

General Certificate of Education
January 2008
Advanced Level Examination



GENERAL STUDIES (SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 6 Space-Time

GSB6

Monday 28 January 2008 9.00 am to 10.45 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book
- Source Material (enclosed).

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 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 GSB6.
- 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 to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- All questions should be answered in continuous prose. You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

There are no questions printed on this page

SECTION A

Answer this question.

1 Read **Source A** and answer the following question.

What might some of the implications be of an increase in space tourism?

Consider possible

- political
- economic
- environmental
- ethical

effects, and judge whether we should welcome ‘a second space race’.

(40 marks)

SECTION B

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

EITHER

2 Read **Sources B** and **C** and answer the following question.

The Chinese authorities want to limit the potential of internet technology (**Source B**), whilst Manchester City Council promotes an old transport technology – the bicycle (**Source C**).

Consider whether much modern technology has as many drawbacks as it has benefits.

(40 marks)

OR

3 Read **Sources D** and **E** and answer the following question.

The British Film Institute appears to rejoice in cultural diversity (**Source D**), whilst there seems to be just one ‘American Way’ and one ‘American Dream’ (**Source E**).

How important is it, in your view, that the citizens of a country ‘possess the same vision’?

(40 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Insert

Source Material to be read in conjunction with questions in Unit GSB6.

Source A

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Potential Market for Space Tourism Service

Population of economically-developed countries	1 billion
10% of this population	100 million
1 flight per person @ \$20 000 =	\$2 trillion cumulative revenue

But:

More than 50% would like to travel in space	> 5x
Most of these want 2 or more flights	> 2x
Middle-class population is growing rapidly worldwide	> 2x

Total Market	>\$40 trillion cumulative revenue
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Source: from *Space Tourism: Recent Progress and Future Prospects* by DR PATRICK COLLINS, 2004
Space Future Consulting Ltd, www.spacefuture.com

Turn over for the next source

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Source B

Internet censorship

The internet is one of the most powerful inventions of our time, giving ordinary people unprecedented access to information and freedom to communicate across borders. Yet many governments fear its potential to spread knowledge, ideas and above all, dissent.

Around the world, internet cafés are shut down, computers seized, chat rooms monitored and blogs deleted. Governments have shut down or blocked websites, created firewalls to keep out undesirable information, and imprisoned citizens who used the internet to discuss politics or challenge officialdom. Amnesty has discovered cases of internet repression in China, Iran, Israel, the Maldives, Syria, Tunisia and Vietnam.

The new campaign, irrepressible.info, highlights the rise of internet censorship and seeks to mobilise support for prisoners of conscience, jailed for peaceful expression of their beliefs online. Its message is that the human voice is impossible to repress or contain.

[Irrepressible.info](http://irrepressible.info) takes on not only governments, but also the companies that have colluded with them in censorship and surveillance of the internet and its users. In China, for example, the journalist Shi Tao was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on the basis of information provided by Yahoo! His crime was to send an e-mail to an overseas website describing official instructions to his newspaper to restrict coverage of events marking the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. Several other companies have reportedly helped China build a sophisticated net censorship regime, including Cisco and Sun Microsystems. Yahoo!, Microsoft and Google have all complied with demands to censor their Chinese-based search engines.

Source: adapted from 'irrepressible.info' by ADIL ABRAR in *Amnesty Magazine*, July/August 2006

Source C

Love Your Bike

“I hadn’t been on a bike for about 10 years but it was actually much easier and less scary than I anticipated,” says 22-year-old Sarah Whitehead. “I love the smug feeling you get as you cycle past all the cars waiting in traffic jams.” Sarah was just one of hundreds of commuters tempted on to a saddle during Manchester Friends of the Earth’s high-profile Love Your Bike campaign. The spring launch saw ads all over the city’s billboards and buses, funded by a £30 000 Renewable Neighbourhood grant.

Cycling is a great way to slash journey time and boost health. “Before the bike I tended to walk everywhere, unless it was dark or raining, in which case I’d get the bus. Cycling to work is about 20 minutes quicker than walking,” says Sarah, who’s doing a PhD in biochemistry at Manchester University. “I’m really enjoying getting some exercise. I didn’t really do any before and I’m glad to have finally found something active that I like.” Apart from massively cutting CO₂ emissions, cyclists like Sarah are improving Manchester’s air quality and reducing noise pollution. “I do feel a lot better knowing that I’m doing something for the environment – I’m cycling pretty much every day now.”

To encourage people to make the transition from four wheels to two, Love Your Bike teamed up with 16 local bike shops to offer reductions. Sarah does have sartorial reservations about her headgear though: “In a very vain way I still find my cycle helmet a little embarrassing but my very sensitive and concerned flatmate won’t let me leave the house without it.”

The Love Your Bike website (www.loveyourbike.org) is full of information on cycling in Manchester. It also encourages feedback to highlight areas that could do with improvement; for Sarah this was the vanishing cycle path trick. “There are parts of the ride to work where the cycle lane disappears, which can be quite nerve-racking, and the path through Whitworth Park is in a shocking state – full of potholes.”

All Manchester City Council (co-sponsor of the campaign) now has to do is take note. The easier it gets to cycle in the city, the better the chance the council has of hitting its goal of seeing Manchester become the greenest city in the UK.

Source: ‘I did it my way’ by LINDSEY RUSSELL, *Friends of the Earth, Earthmatters*, Summer 2006

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Source D

A Commitment to Cultural Diversity

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Source E

The American Way

Americans tend to be very religious. Religion matters in American life in a way that it does not in most of Europe. There is a high rate of religious observance, especially among older Americans. Polling evidence suggests that they are more likely than citizens in other Western countries to consider religion important in their lives, to believe in Heaven, Hell and the Day of Judgement, to pray and to attend church. Religion is a defining feature of the political culture and has shaped the culture of aspects of political life. The Declaration of Independence affirms that all men are 'endowed by their Creator' with certain rights, and ends with a recognition of the 'firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence' necessary to make the Declaration a success. Religious faith – the Christian faith – has been and remains all-important. Candidates for office routinely acknowledge the Almighty in their speeches and discuss issues such as abortion, gay rights and foreign policy in moralistic terms.

Intense admiration for and love of country is another American quality. Americans also tend to be very patriotic and to support emblems which help them to identify with their country. They acknowledge their Constitution, their anthem, their flag and other symbols of their nationhood. In particular, they respect the office of President, if not the behaviour of individual presidents. The figure in the White House operates as a focal point of their national loyalty and especially in times of crisis he speaks up for the interests of all Americans. He and they possess the same vision. They want to build a better world for themselves and their families. They want a share in the American Dream. That Dream is in essence the belief that the United States of America is a land of opportunity for those prepared to work hard, get ahead and make a fortune. Americans are valued as individuals, according to what they make of their chances in life.

Source: *Understanding US/UK government and politics*, DUNCAN WATTS, Manchester UP, 2003

END OF SOURCES

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