



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2012

General Studies (Specification B)

GENB4

Unit 4 Change

Insert

STIMULUS MATERIAL

These texts are to be read in conjunction with unit GENB4.

The questions arise from the texts, but they should **not** be answered by reference to the texts alone.

Text A

A Warning to Graduates

Middle-class students leaving university should abandon their prejudices about what constitutes a graduate job, indeed, they might have to do unpaid work, a government minister has warned.

David Willetts, the universities minister, told *The Guardian* that the thousands of students leaving higher education this summer to compete for jobs should rethink what they consider to be a graduate career. Willetts said: "Setting up as self-employed doesn't, for some people, count as a graduate job." Graduates would have to accept that they must "look around for work experience and internships".

Mike Hill, chief executive of Graduate Prospects, which offers careers advice to students, graduates and universities, said Willetts was right and that "getting any job is better than no job at all". University leavers had to be more flexible in the current climate, Hill said, even if that meant starting on the shop-floor. "If you have the wherewithal, the capacity and the curiosity for hard work and are pushy, you can be promoted very quickly indeed. You might start off as a waitress in a cocktail bar and find yourself with a career in hospitality."

Willetts's comments come as a Guardian survey of 50 of Britain's top universities found a boom in numbers applying for postgraduate courses this year. Universities said graduates were enrolling on masters and PhD programmes while they waited for the jobs market to improve, to try to make themselves more employable.

Royal Holloway, Edinburgh, City, and Leicester universities all reported sharp rises in applications for postgraduate courses. City said its postgraduate programmes in arts and law had received twice the number of applicants compared with last year.

A spokeswoman from Keele University said increasing numbers of graduates were choosing to stay on and do a higher degree "to give the job market time to improve and in the hope that a higher qualification will make them more employable". Some students were "burying their heads in the sand so that they don't have to deal with the reality of the jobs market," she added.

The picture is not entirely gloomy. Universities reported a modest revival of interest in banking and finance and there has been a surge of interest in teaching. Ian Hodges, Exeter's careers and employment service head, said teaching was being seen as a safer option than other careers and that teacher training courses had filled earlier than in previous years.

Universities have reported huge demand for careers services, with Cambridge saying record numbers had approached them for help this year. Universities have been asked to publish employability statements by the end of August spelling out what help they give students to find work. Last week, a poll of leading employers revealed that graduates are facing the fiercest competition in a decade to get a job this summer, with nearly 70 applications for each vacancy. Apprenticeships, which are likely to expand under the coalition government, might provide an alternative career path for some students, the survey noted.

Source: adapted from 'Willetts warns graduates: you may have to work for free',
JESSICA SHEPHERD and JEEVAN VASAGAR, *The Guardian*, 17 July 2010,
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Text A continued
Employment Rates of Graduates by Subject of Study, 2008/09

(‘Employment’ includes jobs of all sorts, not necessarily related to subject of study.)

Subject	Full-time First degree	% Employed	Part-time First degree	% Employed
Biological Sciences	19 680	90.6	1 170	91.1
Business/Administration	20 200	88.4	2 135	91.3
Computer Science	7 330	81.8	895	84.9
Creative Arts & Design	21 485	86.8	615	86.0
Education	9 265	95.2	1 850	97.0
Engineering/Technology	9 360	85.9	1 300	94.4
History/Philosophy	10 290	89.3	805	92.2
Languages	13 225	90.4	700	90.1
Law	8 505	93.3	755	92.4
Mathematical Sciences	3 630	88.9	140	90.4
Medicine/Dentistry/ Veterinary Science	7 330	99.3	15	-
Subjects Allied to Medicine	15 905	95.0	3 900	98.2
Physical Sciences	9 195	88.8	405	91.6
Social Studies	17 970	89.8	1 945	94.5
All Subjects	185 310	89.9	19 890	93.7

Source: data from HESA Destination of Leavers 2008/09
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Text B

Salon of the Rejected

There is plenty of evidence to show that the gap between classical and modern forms of artistic practice was widening gradually as the Nineteenth Century progressed. It could be said, however, that the distinctness of the modernist disposition was first made fully and self-consciously evident during the 1860s, when Manet's paintings came to public notice.

The French Salon of 1863 marked a clear and public point of schism*; or rather what most tellingly and publicly revealed the schism was the contrast between the official Salon and a 'Salon des Refusés' (Salon of the Rejected), set up by the French Emperor following protests at the extent and nature of the exclusions from the Salon in that year. The jury had rejected some 60 per cent of the works submitted. The apparently liberal justification for showing these works in a 'Salon des Refusés' was to enable the public to judge for itself. Manet was one of those who elected to have his rejected works thus exhibited, *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* most notorious among them. James McNeill Whistler was happy to leave his painting *The White Girl* to this alternative form of adjudication. Camille Pissarro and Paul Cézanne were among the other exhibitors.

