

General Certificate of Education
January 2007
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



GENERAL STUDIES (SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 2 Power

GSB2

Monday 15 January 2007 9.00 am - 10.15 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

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 GSB2.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Answer **Question 1** from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate. All questions should be answered in continuous prose.

SECTION A

Answer this question.

- 1** Read the headteacher's newsletter to parents opposite. It concerns the future of a secondary school as it becomes a specialist, partly selective science college.

Write a similar newsletter about the future of your own (or an imaginary) school or college, as if you were the headteacher.

(40 marks)

Looking to the future

The Bishop Coram High School has gone from strength to strength in recent years; but a school must continue to move forward if it is not to stagnate.

Science and craft studies were the subjects for which Bishop Coram was best known in its earliest years: you will have seen the photographs of boys in the woodwork and metalwork rooms of the inter-war period in the school reception area. The new science block, opened in 1968, was probably the best of its kind in the county at the time; but much change has taken place since then, and of course ICT facilities have been added, and these have had an enormous impact in all departments.

Now, however, the governors have put together plans to re-establish Bishop Coram as a specialist Science College. With matching funds from the government, we shall be able to invest as never before in new science laboratories and ICT hardware. As Bishop Coram Science College, with specialist status, with a new logo, and some necessary refurbishment, we shall be able to select up to ten per cent of our student intake, and so raise academic standards – and our place in national league tables – still further.

By becoming a Science College, we shall be able to hold our own in the competition for bright youngsters against local schools specialising in the Arts and Modern Languages, and against sixth-form and further education colleges. We shall, indeed, be the only specialist Science College in the southern half of the county.

Non-science specialists need not fear that their interests will be overlooked, however. All the national curriculum subjects will be well catered for: indeed, the next major building project on the school campus will involve the conversion of the old school hall into a suite for the performing arts. A-Level courses in Dance and Drama have been second only to courses in Media Studies and Psychology in terms of growth in student numbers in the past five years. Nor will vocational subjects be neglected: we shall build on our excellent relationship with Newton Further Education College to develop our GNVQ courses in Tourism and Hospitality Studies. Business Studies has benefited from much new investment in computers and such investment will be sustained.

Bishop Coram looks to the future with optimism. A new head of science, Dr Sarah Williamson, and Roger Freers, our new ICT systems manager, bring visions of their own to what Bishop Coram has to offer. They join a staff dedicated to building on our successes in a fast-changing world.

Dr Paul Griffin, Headteacher

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

SECTION B

Answer **one** of the following questions.

You are advised to use examples to illustrate your answers where appropriate.

EITHER

- 2 As our own reserves of oil and natural gas run out, we will increasingly have to import fuel supplies from abroad.

How might we avoid having to rely for our energy needs on distant, undemocratic countries?

You might consider the following in your answer:

- building new coal and nuclear power stations
- developing renewable energy sources
- whether we might use less energy than we do
- how much we ought to consider future generations.

(30 marks)

OR

- 3 Traditionally art in school involved learning the rules of perspective, figure-drawing, and water-colour technique.

Discuss what you consider to be the function of art in the school curriculum in the 21st century.

You might consider in your answer, whether:

- being able to draw is a useful skill
- one can be taught to draw or paint at all
- computers are making it unnecessary to be able to draw
- important *values* are taught through art.

(30 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS