

General Certificate of Education  
January 2005  
Advanced Level Examination



**GENERAL STUDIES (SPECIFICATION B)**  
**Unit 4 Conflict-Resolution**

**GB4W**

Tuesday 25 January 2005      Afternoon Session

<p><b>In addition to this paper you will require:</b> an 8-page answer book.</p>
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Time allowed: 1 hour

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or 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 GB4W.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.

**Advice**

- You will be assessed according to your ability to:
  - select and use a form and style of writing appropriate to purpose and complex subject matter;
  - organise relevant information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary when appropriate;
  - ensure text is legible, and spelling, grammar and punctuation are accurate, so that meaning is clear.

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Answer **all** questions.

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**Total for this paper: 60 marks**

Recent government policy is to increase the use of renewable sources of energy. Environmental concerns have been placed, for the first time, above the previous aim of security of supply. The Government also intends to double the amount of energy generated from renewable sources, which currently provide 2.6% of Britain's energy needs, by 2020. In a move away from building new nuclear power stations, the Government plans to meet its energy targets by building wind farms. To do so, the wind turbines would need to cover 250,000 acres of Britain.



**A wind farm**

The easiest and cheapest way would be to build wind farms on land, but more than forty protest groups have sprung up nationally in opposition. When the energy company, Eco Energy, proposed the building of 24 wind turbines in the Yorkshire Dales, it was opposed by the Barningham High Moor Coalition, which protested that the 177 feet high turbines would spoil the countryside and there would be excessive noise from the rotor blades. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds refers to the turbines as “mincing machines”, but herons have learned to avoid the turning blades and hawks still nest on the Trannon Moor in Wales, the site of one of the largest wind farms.

Planning applications for wind farms are being filed at the rate of one per week across the country, but nearly 90% of wind farm project applications have been turned down by planning authorities. For example, within a period of two months, Torrington District Council turned down applications to build turbines at three separate sites.

Part of government policy is to promote the building of off-shore wind farms. Even though the costs of building at sea are considerably higher, the Government has allocated £348 million over four years. One such farm is that built two miles off the coast of Great Yarmouth in Norfolk. The start of this was, however, delayed by Powergen for fear of disrupting the tourist industry. More wind turbines are planned for the Thames Estuary and Scarweather Sands off the coast of Swansea, where fishermen claim a wind farm will prevent trawling in 2,500 acres of sea.

Wind power is an inherently unreliable source of power, as the weather is notoriously unpredictable in Britain. The turbines produce power for approximately 30% of the time, so back-up power would be needed.

Study the source and answer the following three questions.

- 1 Using the source, analyse the nature of the problem and identify the underlying issues. *(15 marks)*
  
- 2 Identify which parties you consider to be responsible for the problem and analyse the extent of their responsibility, explaining why some might be said to be more responsible than others. *(15 marks)*
  
- 3 Explain what measures might be taken in the short term and the long term to resolve the problem and evaluate the likely success of these measures. *(20 marks)*

A further ten marks will be awarded for communicating in a concise and logical way in an appropriate form. *(10 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE**