

GCE General Studies A

GENA4 Exemplar Scripts

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GCE General Studies A

GENA4 A2 Science and Society

Introduction

This booklet contains a number of marked responses to the January 2010 GENA4 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 GENA4 the presentation of the material is in three sections:

1. The first section contains 'model marked scripts', annotated by a senior examiner to indicate strengths, weaknesses and reasons for awarding a particular mark.
2. 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.
3. 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

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

The January 2010 GENA4 question papers and mark schemes should be available on AQA's website from October 2010 (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>).

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).

Included in this material there are:

Model Marked Scripts

- MMS 1 – Section A (Qu 1 to 4)
- MMS 2 – Section A (Qu 1 to 4)
- MMS 3 – Section B (Qu 5)
- MMS 4 – Section B (Qu 6)

Self-Assessment Scripts

- SA 1 – Section A (Qu 1 to 4)
- SA 2 – Section A (Qu 1 to 4)
- SA 3 – Section A (Qu 1 to 4)
- SA 4 – Section B (Qu 7)
- SA 5 – Section B (Qu 8)
- SA 6 – Section B (Qu 5)

Commentaries on all of the above exemplar scripts.

Information about marking GENA4

This is an **A2 unit** and has two elements to it, Section A and B, based on **Science and Society**.

Please refer to the Specification for full details relating to the Unit Content and the Assessment Objectives (AO's).

The format of the examination is as follows:

Section A is based on a Pre-release Case Study (candidates receive this approximately 10 weeks prior to the exam. In the examination candidates are given a 'clean' version of the pre-release material and have to answer 4 compulsory questions on the Case Study topic.

Section B is an essay question. Candidates have a choice of four (Qu 5, 6, 7 or 8) and answer one question only.

Mark Scheme

Both Section A and Section B are assessed using a 'Levels Mark Scheme'. The full published mark scheme provides a description for each level and some examples of 'indicative content'.

You are advised when considering a response to firstly determine the appropriate level and then arrive at a mark within the level.

Section A is marked on a Level marking system for each question:

- Level 1: 1-4 marks*
- Level 2: 5-9 marks*
- Level 3: 10-11 marks (12 marks in the case of Question 2)*

Section B also uses a Level marking scheme for the essay:

- Level 1: 1-5 marks*
- Level 2: 6-12 marks*
- Level 3: 13-19 marks*
- Level 4: 20-25 marks*

Question
number

1.	Source A supports the claim that building more nuclear power plants is essential to Britain's energy policy of the 21 st century because it gives us data such as 'without nuclear generation Britain's CO ₂ emissions would have been up to 12% higher'. Lower CO ₂ emissions are a target of Britain's energy policy in the 21 st century. So more nuclear plants would assist this target and therefore support the claim.
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Question number

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The data also states that losing nuclear plants would increase dependence on imports of gas. This would be an issue as the above paragraph clearly states the concerns with importing gas such as the political factors or competition from other countries. Wind farms and other renewables are more efficient but do not create much energy and are gaining opposition as well being nuclear as the most efficient, ~~worthwhile~~, investment.

Look at the different figures in source A

Most of the other information does not support that claim. The Greenpeace extract says it is not worth the danger it brings and other extracts show it as the least efficient but most expensive meaning it would contradict policy objectives.

4

1. Started quite well but faded noticeably.

2. Source B highlights many difficulties such as the 'tortuous approval process'. There is also the relentless opposition from groups such as FoE who claim there are 'hidden costs' and 'they don't build to time and cost'.

Source C reinforces the opposition by mentioning Greenpeace and their policy also states the 'controversy over the late ... new reactors' showing again the opposition attached to building such generators.

Explain does this do anything?

1. Struggles to make a clear point. No evidence of understanding.

3. The source seems to suggest that nuclear is at some point inevitable as it mentions all the various opportunities for nuclear war such as 'Iran and Israel' and the 'axis of evil'. ^{Just gets a mark.} say more

1

Question number

Leave blank

Explain

Further generalise

say word

ref

should be difficult to target the waste.

It goes on to introduce 'Al-Qaida' and existing weapons in Russia that are insecure. I feel, however, that nuclear warfare is just as likely as this extract makes out and as much as there is a distinct possibility, it would take more of a spark than today's events. The longer these hostilities carry on throughout the world then there is a strong chance that nuclear weapons will be used in the future, especially with the raw materials used becoming more readily available. The war in Iraq for example, was supposedly one nuclear ^{WMD} ~~incapable~~ ^{missile} ~~incapable~~ ^{has} been used. As much as this ^{biological} ~~no~~ ^{is} doubted, if it is true then this shows the concern over the use of them from one of the world's greatest powers in the USA.

2

Two points emerge. There are several issues surrounding the disposal of nuclear waste. Those expressed in Source E are how it could potentially attract terrorists ^{Deal with the two} and is a safety risk for around one million ^{points} years. Source F's only issue seems to be ^{separately} that disposing of it would waste the opportunity to re-use it. From my own knowledge I know that there are problems such as the chance that it could be a serious terrorist target. If ~~it~~ ^{it was} broken out then any nuclear waste ever would be targeted straight away ^{because} at the reaction it ~~it~~ would cause, probably taking lives. Also, due to uranium having a half-life, it would take a very large period of

exp.

Model Marked Script 1 - GENA4 Section A

Question number

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enjoy

Time for it to become stable whether it was underground or not. There is also the hazard of too much exposure too much waste can cause health problems.

Lack of range of development

3

Question
number

1)	Source A contains various facts and figures regarding Britain's use of energy, many highlight the dangers and benefits of nuclear power plants.
	Figure 1 in shows use the nuclear power makes up 18% of Britain's power. It also says it is the most controversial form of power due to its safety, this is also highlighted in di othera extracts. Nuclear power plants are very volatile and are good targets for terrorist attack, therefore for 21 st century Britain the

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Question
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Threat of a terrorist attack is high therefore adding another potential target would be dangerous.

The government claim that without nuclear power Britain's carbon dioxide emissions would have been 12% higher in 2004. Therefore this ~~was~~ is important as carbon dioxide emissions are trying to be lowered ~~also~~ ^{help} to reduce the effects of global warming. So the fact that nuclear power helped to keep carbon dioxide emissions lower helps to support the claim that building more nuclear power plants is essential for Britain's energy policy as it will help to lower carbon dioxide emissions. ~~Yet nuclear power~~ ^{is} ~~remain controversial~~ ^{controversial}

Figure 3 shows us that many other countries like France and the USA rely heavily on nuclear power to ~~power~~ provide energy power for the country. Therefore supporting the claim that more nuclear power plants are essential for Britain's energy policy. As it ~~has~~ shows us that many other big countries use ~~more~~ nuclear power and ~~nothing~~ as ~~happened~~ ~~to~~ them, ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~past~~ there has been no major disasters involving nuclear power plants ~~since~~ since 1986. Therefore implying that it is safe to use. Figure 3 also says that uranium reserves will last for at least a century, which is a contrast to ~~are~~ other power sources which are claimed to be running out at a rapid rate. Therefore making nuclear power a more reliable source of energy for the near future at least, unlike coal. Consequently again supporting the claim that more nuclear power plants are essential to Britain's energy policy as uranium is more readily available than coal so will last longer.

However, figure 4 highlights the issue of the radioactive hazardous waste of nuclear power, which can

Question
numberLeave
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This has
 continued
 to be a
 problem
 for the
 industry

stay radioactive for up to a million years. This waste is hard to dispose of safely and so would pose a potential risk to the health of the public and subject them to the enormous cleaning costs if there was a problem with a nuclear power plant. Consequently, going against the claim that nuclear power is essential to Britain's energy policy as it ~~from~~ comes with large health risk and cost for the public.

In conclusion nuclear power has many benefits however it does come with a health risk if there was a disaster and they are potential sites for a terrorist attack, consequently Source A does in ~~some~~ parts regard nuclear power as a good idea but it also highlights the risks of it.

L^B Use the data very effectively. Clear from the question. Well argued

2) Source B and C show highlight the various difficulties in extending Britain's capacity to produce nuclear power.

Source B tells us the two power plants are problematic and are not working to their full capacity and it would be hard to justify keeping them open past 2011 as their boilers are cracking, therefore with two power stations potentially closing more than two nuclear power plants would have to be built to extend Britain's capacity for nuclear power, which would be a long, strenuous process.

Source B also emphasises the difficult process involved in building a power plant and getting the correct approvals, therefore resulting in a shared and ~~long~~ and longwinded process of approval, making it hard for

11

Question number

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Britain to extend its nuclear power capacity as it is very hard to pass the approval stage. In 2013 tough EU environmental rules come into place which will result in the closure of many plants, causing there to be a ^{reduction} ~~decrease~~ in capacity. This means it will be hard to extend Britain's capacity as with many plants having to close many will have to be built in their place which would result in a hard approval process, making it unlikely to extend capacity as it would take a long time to get it back to its old capacity. As FOE claim it takes an average of nearly 13 years for a plant to be built. This would have large environmental impacts like increased CO₂ emissions in the area of the build, it also highlights the expense for the public, and the dangers of the waste make raise the concerns of many of the public making it unlikely for them to support the building of new nuclear power plants, therefore not increasing its capacity.

Probably a decade

Yes. There seem to be mixed feelings about nuclear power.

Perhaps less likely

Source C emphasises the lack of public support for nuclear power, even though it has low carbon emissions, like which could help reduce the effects of global warming. Wick's tells the difficulties he comes across from some organisations, when trying to find potential sites the RSPB are angry at the loss of habitat for animals if a construction goes ahead. This emphasises the difficulty faced trying to convince the public nuclear power is a good thing.

Source C and B highlight various problems and difficulties faced when trying to build a nuclear power plant, therefore showing us the difficulties faced when trying to extend Britain's nuclear power capacity to produce nuclear power.

Borderline L2/L3. Ended just a little prematurely. Conclusion might have been more developed.

Question number

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Almost these have not involved nuclear weapons

3) Source D highlights the fear of nuclear war that surround the world. In recent times there have been an increase in terrorist attacks in Europe, and the USA in countries such as Britain, with 7/7 attack and in Spain with a bomb exploding and also in the USA, with the 9/11 attack. There have also been various failed terrorist attacks. This has caused a widespread fear that a terrorist attack is imminent, and also with Britain's terrorist attack warning being raised the threat feels ever more increasing.

The use of nuclear weapons in an attack would be a disaster.

The turmoil in the Middle East and the need for countries to seek security is resulting in countries being prepared for the use of nuclear weapons, therefore with more countries having nuclear weapons at ready to use, this increases the likelihood of it happening.

If a terrorist organisation who are planning an attack get hold of nuclear weapons, the destruction would be incredibly large. The terrorist attack on America in 9/11, which caused plenty of damage would be nothing compared to the destruction of nuclear weapons. They would have an area and the toxic radioactive waste they would leave making an area inhospitable. With the ever increasing risk of a terrorist attack comes the increasing risk of a nuclear attack.

if the terrorists could gain access to the raw materials and know-how.

With countries like North Korea, who are seen as potential threatening countries testing nuclear weapons and therefore making them ready to use, could make a threat more likely as North Korea's neighbours would want to arm themselves in case of North Korea attacks.

Question number

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them. Increasing a risk of ^{the use of} nuclear weapons in the future as countries are arming themselves with nuclear weapons increase of an attack.

With the 'Doomsday Clock' being moved forward in 2007 due to ~~advised~~ increased fear of nuclear attack again emphasising the fear that a nuclear attack in the future is likely.

In conclusion, many countries are arming themselves with nuclear weapons so are ready to attack this therefore increases the likelihood of a nuclear attack as if in the future countries go to war it could very easily turn nuclear. Also, the increasing terrorist attacks also increase the possibility of terrorist gaining access to ~~them~~ nuclear weapons and using them in their attacks. Therefore for these reasons and more the likelihood of a nuclear attack in the future has increased.

Read new nuclear war.

L2

7

Some valid points but rather lacking in ~~from~~ detailed knowledge.

4) Source E and F highlight the different difficulties in disposing nuclear waste.

Source E shows no difficulty in finding a site to dispose of the nuclear waste, even though such a site would ~~increase~~ create a lot of jobs for the area and it would provide an 'attractive' annual payment package only one area region considered to be the site. This shows that many places/regions don't want to be involved with radioactive waste.

A key factor in an area like West Cumbria where jobs are hard to come by

Radioactivity has been proven to have links to causing cancer ^{in people} and deformities in unborn babies who are subjected to an area which is close to radioactive waste. Therefore if the radioactive waste is not disposed of correctly and some leaks it can have severe health consequences

for those working with the waste or those living near it.

