



General Certificate of Education

General Studies 5766

Specification B

GSB1 Conflict

Mark Scheme

2008 examination - January series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Unit 1

(GSB1 Conflict)

Answers given in the mark scheme are not necessarily definitive. Other valid points must be credited, even if they do not appear in the mark scheme.

Marks should be awarded in these bands:

Band One 11 – 15

- A good response showing knowledge and understanding of the topic and the issues covered.
- Clear and accurate expression used with no significant errors of style, spelling or grammar, ensuring a logical and relevant response.
- Evidence is well marshalled, ensuring interpretation and evaluation and thus allowing a valid and thoughtful conclusion to be reached.

Band Two 6 – 10

- A competent response showing some knowledge and understanding of the topic and the issues covered.
- Reasonably clear and accurate expression used with relatively few errors of style, spelling or grammar, ensuring a fairly logical and relevant response.
- Evidence is moderately well marshalled, ensuring some interpretation and evaluation and thus allowing a valid conclusion to be drawn, though there may be a lack of structure and balance.

Band Three 1 – 5

- A limited response showing little knowledge and understanding of the topic and the issues covered.
- Poor and inaccurate expression used with significant errors of style, spelling or grammar leading to a rather illogical and/or irrelevant response.
- Evidence is poorly marshalled, ensuring little interpretation and evaluation and thus leading to little or no valid conclusion, with a possibility of assertions being made from no hard evidence.

Band Four 0

No response, or no relevant information.

**1 We are observed by CCTV cameras each day, potentially hundreds of times.
How far is such surveillance justified?**

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing that surveillance is justified may argue:

- (a) personal safety is paramount in our daily lives
- (b) protection of property by CCTV cameras has led to a reduction in crime
- (c) increasing the chances of apprehending criminals is a worthy aim.

Candidates disagreeing that surveillance is justified may argue:

- (n) we have moved to a 1984/Big Brother state where there is no privacy
- (o) who is monitoring the monitors?
- (p) CCTV only moves criminal behaviour to areas where the cameras do not operate.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether CCTV surveillance is justified
- use a range of arguments
- refer to examples of the use of CCTV cameras to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether CCTV surveillance is justified
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether CCTV surveillance is justified
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make passing reference to examples to back up their arguments.

A balanced response is preferable: however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

2 To what extent do modern employment patterns mean that we work more?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (a) growth of service industry leads to changing shift patterns e.g. 24/7 opening hours
- (b) competition and the desire for promotion lead many to work longer hours than in the past
- (c) the greater ability to take one's work home has meant that there is less time to 'switch off' from work.

Candidates disagreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (n) the ability to work from home means less time and energy is spent on commuting
- (o) less overtime is worked as standard
- (p) shorter working week/part-time working allows more leisure time.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether modern employment patterns ensure that people work more
- use a range of arguments
- refer to examples of employment patterns to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether modern employment patterns ensure that people work more
- make a range of points, some of which lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether modern employment patterns ensure that people work more
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make passing reference to examples to back up their arguments.

A balanced response is preferable: however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

3 Soap operas on television are a mirror image of the viewers' own lives. Discuss.

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (a) many characters in soap operas are recognisable in our own lives e.g. 'the do gooder' the 'know it all' etc.
- (b) many of the social issues dealt with by soaps do reflect peoples' lives
- (c) rites of passage in real life are continually portrayed in soap operas.

Candidates disagreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (n) society is not as violent and dramatic as portrayed by soaps
- (o) there is virtually no discussion of current events in soap operas
- (p) many are set in communities which may not be representative of society today.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether soap operas are a mirror image of the viewers' lives
- use a range of arguments
- refer to examples from soaps to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether soap operas are a mirror image of the viewers' lives
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether soap operas are a mirror image of viewers' lives
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make passing reference to examples to back up their arguments.

A balanced response is preferable: however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

**4 The quality of a piece of artwork should be determined by experts.
How far do you agree with this statement?**

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the statement may argue:

- (a) it is assumed that experts will possess superior knowledge as to what is 'good'
- (b) art experts can determine the criteria by which a piece of artwork is considered good and hence affects its value
- (c) most people view artwork in galleries where it has already been assessed by experts.

Candidates disagreeing with the statement may argue:

- (n) if a person enjoys a piece of art it is valid in their eyes
- (o) the nature of art is constantly changing with new forms being developed/accepted
- (p) the death of an artist may increase the value of his/her work.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether quality of artwork is decided by experts
- use a range of arguments
- refer to examples of artwork to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether quality of artwork is decided by experts
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether quality of artwork is decided by experts
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make passing reference to examples to back up their arguments.

A balanced response is preferable: however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

5 Celebrities have more influence on society in the UK than any other class of people. To what extent is this statement valid?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the validity of the statement may argue:

- (a) media coverage of celebrities, their beliefs and values, contributes to the feeling of influence
- (b) many celebrities appear to gain vast wealth in a short period of time, and wealth influences positions in society
- (c) social mobility allows celebrities to mix with the 'movers and shakers' of society.

Candidates disagreeing with the validity of the statement may argue:

- (n) inherited wealth is still a major factor in ascribing a position of influence to someone
- (o) the 'old school tie' network is still in operation
- (p) entertainment icons can be transitory: hence their influence may not last.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether celebrities have more influence on society than any other class of people
- use a range of arguments
- refer to examples of celebrities and their influence to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether celebrities have more influence on society than any other class of people
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their argument.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether celebrities have more influence on society than any other class of people
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make passing reference to examples to back up their arguments.

A balanced response is preferable: however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

6 Discuss the view that women who wish to have children should always be given medical treatment to allow them to do this.

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (a) it is a woman's right to have children if she so desires
- (b) it is unrealistic to expect people to ignore existing medical opportunities if they could benefit from them
- (c) with an ageing population and declining birth rate, treatments such as these would boost the country demographically.

Candidates disagreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (n) should treatments such as IVF allow us to play God?
- (o) the costs of such treatments may be prohibitive in relation to overall health budgets
- (p) which criteria are to be used to identify recipients of treatment?

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether medical treatment should be available to women who want children
- use a range of arguments
- refer to examples of types of treatment and/or categories of patient to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether medical treatment should be available to women who want children
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether medical treatment should be available to women who want children
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make passing reference to examples to back up their arguments.

A balanced response is preferable: however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

Distribution of Assessment Objective marks across Unit 1

Question Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	AO marks per unit
Assessment Objectives	AO1	9	9	9	9	9	36
	AO2	2	2	2	2	2	8
	AO3	4	4	4	4	4	16
Total marks per Question	15	15	15	15	15	15	60

Candidates should answer 4 questions from 6