



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA4

Unit 4 A2 Science and Society

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards
This question paper uses the [new numbering system](#) and [new AQA answer book](#)

For this paper you must have:

- a copy of the Pre-release Case Study Source Material (enclosed)
- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is GENA4.
- Answer all questions in Section A and one question from Section B.
- Use your own words, rather than simply repeating those used in the sources, to show your understanding of the points being made.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 (45 for Section A and 25 for Section B).
- This paper consists of **two** sections.
- **Section A** contains four compulsory questions based on the pre-release Case Study Source Material provided earlier and the new source provided in this examination paper; (a new copy of the pre-release material is provided as an insert to this question paper).
Section B contains four alternative essay questions based on Science and Society.
- Write your answers in continuous prose as if you are addressing the intelligent general reader. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

GENA4

Section A

Answer **Questions 1 to 4** using pre-release **Sources A to E** and new **Source F** provided below.

The total for this Section is 45 marks.

Source F

Thailand

The price of rice in the world's largest exporter rose to \$1000 per tonne yesterday and experts warned that it will continue to rise. This is because of the massive demand from the Philippines which is struggling to secure supplies after India and several other producers halted exports. The government has said it can meet the export requests. Indonesia has said it is withholding purchases for a year because prices are so high.



Brazil

On Wednesday Brazil became the latest major rice producer to temporarily suspend exports because of soaring costs and domestic shortages. In recent weeks Latin American countries and African nations have asked for up to 500 000 tonnes of rice from Brazil which will now not be delivered. Brazil's agricultural ministry has said it has to ensure that the country has at least enough rice reserves to last the next six to eight months.

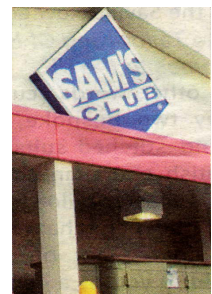


China

The booming economy and ever expanding middle class have had a particularly profound effect on food prices, particularly rice and wheat. Because of industrialisation, rice planting fell from 33 million hectares in 1983 to 29 million by 2006 and China now imports more than ever, placing a major strain on international supplies. Despite freezing prices, rampant inflation means cost of food has risen by 21 per cent this year.

USA

In a land where supposedly the rich are thin and the poor are overweight, one of the largest cash and carry stores, Sam's Club, announced this week it would limit customers to take home a maximum of four bags of rice. The move came a day after Costco Wholesale Corp, the biggest US warehouse-club operator, limited bulk rice purchases in some stores and warned that customers had begun stockpiling certain goods.



Europe

Less vulnerable to food price fluctuations than emerging nations, but food prices across Europe have nonetheless increased. In Britain wholesale prices of food have increased by 7.4 per cent over the past 12 months, roughly three times the headline rate of inflation. According to the government's own statistics grocery bills have gone up by an average of £750 over the same period, the equivalent of a 12 per cent rise.

Source: Adapted from JEROME TAYLOR, 'The Food Crisis Begins to Bite', *The Independent*, 25 April 2008

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- 0 1** How far do the data and other information in **Source A** support the claim that there was a global food crisis in 2008? *(11 marks)*
- 0 2** How far does evidence from **Sources B** and **C** support the claims of their authors that the rush towards developing biofuels has “driven up the price of food” and is “starving the poor”? *(12 marks)*
- 0 3** To what extent do you agree with **Source D** that a move towards less protectionism and more free trade would be beneficial to poorer countries? *(11 marks)*
- 0 4** Using information from **Sources E** and **F**, consider whether governments are likely to be successful in tackling the effects of rising world food prices in their own countries. *(11 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

Section B

Answer **one Question** from **5 to 8**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0 5 “If the poor and the starving in the world are to get real and lasting help and relief they will do so only by the further testing, development and production of genetically modified crops on a large scale.”

Explain why genetically modified crops might help to increase food supplies.

Examine the difficulties surrounding the further testing, development and production of genetically modified crops.

OR

0 6 “There is increasing concern about what some politicians have described as ‘the breakdown of family life’ and they have suggested that the only way to fix ‘a broken society’ is to place more emphasis on marriage and a return to traditional values.”

Examine what are commonly believed to be ‘traditional values’.

How far, and for what reasons, do you agree that we are currently witnessing ‘the breakdown of traditional family life’ in Britain?

OR

0 7 “Changing the diet of people in the UK and improving their fitness levels can bring about many benefits such as a reduction in obesity, cutting the demands on the National Health Service and even helping to resolve global food crises.”

Discuss the extent to which you consider better diet and fitness regimes among the UK population would have the benefits claimed in the statement above.

Explain the difficulties involved in persuading people to follow a healthier diet and to exercise regularly.

OR

0 8 “Whatever the need for more foreign aid, and even for measures to protect the environment, the world’s greatest need is for improved security against the threat of terrorism.”

To what extent do you agree that “the world’s greatest need is for improved security against the threat of terrorism?”

Discuss the difficulties in countering the threats and actions of terrorists.

END OF QUESTIONS