Also

Source F highlights a plan to turn the radioactives waste into fuel. However this plan is seen as controversial, many green groups say Britain would create a 'plutonium economy' as nuclear fuel would be transported across the country, which many would not like, making it hard to find a way to use the nuclear waste productively rather than letting it sit in a dump.

Therefore Source E and F both highlight the public's awareness of nuclear waste as it could result in severe health consequences for example cancer.

Therefore there are various issues surrounding the disposal of nuclear waste due to the fear of the radioactive waste's side effects.

Explain

6

Use Source E & F.

12

Modest contrast which lacked range
& development of ideas

5. 'Friends of the Earth' and 'Greenpeace' are pressure groups that ~~usually take~~ take environmental issues and are usually against the government or large scale businesses who they see as having plans with problems that may harm the environment.

A bit vague

I feel that the statement claiming that they are not representative is incorrect as they have large followings of ~~other~~ environmentalists with the same views and therefore

represent them. Saying that they are not responsible to anyone is to an extent true. - say more

They aren't responsible to anyone in the context that a government are responsible to a public/nation

yes - say more

but they have to be responsible to themselves otherwise their reputation would be tarnished. Without a reputation they would never be taken seriously

by other organizations or governments. I wouldn't say that groups such as these 'are' trouble-makers necessarily but they sometimes just have the

Seeming like they are troublemaker

effect of trouble makers in their protests as it is always almost the government's decision.

It will always be difficult to reach an agreement on these policies as there are always extremists in both camps. If you try to go down the environmentalists route then someone will argue that you're going to

Model Marked Script 3 - GENA4 Section B

Question
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Sacrifice certain things or bring about unnecessary costs and vice versa. If you try to stay in the middle then you will satisfy neither group of people and will still not reach an agreement.

Meets 12 criteria. A few relevant ideas but brief - lacking in range & development.

7

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6 ~~The~~ The results of the work of scientists and technologists may not always be considered positive as many people may believe that the ends have not justified the means. There are ethical guidelines put into place however these could still be disputed.

For example, scientists have been successful in cloning a sheep however the sheep only lived a ~~ve~~ short life. Some people may see this as positive as ~~the~~ cloning of genes could help to remove certain diseases e.g. in the future but a lot of people would see this as immoral. The sheep which was being cloned had no way to give consent! and it could be said that the cloned sheep had a poor quality of life ^{public affairs}. It could also have given ^{to human} ~~the~~ other scientists encouragement to try and cloning? clone humans however there are strong rules against this.

It is difficult for scientists and technologists to demonstrate that they are exercising moral responsibility as everybody will have a different opinion on the matter. ^{say more} There are rules and regulations put into place but some scientists may say they are too strict whilst others would say they aren't strict enough. This is because this whole topic is subjective. ^{expand}

For example, when technologists developed CCTV cameras people had varying opinions. They help to ~~in~~ prevent crime and can often ~~lead to~~ give great clues to police

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9/10

investigations however some people say this security has gone too far. With the staggering number of CCTV cameras around today and with the invention of things such as 'google earth', some people believe their privacy is being invaded.

Do you believe this?

~~Before testing a new drug~~ Before releasing a new drug, scientists often test it on animals first. Some people have no problem with this as they believe it is better to risk the life of a guinea pig than of a human however animal rights campaigners would find this immoral. They believe that ~~it~~ it is wrong to use animals for personal gain but some people would say using ~~the~~ animals in this case is justified as it could potentially help to wipe out entire diseases.

There are also issues with blood transfusions and organ donations. Some religions such as Jehovah's Witnesses ~~are~~ are against them whilst other people are in support of them as they can save a person's life. Similarly, some people believe abortion is okay because a woman has a right to decide what to do but others would see it as murdering a child and some religions say that only God can decide when a life ends.

useful examples but they need further development.

All of these factors show how scientists have difficulties in showing they are exercising moral responsibility. On one hand, they can often improve or save another person's life but on the other hand, some people and some religions would say their

Model Marked Script 4 - GENA4 Section B

Question
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actions are not justified. ~~The idea of~~ Morals are subjective so scientists will never said be responsible by everybody all of the time. Their actions cannot be proved to be right or wrong but guidelines are put into place so their work doesn't become what most people describe as, extreme.

L³ A clearly written response which sought to deal with both part of the question. Pleased to see the examples but the argument tended to be quite brief and tended to lack depth. Achieved a certain overall competence.

14

Question
number

1	Currently, Britain's main sources of energy come from power stations that are powered by coal and gas. Coal and gas are both fossil fuels which means they produce carbon dioxide when burnt. Nuclear fuel such as uranium is not fossil fuel so therefore it is not damaging our atmosphere. However, it does
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produce waste that is radioactive and dangerous for possibly millions of years.

Source A also indicates that supplies of the fossil fuels is running out or political reasons may mean we run out. Also, there is longer supplies of nuclear fuel which further supports the claim ~~that~~ being asked in the question.

However, the source indicates that the government wants the growth of renewable energy ~~resources~~ sources such as wind farms and biomass and I believe that this should be major part of Britain's energy plans for the 21st century as it produces no waste. This does not support the claim in the question.

2. In the near future, Britain will probably struggle to produce more nuclear power according to Source B.

Currently, two nuclear power plants are ~~at the end of their life~~ "on their last legs" as it would seem and they could close by 2011, due to cracking of the boilers, which would leave the country two power stations down.

Another problem, ~~it~~ would be the planning approval which is long and dragged out and could potentially add millions of pounds onto the cost of the project.

Question
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However the case also states that they will ~~use~~ base new designs on those use for other nuclear stations so that if problems did arise, they could be fixed quickly and increase the output.

The main problem that arises from source C is people's unwillingness to have a nuclear station built and putting their disgust of nuclear power above the concern of global warming.

This is a major difficulty for Britain to extend its nuclear power as people power is a major force and if they disapprove with planning applications and object it, then the building of a new power station can not take place.

3 The last time nuclear weapons were used was in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and they brought devastation. There has been a taboo in place preventing states from using nuclear weapons since 1945, however, with more countries being recognized as nuclear powers and disputing countries, it may not be long before they are used once again.

Firstly, there is the crisis in the middle East where Iran and Israel claim to have nuclear weapons which they could potentially use on each other.

Question
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Also, many terrorists come from the Middle East to attack the western countries and we have already seen the devastation they can cause without nuclear weapons, i.e. 9/11, then imagine what they could do with them?

