave
blank

England is often seen as the ~~most~~ 'most powerful' UK country and many decisions made by our parliament affect the rest of the UK. If we had two separate parliaments, a UK^{one} and an England one, the current parliament would need to be completely changed, which would be an unnecessary difficulty. What is more, the establishment of an English parliament would encourage animosity and affect the unity of the UK, which would not be good, since there are already strained relationships at times between the countries.

- ③ Source C discusses the decline in public participation in British politics. It tells us that ~~after~~ during the election in 2001, fewer than 60% of people voted, which is the lowest turnout since 1918. This is because young people are "disenchanted" and so do not want to vote and there is little trust between public and politicians. Since in the past people have seen promises made and broken by our politicians, and in fact little change. Another reason for the poor turnout is the fact that the outcomes of the recent elections discussed ~~was~~ were practically decided before the people had voted, and so they felt that they had little say in the matter and did not want to waste time voting if it would be pointless. This ^{point} is backed up by the example of ^{the} 1950/1 elections, ~~where~~ the results of which were ~~not~~ ^{able to be} predicted beforehand and the running parties had very different ideas about the way to run the nation. Because of this, voting seemed perhaps more exciting, as people felt that their particular views could really make a difference, and so ~~there were~~ more than 80% of people voted, despite the fact that many knew very little

Question
numberLeave
blank

about politics. Now, however, people know much more and have a much greater interest in politics and in fact politicians, which possibly adds to the sense of disenchantment discussed earlier.

People nowadays prefer to work on campaigning for smaller, but in no way unimportant issues, such as the environment, where they feel that they can really make a difference and change things, rather than simply voting ~~for~~ in an election that they feel has already been won.

People are more concerned if the issues actually affect them personally, so young people often have little interest in politics. With major political parties that have become more and more similar, elections are almost a popularity contest, ~~and~~ in which people vote for the leader they think is the most charming and likeable. We are happy to leave things as they are until something goes wrong, and as the source says, it is true that "voters still turn out when real choices face the country."

(4) Some people feel that it is a good idea to keep the monarchy because it is a long tradition that it would be a shame to lose. Britain is ~~known~~^{renowned} for the queen and the monarchy, and it does in fact attract visitors and aid tourism, as foreigners come to visit Buckingham Palace and to watch the Changing of the Guard. The Queen may not have been elected but as head of state she does a fairly good job, and in fact does more for Britain than many are aware. The monarchy has been around for ~~thousands~~ a very long time and people feel that it is necessary to preserve that, so that we do not forget our nation's heritage.

However, others, for example the author of source D, believe that it is time Britain got rid of the monarchy and created a republic in its place. This is because ~~now~~ at the moment, the most powerful people become so through luck of birth, rather than through any merit of their own, and even if an elected president did not do a better job, they could easily be

Question
number

Leave
blank

replaced, unlike a monarch. There is no way that Britain can become
a genuinely democratic unless this happens, for at the moment we
have no choice in the matter.

The idea of a monarchy is in itself very old fashioned, and this
is clear from the fact that there are very few remaining in the
world. It is important to move with the times and so perhaps it is time
that we ~~have~~ did so. It is not true that with the loss of the
monarchy we lose our heritage, as other countries such as France have
managed to hold onto theirs well, despite having had a revolution over
200 years ago.

The source also gives the reasons that British people are, at present, subjects
and not citizens of our country, and that thanks to the monarchy the
Prime Minister is more powerful than a president. With the creation of
a democratic republic, this would no longer be the case. The comments made
about the class structure in our society in the source are undoubtedly
true, and without the monarchy, this could improve, although I
personally do not feel that at this late stage, this would change much.

GENA1 Self Assessment Commentaries

Script 1

Question 2(a)

Struggles for clarity in places but the candidate does make two useful points – one about the undue influence exercised by non-English MPs and another about the fact that English MPs should have control over issues directly affecting England. Far too much effort is focussed on the issue of university fees which the author only includes for illustrative purposes.

The last sentence of the answer hints at the unfairness of England not having its own parliament (as compared to the rest of the United Kingdom) but does not really make the point. Communication is not impressive but credit should be given for using own words.

3 marks

Questions 2(b)

A rather weak answer with the candidate resorting to bullet points. There is one clear point about the value of a non-English perspective and, in the first bullet point, a hint at the influence England might exert on the rest of the UK. Does use own words and worth between 1 and 2 marks. Benefit of the doubt given.

2 marks

Question 3

This response is a competent effort making use of the source and including some personal knowledge. The candidate uses the statistics in the source to point to a decline in voter turnout and tries to amplify the point made in the source about lack of respect for politicians by offering some personal observations about scandal (sadly not illustrated) and about unpopular decisions made in Parliament (this time illustrated by reference to Iraq). The candidate's own knowledge is also deployed in the reference to there being little difference between political parties although, again, there is no example. The candidate makes one more useful point about public apathy in the light of an absence of major issues to stimulate voters, and does attempt a conclusion. In general, the answer is clearly written and is quite well-organised. Knowledge might be modest but there is a range of ideas and some balance. A Level 2 answer.

