

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**GENERAL STUDIES (SPECIFICATION B)**  
**Unit 2 Power**

**GSB2**

Thursday 15 May 2008 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

**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 GSB2.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer **Question 1** from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be 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 answers should be written in continuous prose.

**SECTION A**

Answer this question.

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

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- 1 Read the article opposite about access to the Royal Enclosure at Ascot.

You are asked to speak in a debate whose motion is:

*Money is power in today's Britain.*

Write a speech **either** for **or** against the motion.

*(40 marks)*

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### Ascot lets you buy your way into the Royal Enclosure

For centuries, it has been one of the most sought-after tickets in the social calendar. Admission to the Royal Enclosure during Royal Ascot was a statement of belonging to the élite and, just in case newcomers were in any doubt about how exclusive the honour was, the strictest of dress – and moral – codes was enforced.

But the days when a divorced couple had more chance of a letter of congratulation from the Archbishop of Canterbury than being in the Royal Enclosure at the same time as the monarch are long gone.

In one of the greatest breaks with tradition since the ban on divorcees was lifted in 1955, Royal Ascot has decided to sell access to the Royal Enclosure for the five-day festival.

Although undischarged bankrupts are still unwelcome, and admission of ex-prisoners is at the discretion of officials, the decision to grant entry to the enclosure as part of ‘fine dining packages’ (advertised in the 2007 brochure) has outraged some long-standing race-goers. One, who declined to be named, said: “This is the ultimate dumbing-down. We have gone from the sport of kings to the sport of chavs. This is the end of Royal Ascot as we know it. What made Royal Ascot so special was the Royal Enclosure.”

Until this year, admission was by invitation from members of the enclosure of at least four years’ standing. But in the 2007 brochure, enclosure passes are included as an inducement to buy lunch in four of the course’s twelve restaurants at prices from £530 to £1410 per person. Such a ticket will confer membership only for the day in question.

Ascot’s marketing department confirmed that there were no longer the same social checks in place and it would welcome coach parties for some of the 670 restaurant places available. “Coach parties are more than welcome”, said one official. “But you must abide by the dress code.”

The code – top hats and morning suits for men, while women are expected to wear hats and must not transgress carefully-determined boundaries – is unforgiving. Trouser suits (female) were once banned and exposed midribs (also female) are still beyond the pale\*.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the changes, saying that it was a matter for the racecourse.

Source: Adapted from ANDREW PIERCE, *The Daily Telegraph*, 12 January 2007

\* beyond the pale = unacceptable

**Turn over for SECTION B**

**Turn over ▶**

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**SECTION B**

Answer **one** of the following questions.

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

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**EITHER**

- 2 Education is compulsory but this does not have to take place in a school or college.

Why, then, does society attach so much importance to sending young people to school or college?

You might consider the following in your answer:

- why education is compulsory
- whether schools do educate young people
- how otherwise young people might learn
- whether we over-value education.

*(30 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 A programmable rowing machine is advertised as working one's arms, legs and back in a smooth, non-impact motion. It is said to be 'the exercise for everybody'.

Why might using an exercise-machine **not** be for everybody?

You might consider the following in your answer:

- how much exercise anyone needs
- whether rowing is the best form of exercise
- risks that using exercise-machines might involve
- whether we over-value fitness.

*(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**