Also, ~~the~~ part of the war on terror was on belief that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, possibly nuclear, but after years of searching nothing has been found.

North Korea are now a threat as well and they made sure people knew by testing their weapons a few years ago. USA does not have good relations with North Korea so it is a possibility that they may plan to attack the USA.

However, I do not believe a nuclear attack is likely and that there is one sane person in ~~eye~~ all the governments that knows if anybody attacked, it would be the end of the ~~world~~ world. ~~the~~ One country attacking would have a knock on effect and bring other nuclear powers into it resulting in world devastation.

Question
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4 The disposal of nuclear waste is a very challenging task to complete as it is still radio active and dangerous for thousands, ~~poss~~ possibly millions of years.

Source E talks about burying the waste 1 km below ground level possibly in Cumbria. The project also includes new transport links and jobs however the main competition of this project is going to be the local people whose lives it will alter. ~~The~~ The main argument would be that if the people are not correctly protected from contamination, there could be serious health implications like at Chernobyl.

However, ~~with~~ source F has a better use of the waste by recycling it to produce more energy.

This would also come with a lot of competition from people who want ~~more~~ more renewable energy sources. This would also mean lots of nuclear waste being transported around Britain which then becomes a potential terrorist target. It would also be very costly to dispose of it in either way and lots of people would say the money could be spent better elsewhere.

Question
number

1	Source A argues both sides that building more more nuclear power plants is an essential part of Britain's energy policy. Figure 3 states how nuclear energy is the newest of the major energy technologies, but has been the fastest growing source of electricity since the 1970s. This suggests that nuclear energy will eventually become the primary source
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for electricity. It also talks about the assumptions made that fossil fuels would run short, when this comes to happen nuclear power needs to be well enough established so that there is no shortage of energy.

Figure 4 on the other hand does not support that building more nuclear power plants is an essential part of Britain's energy policy. It is a greenpeace article and talks about how the most optimistic estimates that nuclear power stations will only reduce our emissions by 4% by the year 2024. So this is not enough and is too late to help combat against global warming, and that it will in fact create tens of thousands of tonnes of radioactive waste, and the waste remains dangerous for up to millions of years.

2. Source B highlights cracking at the boilers, within a power plant, as a difficulty of extending Britain's capacity to produce more nuclear power. As old plants will start to crack and will only come back online at 70% capacity. This means that more power plants will be needed to make up for the loss in capacity. However this has time and cost limitations, each

Question
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Power plant will have to go through a tortuous approval process, requiring Strategic government approval, Safety approval and planning approval. New plants have also in the past taken Britain 13 years from start of construction to first power and by this time Britain may have started in an energy crisis.

Source C talks about the opposition of people who disagree with nuclear power and that these people make it ~~difficult~~ difficult to extend Britain's capacity for more nuclear power.

As the energy minister backs nuclear power, he has become an enemy to organisations such as Greenpeace.

3 Source D strongly argues that there is a greater likelihood that nuclear weapons will be used at some stage in the future.

In the middle east there is much conflict and more and more terrorist organisations are starting out, so worries about Iran's quest for nuclear weapons and the assumed undeclared nuclear power of Israel who may be willing to strike against the other.

Pakistan is another nuclear power and with extremists attempting to assassinate its leader, should they succeed

Self Assessment Script 2 - GENA4 Section A

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and take control they may start a nuclear strike against their enemies.

Global Warming is calling for countries to start up renewable ways of getting energy. Nuclear reactors will be needed, if nuclear power comes to fashion, and enriched uranium is necessary to power them along with plutonium which are also vital raw materials for nuclear weapons. This means that more and more countries will have the ability to make nuclear weapons, thus increasing the risk of somebody using them.

4 Source E talks about a huge £10 billion plus construction that will involve excavation of hundreds of millions of tonnes of rock, building of new roads, railway lines and workshops to host a giant underground nuclear bunker to store nuclear waste.

Although this will create jobs for thousands of years, the site may attract terrorists and there is a potential safety risk for one million years which will put the public at risk.

So this has created and opposition within political parties. When suggested places included Scotland the Scottish parliament said it would use it's legal powers to block any attempt to evaluate sites and would refuse planning permission

Self Assessment Script 2 - GENA4 Section A

Question
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for the best site.

Source F talks about using the nuclear waste to power Britain. This would be done by a 1bn refurbishment at Sellafield. So this has a large cost limitation.

This does have many issues as it would see large quantities of nuclear fuel being transported across the country and may put it at risk. Apart from the high construction cost it is said that this would make uranium become scarce. However this reprocessing plant would be able to extract the materials need from within the waste already created.

Question
number

1	Source A shows that at the moment just 18% of the UK's energy comes from nuclear sources - compared with 37% from coal and 36% from natural gas. In this way, the source does not show that the UK is dependent on nuclear energy. Extending this, there is ^{likely} to be a rise in the amount of energy produced by coal power stations due to the advent of carbon capture technology, which will help to
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1 I allow present fears that coal plants are not very environmentally-friendly. The effect of this would be to encourage a greater reliance on electricity generated by burning coal, meaning a ~~shift~~ ^{further} shift away from reliance on nuclear power. Having said this, other nearby countries, such as France (which relies on nuclear power for about 75% of its electricity production) are becoming highly dependent on ~~the~~ such plants. As was seen when the UK used gas-cooking systems instead of the more usual coal, water, it is better to ~~prefer~~ use energy production methods similar to those of surrounding countries in order to reduce problems and increase the expert knowledge base. In this way, it could be said that the UK needs to consider following France and Germany in stepping up dependence on nuclear power.

From a different angle, building more nuclear plants is essential for Britain's energy policy, simply in order to maintain current reliance on nuclear power. If no ^{new} nuclear power stations are built before 2020, then only three of the existing ten will still be "on line" by this date, according to figure 5. This would mean that only 3,688 MW would be Britain's nuclear producing capacity, ~~at least~~ just one third (33.7%) of the current capacity. In this way, the new nuclear power stations in the pipeline are essential for the UK's future energy policy.

Question
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Existing reactors can also be harnessed, such as the new one at Hinkley Point, in addition to the two already existing there.

In conclusion, building more nuclear power stations is essential for the continuation of nuclear power's ^{18%} contribution to energy supplies, but the country will have to ~~be very about~~ explore other alternative methods as well.