9 marks

Question 4

This answer, although clear, is not particularly well-written and eventually fades. The candidate begins by referring to the role of the Prime Minister and, although sensible, is written with little understanding. There follows something in the way of a defence of the monarchy which does include both reference to the source and some own knowledge – heritage, nostalgia, patriotism and the monarch's good works are pointed out as is the fact that, as a monarchy, Britain is different from most countries. The candidate shows some awareness of the fact that the Queen does not actually run the country and, then, turns to the advantages of having an elected president focusing on accountability and on the fact that the public would have some say in his/her election. The candidate quite thoughtfully points out that removing a president is, perhaps a power we would not want to exercise too often. The answer ends with an attempt to draw a conclusion and offers a personal view (not obligatory but welcome), but the reference to Gordon Brown is rather a lame note on which to end. There are references to the source but personal knowledge is distinctly limited. A Level 2 answer.

8 marks

Total mark = 22

GENA1 Self Assessment Commentaries

Script 2

Question 2(a)

This response provides an encouraging start with three clearly explained points – the influence of non-English MPs on key issues for England would be removed as would the unfairness of England being the only country in the UK without its parliament. The third point of England gaining greater control over key domestic issues completes the picture. Full marks fully deserved.

4 marks

Question 2(b)

In marked contrast to 2(a) the candidate is clearly struggling to think of any valid argument against an English parliament. Only the third point came near to scoring with a possible hint at the break-up of the UK, but ultimately it was felt that there was nothing worthy of credit.

0 marks

Question 3

In this short, if clearly written, answer the candidate really has very little to say. A view about decline in political participation is offered supported only by the assertion that young people are largely disinterested in and unaware of politics. The claims that politics is an area inadequately covered in the media and that disabled voters find it difficult to access polling stations are distinctly unconvincing. Clearly a Level 1 answer.

Awarded 3 marks

Question 4

This again is a relatively brief response and often vague as characterised by the cryptic reference to the monarchy having 'done something/made a decision and people disagree with it'. There are some rather odd assumptions made like the ideas that a president would be elected every year but some valid comments are offered – a president might well be more accessible and provide fresh ideas and certainly, older people's support for the monarchy might be influenced by nostalgia. There is, however, so much more that could be said. The answer is not well-communicated and lacks both range and clarity. A Level 1 response.

Awarded 5 marks

Total mark = 12

GENA1 Self Assessment Commentaries

Script 3

Question 2(a)

There is an element of repetition here which means the candidate only makes two clear points: one is that England alone does not have its own elected parliament; the other is the fact that non-English MPs can exercise undue influence on matters which do not directly affect them. The last sentence is only amplification of this last idea. The answer is direct and clearly communicated.

3 marks

Question 2(b)

A concise and thoughtful response, although the first two points (about the influence of England as the most powerful part of the UK and possible doubts about the status of the UK parliament at Westminster) are not clearly explained, unlike the last point on the unity of the UK. In the light of some vagueness 3 was seen as a fair mark.

3 marks

Question 3

Well-written and clearly organised, this answer offers a nice blend of reference to the source and some personal comment. The candidate draws useful comparisons between recent elections and those of the 1950s and uses the source with obvious understanding. There is an input of personal knowledge with comments on how similar political parties are today, the growth of personality politics and the extent of complacency within the current electorate. Some points, like the references to broken promises and issues that could affect voters at a personal level, cry out for proper illustration, but this only detracts marginally from what is a sound response, which is well-communicated. A Level 3 answer.

12 marks

Question 4

This answer is clearly arranged and is written with evident understanding of conflicting arguments. The first paragraph is devoted to pro-monarchy arguments drawn both from the source (tradition, longevity, heritage) and from the candidate's own knowledge (tourism, reference to Buckingham Palace etc). The Queen is praised for her performance as head of state but, sadly, no evidence is offered in support. The second paragraph turns to the case against the monarchy and demonstrates a clear grasp of the pro-meritocracy, pro-democracy and accountability arguments contained in the source. The third paragraph includes some thoughtful observations as to Britain's old-fashioned image and the need for change, and indicates a wide knowledge. The candidate is aware (unlike many) that Britain is not unique in retaining its monarchy. The reference to the French monarchy was well made and, at this stage, provides some useful balance. The final paragraph adds three further pro-republic arguments which need to be developed but the reference to the class system enables the candidate to end on a balanced note. Concise and perceptive, this was seen as a Level 3 response.

12 marks

Total mark = 30