2 Source B shows that extending Britain's nuclear capacity will be difficult due to the introduction of new environmental rules by the EU. With Britain's membership of the European Union, there will then be the closure of many UK plants, bringing the nuclear state of our country into jeopardy. Cross-referencing with figure 5 of source A, it is clear that most ^{present} nuclear power stations will be closed by 2020 in any case — and the new directive will serve only to make the situation even more ~~pressur~~ difficult. The major problem here is that new reactors, ones which meet the EU's requirements, take many years — usually in excess of a decade — to bring "on line". Extending this further using current knowledge, I know that there are ~~not~~

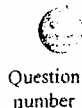
Question
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2 around ten new power stations in the pipeline, and that these will all begin to contribute to the National Grid around 2020. Bringing all of this evidence together, it is then clear that there will be a shortfall of ~~with~~ energy generated by nuclear means in the few years leading up to 2020.

From Source C, it is clear that the new nuclear power stations could come across fierce opposition even if they were built on time. Given that nature-lovers have been keen to protect natural habitats ~~in~~ from the building of a barge on the Severn Estuary in recent times, the same effect might well be brought about in the case of ~~the~~ a new nuclear plant being built close to any form of nature.

This can cause a variety of problems, especially since nuclear plants are built close to the coast due to their very nature, and will therefore impact negatively on coastal creatures. ~~Not only~~ In this way, most nuclear plants can expect to come up against opposition due to their integral requirements.

Building on this, the issue of waste causes difficulty in extending Britain's nuclear stance. ~~With there be~~ Not only does Source B explain that Friends of the Earth worry about the "hidden costs" to the natural world, but solid scientific studies also express concern. On Aberdeen's 'Foot Dee' beach, there were found significant radiation levels, to the effect

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- 2 that a report commissioned there suggested that no eating take place thereon - all due to the nearby nuclear reactor. ~~Not only could nuclear~~ Yet ~~not~~ Source C argues that as far as safety is concerned, nuclear is for the "greater good". This is to say that, while there will be small dangers involved, the implications of continuing to rely on more carbon-emitting sources of electricity will be far worse, ~~than~~ given that Earth will be subjected to the dangers of flooding and forest fires, among others. In conclusion, I believe that extending Britain's capacity to produce more nuclear power will be highly difficult, not only on the grounds of safety, but also on the grounds of feasibility.
- 3 Using Source D, it is clear that Al-Qaida is a potential threat of terrorism, if it were to acquire a nuclear bomb. Given the world's growing demands on nuclear plants for energy, there is the added cost that nuclear elements such as Uranium will be searched for more readily. This search for radioactive material could easily provoke deals being with such terrorist organisations, using the natural business reaction to the prospect of money in return for purchase or investment. Indeed, ~~given~~ the death of Litvinenko just three years ago demonstrates that harmful

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3 elements - in this case Polonium-210 - can indeed be acquired by organisations or individuals who intend to kill.

Using knowledge of the past, there is a human quality of violence such that whatever weapons are available, will be used at one point or another. An example of this was an Iranian missile strike last year which caused an earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale.

In this way, it is only natural to want to use - or at least test - weapons, even if only to assess their capabilities. Some suggest that the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were only used in order to assess their power, rather than as a means to end the war, backing up this point. However,

However, I know that the British Ministry of Defence is currently looking for a Year in Industry student to assess weapons' capabilities using simulation software. Thus, there are ways of testing out weapons which do not involve actual death or casualties, and harness modern computational technology.

Summing this up, it would seem that there will continue to be a reliance on real-world weapons-testing and use of nuclear weapons, but that the more technologically-advanced countries will continue to move towards less harmful means, and as the world as a whole advances in technology, we can expect the nuclear threat to reduce.

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3 Yet with the current terrorist threat level at "severe" and the Doomsday clock noticeably at two minutes to midnight, the world rather expects a nuclear attack. The government having pumped millions into the Trident protection scheme, there would appear to be no backing down in the usage of "preventative" nuclear weapons which would be used protectively for defence only.

In conclusion, the usage of nuclear weapons for defence and ~~for~~ murder would seem to me to be on the rise, but I believe that alternative methods for nuclear testing will bring ^{down} ~~the~~ the usage of such weapons for this purpose.

4 Source E shows that there are grave disadvantages to hosting nuclear waste bunkers. As such, communities due to host the bunkers can be expected to revolt against the excavation required and the added implications of railway-building and industrialisation of their area.

For communities such as West Cumbria, the train lines required in order to bring nuclear waste there^s have become an integral part of the landscape, and so can be expected to remain there. In this way, it might be expected that these train lines will be used ^{as} for into the future for transportation.

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4 of nuclear waste - but this would mean that there would be a great density of nuclear particles in the region. As such, West Cumbria could then become a terrorist hotspot because there would be a great interest in a region which boasts great nuclear ~~part~~ particle ratios as the particles could be re-extracted.

However, if then the focus is moved to a different region for nuclear waste storage, then there will need to be new train lines and industrialisation. This means that, one way or another, whichever community is chosen as a host will ~~be~~ have negative impact.

~~While there is~~ Having said this, the potential benefits for ~~as~~ a community are great. From source E, it is clear that many new jobs will be found on these sites, and with them, also a good salary. Especially in the times of depression likely to continue for another 5-or-so years, ~~such~~ the negatives of such a scheme could easily be outweighed by such attractive career opportunities.

A further benefit is the potential to re-use nuclear fuel rods and pellets. According to source E, the re-extraction of plutonium and uranium from existing and future waste could mean that even nuclear waste can be

THERE IS TOO MUCH TO DO
HERE FOR 2 HOURS - COME
ON, BE REALISTIC HERE.

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4 harnessed for its electricity-generating power. In this way, not only would there be the potential of fuel for many years to come, but there would also be a further reduction in the risk from the waste generated on second passage through the plant. This might ~~also~~ allay fears and concerns about nuclear safety, but would be very costly according to Friends of the Earth, who worry that the focus should be moved towards renewable sources instead of obsessing about trying to make nuclear power work.

In conclusion, nuclear waste causes many issues on governmental and regional levels, but there are ways of addressing most of these issues, even if not every group is satisfied by the solutions.

Self Assessment Script 4 - GENA4 Section B

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1) Better educated refers to someone or something being given a better quality of understanding of a certain aspect of life or surrounding. For example, better educated students, would have been given a better quality of teaching, in order for them to progress and be better educated than previous.

Better trained is very similar, it refers to someone or something being given a better quality of training in order for them to progress and be better than previous - examples.

Example of this could be a workforce within a business.

They may receive more or better quality training, increasing their knowledge and understanding and increasing their productivity and efficiency. This would lead to them being better trained.

A better educated and better trained workforce would relate to the employees of a business within the UK.

This would relate to giving them better training within work, both theoretical and practical.

This would lead to many benefits such as increased motivation, skills, perseverance etc which in turn all relate to a significant increase in productivity and efficiency.

Therefore, I believe this should mean that we are looking or seeking more productivity due to employees/workforce being able to complete tasks quicker and easier of a better quality because they have been educated and trained better.

However, the idea of concentrating resources and investment in more prosperous parts of the country seems a little biased and discriminatory.

Naturally, you as a child you are born and grow up

Self Assessment Script 4 - GENA4 Section B

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within the surround in and around you. 1 in 4 UK children are born within ~~poverty~~ relative poverty. Also approximately 1% of Britain's population have up around 80% of the wealth. The other 99% of the country make up just about 20% of the country's wealth.

This indicated to us that more prosperous areas already have the resources and investment they need, they have all the basics, necessities and the luxuries in order to have a great standard of living.

However, the poorer parts of the country do not. Evidence shows that if you are brought up within relative poverty you are more likely to become involved with drink, drugs, abuse, crime and unemployment. This is where our country is lagging behind.

We need to focus our resources and investment in the struggling parts of the country where they really need it. More jobs and research, education is low and people do not have the same choices that the more prosperous parts of the UK have.

Therefore, in conclusion, it is clear that more resources are needed within areas that are deprived of the normal standard of living and the opportunities which the majority already have and try and get this country in a better state of mind with better trained, better educated society.

8) Now, with fuel resources running low, many countries are having to rely on others to provide the fuel for them. 'The days when an individual country could determine its own energy policies have gone'. This maybe due to many factors. Many of the worlds countries are trying to cooperate and work together in order to reduce carbon emissions. Therefore they have to work together and try and set out guidelines for other countries to apply to their own energy policies in order to help reduce carbon emissions and therefore reduce the effects of global warming. Therefore without co-operation between countries many may not change their energy policies and therefore still continue to have high carbon emissions which has serious

Question
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consequences for the environment. Therefore the co-operation between countries is essential for the successful develop of energy policies as countries need to work together to find our way to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow down the rate of global warming. ~~From~~ therefore countries will then be able to apply their finding on how to reduce their emissions and help ~~create~~ to successfully develop their energy policies to help make it more beneficial for the environment. As many countries have worked together and many countries will apply these guidelines the effect on the environment will be greater at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Also co-operation is ~~more~~ necessary for successful development of energy policies as fuel resources are running low, ~~so~~ consequently ^{some} countries have to rely on others to ~~sell~~ ~~provide~~ provide them with fuel. For this to happen there needs to be complete co-operation as if countries start a rivalry then one may offer to pay more money for fuel than another and so the country who will pay more money may then be given more fuel and the other country less fuel making it hard for that country to have enough fuel to survive with. So that country will have to find its fuel elsewhere and so the cycle will ~~happen~~ continue to happen. Therefore countries need to work in co-operation with each other in order to maintain a fair supply of fuel to each country that needs it in order for energy policies to be as successful as possible.

Self Assessment Script 5 - GENA4 Section B

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However, securing international co-operation is a lot harder than it sounds. Many countries have rivalries going on and so asking ^{having} them to co-operate would be difficult and if one side of the rivalry thought they could gain more power or influence than the other they may jump at the chance increasing tensions between rivals but also it could result in the energy policies being ignored so one country could gain more power than its rival.

Also this could happen as smaller countries, who are often ^{can be} wary of larger countries, may rather keep any hold they have over bigger countries. For example if a smaller country was ~~providing~~ selling fuel to a larger country which could be a potential threat the smaller country would like having that hold in place as it reduces the chance of an attack and so asking them to co-operate may be difficult as they may want to ~~operate~~ operate on their own to secure their hold over larger countries.

Also, many countries are in competition with each other, and therefore may not want to lose the edge it has over another by working in co-operation.

In conclusion, countries need to work together to maintain a successful energy policy however it may be hard for many to agree to co-operate.

5. The statement in the question is fairly hostile towards groups which should have good intentions, however to a certain extent, I believe it is true.

To begin with, these groups, I believe are representative of many people's views, for example they are against ~~whating~~^{and} global warming and these are subjects that concern many people. However, I believe the extreme lengths to which they go are less representative of the general public, for example climbing on parliament to protest. In this instance they are ~~are~~ simply trouble makers, that get news coverage for a particular campaign. I believe that because of these extreme, childish behaviours, they are not taken very seriously and this reduces the chances of them actually getting what they want. I believe that many politicians will simply dismiss them as crazy, and ignore their serious message.

On the other hand, I also believe that perhaps these extreme acts and events by groups such as Greenpeace are necessary to even get coverage and support, ~~there is~~ there is far less awareness for other, less extreme pressure groups.

As far as the part of the statement about responsibility is concerned, I disagree. These pressure groups have lots of responsibility towards the members who pay them in order to support them and also to the people in the public who see them as an inspiration to fight environmental injustice around the world. If they were to achieve nothing, or worse gain ~~support~~ opposition to their campaigns and ideas, due to the way they were being run, then surely they will cease to get support.

and then ultimately cease to exist. Therefore these pressure groups have a difficult challenge in balancing between getting success for their members, and getting coverage without losing support. ~~and~~ These issues are ultimately connected to government and their policies, the power behind society and ~~the~~ the issues surrounding this relationship is what I will discuss next.

The government faces pressure groups from all sides of society and also pressure to satisfy the electorate, therefore decisions relating to environmental policy must be taken very carefully. For example, reducing CO₂ emissions by closing coal fired power stations may seem a good idea to most, but there will be strong opposition to it from employees at the power station who will lose their jobs, therefore the government must always compromise, such as introducing new technology to reduce emissions in the plant. This is the main difficulty when environmental policy is involved as a compromise is usually reached rather than achieving the original aim. As environment is often seen as less important than current issues such as jobs, it is often pushed down the agenda. I believe the role of pressure groups must be to persuade the government to put environmental policy as top priority and therefore not compromise with decisions. To do this, I believe avoiding the crazy, extremist image ~~must~~ that some environmental pressure groups have is important, to seriously get the attention of government. On the other hand serious evidence must be given and a serious image is necessary, yet to truly put pressure on ~~gover~~ decisions there must be awareness, through news coverage etc, ~~by~~ ^{by} staged events. Once again this demonstrates the necessity to

Self Assessment Script 6 - GENA4 Section B

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maintain a balance. ~~It~~

In addition another problem with environmental policy is the visibility. The oil spill from the Prestige tanker on the Spanish coast brought sweeping policies due to the visible and serious damage caused. However, climate change a more serious threat on the whole is taken less seriously as it is invisible so it is often forgotten. This results in it often ^{being} pushed down the agenda and because of the huge expense involved in dealing with a crisis we find hard to relate to, ~~little~~ comparatively little action is taken. Once again pressure groups have a responsibility to ~~change~~ change this attitude by making people and governments more aware of the possible consequences.

Distant Learning Commentaries

Model Marked Script 1 – GENA4 Section A: Case Study

The candidate answered all four compulsory questions. Over the Case Study as a whole the candidate did not move out of the Level 1 mark band. Question 1 was the best answered question, reaching the top of the band, and Question 2 being the weakest answer, scoring just a single mark.

(See comments in the body of the script, these illustrate how and where marks were awarded.)

The main weaknesses in the Case Study answers were that they:

- were much too short and insufficiently developed;
- displayed very little knowledge of the case study topic;
- offered simple, mostly unexplained points;
- were limited in understanding;
- were poorly organised.

Total: 10 marks / 45

Model Marked Script 2 – GENA4 Section A: Case Study

The candidate produced a very good set of Case Study answers. An excellent start by the candidate with the answer to Question 1 awarded Level 3, full marks. The answer to Question 2 reached the top of Level 2. Unfortunately marks decreased over the four questions and there may have been a time management issue.

(See comments in the body of the script, these illustrate how and where marks were awarded.)

The best answers (Questions 1 and 2) demonstrated the following strengths:

- good and wide-ranging knowledge;
- balanced analysis;
- good use of supporting evidence;
- capacity to interpret data and other supporting evidence;
- development of ideas;
- clear and effective communication;
- development of a logical conclusion.

Total: 33 marks / 45

Model Marked Script 3 – GENA4 Section B: Essay

In Section B candidates have to answer one essay question from a choice of 4 (either Qu 5, 6, 7, or 8)

Question 5

The candidate answered Question 5 from a choice of 4 questions.

The candidate's response met the criteria for Level 2 at the lower end of the mark range (7 / 25).

(See comments in the body of the script, these illustrate how and where marks were awarded.)

The main weaknesses in the Question 5 essay answer were:

- shortness of the response – only one page when 2–3 page answers to the essay questions might reasonably be anticipated;
- limited development of points;
- limited range of knowledge;
- lack of supporting examples.

Total: 7 marks / 25

Model Marked Script 4 – GENA4 Section B: Essay

Question 6

The candidate's response met the criteria for Level 3 at the lower end of the mark range (14 / 25).

There was a helpful introductory paragraph before the candidate moved on to the useful example of cloning. The third paragraph made the important point that, when exercising moral responsibility, issues were not always necessarily as clear-cut as we might wish and that there were different opinions and subjective judgments.

From a technological point of view, CCTV cameras were used as an example and the candidate went on to consider issues connected with different views on experiments on animals, the use of blood transfusions and abortion before leading to a conclusion about the ways in which moral responsibility might be exercised.

The essay was simply but clearly written, maintained a focus on the question and used relevant supporting examples although arguments were not usually fully developed. There was an introduction and conclusion and the temptation to provide simple solutions to complex problems was neatly avoided.

(See comments in the body of the script, these illustrate how and where marks were awarded.)

The candidate needed to:

- aim for greater depth and more analysis;
- using relevant examples is always a plus but there were almost too many and this meant that no one area was ever explored in more detail, sometimes giving an impression of superficiality;
- try to define concepts like 'moral responsibility' perhaps looking at them from the perspective of different disciplines.

Total: 14 marks / 25

Self Assessment Script 1 – GENA4 Section A: Case Study

Question 1 **Level 1** **4 marks / 11**

A short answer with limited content and use of available data with just a few points on nuclear and fossil fuel. Credit for some background knowledge, reference to nuclear waste, raw material and government policy on renewables.

The candidate needed to:

- write more;
- use the full range of data;
- focus more directly on the specific question about the 'essential' part that nuclear power should play in Britain's future energy policy.

Question 2 **Level 1** **3 marks / 12**

A short answer with very limited content. No explanation to accompany 1st paragraph, and 2nd paragraph did not make a clear point. Credit for mentioning planning approval issues/cost but these points not developed. 4th paragraph did not make clear point but some credit for opposition mentioned in 5th /6th paragraphs.

The candidate needed to

- write more;
- aim for more breadth;
- make much more use of relevant examples contained in Sources B and C;
- develop further half-mentioned points about development costs and the nature of opposition.

Question 3 **Level 2** **6 marks / 11**

The best of the Case Study answers – a bit longer and more developed than the two previous answers. Starts quite well by discussing the taboo on nuclear weapons since Hiroshima/Nagasaki and moves on to the crisis in the Middle East; the dangers of terrorists gaining access to nuclear weapons and potentially unstable governments.

The candidate needed to:

- show evidence of the use of own knowledge which this question required;
- offer more explanation of the points taken from Source D e.g. the post 1945 'taboo', conflict in the Middle East, instability in countries like North Korea etc.

Question 4 **Level 2** **5 marks / 11**

Just into Level 2, offering a helpful introductory paragraph, brief summaries of some of the ideas expressed in Source E (burial of nuclear waste) and Source F (possibilities for re-processing nuclear waste).

The candidate needed to:

- show evidence of the use of own knowledge which this question required;
- offer more explanation of the summary points taken from Sources E and F, covering areas briefly mentioned like costs, opposition, development of transport infrastructure;
- show clearer understanding of the possibilities and potential consequences of the re-processing featured in Source F.

Total: 18 marks / 45

Self Assessment Script 2 – GENA4 Section A: Case Study

Question 1 Level 2 6 marks / 11

Started quite nicely with the accurate statement, “Source A argues both sides that building more nuclear power plants is an essential part of Britain’s energy policy”. Specific reference is made to Figure 3 (growth of nuclear energy) and a contrast is made with Figure 4 (Greenpeace opposition). Both examples are well developed.

The candidate needed to:

- write a longer answer;
- provide more breadth by making fuller use of the data available across all 6 Figures in Source A. What was taken from Figures 3 and 4 was quite illuminating but there were four other Figures in Source A. Figures 1 and 2 could have been used to show alternatives to nuclear power, Figure 5 contained helpful material on the impending closures of some nuclear power stations and there was a time chart in Figure 6.
- work towards a conclusion.

Question 2 Level 2 5 marks / 12

A less effective start as the point from the opening paragraph was not fully clear to the examiner. The answer then improved with references to additional power plants and their time/cost implications, delays in the approval process and opposition to the development of nuclear power.

The candidate needed to:

- write a longer answer;
- make sure points are clearly made (opening paragraph);
- include a wider range of points from the sources;
- expand on the points that are made.

Question 3 Level 2 6 marks / 11

Several relevant points are made: the potential for growing conflict in the Middle East, the dangers of extremists in Pakistan and vulnerability resulting from the wider use of nuclear power and access to vital uranium.

The candidate needed to:

- use own knowledge – a requirement of this question;
- explain points taken from the source (terrorist organisations, unstable governments, difficulty securing access to nuclear weapons etc)
- expand the debate, working to a conclusion.

Question 4 Level 2 6 marks / 11

Sets out some of the issues relating to the difficulties of burying nuclear waste using Source E and does a similar summary from Source F.

The candidate needed to:

- rely less on summary and more on analysis and explanation;
- expand on points taken from source giving evidence of clear understanding;
- use own knowledge if the question asks for it;
- work towards a conclusion.

Total: 23 marks / 45

Self Assessment Script 3 – GENA4 Section A: Case Study

Question 1 Level 2 8 marks / 11

Quite a detailed answer which falls just below the top mark band. Sets the scene in terms of energy sources making it clear that, from some of the information in Source A showing that the UK is not necessarily dependent on nuclear power. The point is then further developed by reference to coal and carbon capture technology. Counter-arguments are used in favour of nuclear power using the French example and the need to maintain current nuclear supplies – not least because of the ageing nature of many British nuclear plants. There is a brief conclusion.

The candidate needed to:

- cover all the Figures in Source A.
- write a more developed conclusion.

Question 2 Level 3 12 marks / 12

A comprehensive answer which demonstrates how a candidate can gain full marks.

The answer was very well written and used Sources B and C most effectively, looking at the likely impact of new EU rules, the projected closure of existing nuclear power stations, the time lag in providing replacements, the possible role of environmental campaigners, location and the difficulties of waste disposal.

The conclusion – necessary (though not, in itself, sufficient to reach Level 3) – was clear and well-developed offering two points of view to demonstrate division of opinion on the future development of nuclear power in the UK.

Question 3 Level 2 9 marks / 11

There is an immediate identification of Al-Qaida as a potential threat if it were to acquire a nuclear bomb, linking this with the increasing search for the uranium that would be necessary to produce it and the simple finance equation that might lead an unscrupulous dealer to provide it.

The position in a country like Iran is mentioned together with a counter argument that the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki might act as a deterrent. A comparison is made between simulated and real-world testing with the more technologically developed countries moving towards less harmful means of defence.

This argument was taken into a conclusion – a point of view that didn’t convince everybody. The final mark was on the Level 2/3 border and could, ultimately, have gone either way.

The candidate needed to:

- extend the debate in terms of likely terrorist access to nuclear weapons and potential for instability in Middle Eastern countries.

Question 4 Level 2 8 marks / 11

The candidate used Source E to examine different community reactions to proposals for the disposal of nuclear waste including some reasons for opposition from locals, contrasted with the more benign reaction of an area like Cumbria with its experience of the nuclear industry and dependency on the jobs it creates.

There was less time for the candidate to write in the same detail about some of the reprocessing issues raised in Source F but there was a brief conclusion.

The candidate needed to:

- provide more breadth by expanding material from sources and own knowledge (although shortage of time was clearly a factor here).

Total: 37 marks / 45

Self Assessment Script 4 – GENA4 Section B: Essay

Question 7

Level 2

11 marks / 25

In the introduction the candidate tries to define 'better educated' although the definition is not very clear. The same applies to the second paragraph where an attempt to define 'better trained' was made. The intention was good but neither definition is very convincing because more precision is needed.

A point is made in the third paragraph about the need for both theoretical and practical training and there is some development of the idea in terms of benefits such as motivation and increased productivity.

The candidate seeks to deal with both parts of the question equally and draws contrasts between more, and less, prosperous parts of the country. The candidate's case, not unreasonably, is that it is the less prosperous areas that need more investment to tackle the cycle of deprivation.

The candidate needed to:

- differentiate between training and education;
- offer clearer definitions of concepts;
- use supporting examples of training/education schemes, less/more prosperous areas etc.
- explore/develop points in greater depth.

Self Assessment Script 5 – GENA4 Section B: Essay

Question 8

Level 2

9 marks / 25

The candidate chose Q8 from a choice of 4 questions. Unfortunately, although the candidate produced quite a long essay it contained only a limited number of points.

Its main weaknesses were:

- fairly limited knowledge;
- too many vague statements and references e.g. 'many countries have worked together/need to work together', 'if countries start a rivalry etc.
- too much generalised writing;
- lacked examples of either dealings between individual countries or significance of summit meetings such as Kyoto or, more recently, Copenhagen;
- no reference to international trade or agreements;
- tailed off instead of leading to more developed conclusion.

Self Assessment Script 6 – GENA4 Section B: Essay

Question 5

Level 4

22 marks / 25

This was a very good essay and this was reflected in its Level 4 mark. It refers to the ‘hostile’ nature of the question – suggesting a welcome willingness to be critical – while acknowledging that “to a certain extent, I believe it is true”.

The style is fluent and analytical, as demonstrated in the second paragraph about pressure groups with a briefer, third paragraph offering a contrasting viewpoint.

The fourth paragraph deals with responsibility, maintaining a clear focus on the requirements of the question and some well-developed points are made about the nature of responsibility including the difficult challenges that face pressure groups and the link with government responsibility.

The candidates then writes extensively about why it is difficult for different groups operating in politics to reach an agreement because of sometimes subtle differences in their goals and the way in which different groups try to reach them. Generally, negotiation and compromise are seen as potentially more effective than confrontation but extreme actions may get vital media coverage for pressure groups.

In the concluding paragraph a good point is made about the importance of visibility in elevating an issue on the political agenda. Perhaps the essay closes a little prematurely but it is a well-argued piece of writing which demonstrates good knowledge of the key issues, depth and a maturity of thought.