With the benefit of hindsight we can conclude that, by 1863, those liable to be excluded from the principal professional forum on the grounds of incompetence included a significant number of painters we now esteem most highly among the artists of their time. What this suggests is that conflicting forms of valuation were at work within the wider culture of art. Another way to put this might be to say that by 1863 – in France at least – it was becoming clear that taste in art was no longer something that one dominant section of society could define and control.

How was it that the works of Manet, and even more improbably of Cézanne (the merits of whose work Manet himself was unable to accept), came in the end to be seen not simply as competent, but as possessed of abiding value? If we can explore the distinctive effects of these works, we will be in a better position to appreciate their departure from contemporary norms. We may also begin to understand why it is that they tended to remain of interest and value as the works of more immediately successful artists came to be disregarded.

Source: adapted from 'Modernism' by CHARLES HARRISON, reproduced by permission of Tate Trustees © Tate 1997

* schism – break, split

Text C**The Conservative Religion of an Island People**

When Archbishop Fisher crowned Queen Elizabeth II, what hints were there in the ceremony that England is an industrial democracy in which organised religion is usually ignored? The historic pageant rolled on regardless. That may seem an extreme example, but conservatism is to be seen on any Sunday in most English acts of worship. Over 8000 of the Church of England's 18 000 parish churches are medieval or earlier, and the Prayer Book used in them has not been revised officially since 1662. The Free Churches seem to echo with the energy of the Victorian Age. The Roman Catholic Church proudly continues a longer history. The preachers in these churches will make sincere efforts to make their message relevant, but many of their efforts are necessary because their message appears to belong to a vanished age. To an astonishing extent English religion has been like that for a long time. It has been the conservative religion of an island people, come Normans, come Protestants, come scientists. Through thirteen and a half centuries, many an English churchgoer has been suspicious of innovations and enthusiasms.

Today change is obviously desirable in English Christianity. Even more than the country's secular institutions, the English churches need rejuvenating because they are not doing their jobs efficiently in the modern world. Although statistics are more than usually treacherous in the field of religion, those which are available suggest that active support for the churches comes from under ten per cent of the population.

We all know that England is substantially a secular country. Their unpopularity might not matter – and might actually be to their credit – if the churches possessed an inner confidence. It might then be suggested that people are offended by Jesus Christ himself. But as it is, we all know that, for all the devoted labour to be observed in them, the English churches need a revival. They are not aflame with faith or overflowing with purposeful activity. They offend England not because they are too lively but because most of them seem to have been decaying over the last half-century.

Source: extract from *The Honest to God Debate*, by JOHN A.T.ROBINSON and DAVID L. EDWARDS,
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Text D

Loss of Heritage Woodland

Planting of new trees has fallen to its lowest level in more than three decades across Britain, leading conservationists said yesterday. Efforts to replace woodland in the United Kingdom, once so densely forested that trees which have sustained human populations for 6000 years covered 90 per cent of the land mass, have slowed dramatically in the past six years, falling from 12 000 hectares of newly-planted woods in 2004 to just 5000 hectares last year.

Britain is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with half the average tree cover, and half of its ancient woodland lost since the 1930s. It is a worrying development at a time when reforestation is a priority to offset the effects of climate change.

Figures released by the Forestry Commission, the Government body in charge of managing Britain's woodlands, show that 2.85 million hectares of land in the UK is covered by woods – equivalent to 12 per cent of the total land area. According to the Commission, the figure represents an increase in woodland of 0.2 per cent since 2002.

But conservationists challenged the statistics, saying they failed to take into account factors including a huge loss of hedgerow trees and swaths of woodland cut down to make way for wind farms and building development. This means that, far from increasing, the amount of tree cover in Britain is actually likely to be falling.

The Woodland Trust, Britain's leading woodland conservation charity, said there had already been a loss of 9000 hectares of tree cover in England between 1999 and 2008. The charity called on the Government to reverse the falling trend in new tree planting, which has dropped from a peak of 28 300 hectares in 1976 to less than a fifth of that level.

The Forestry Commission said it accepted there had been a decline in tree planting, but says it has plans which will see 100 000 hectares of new woodland planted in Wales by 2030 and 50 000 hectares planted in Scotland by 2015. A Commission spokesman said: "The figures suggest that Britain's woodland area continues to increase, as it has for the past 90 years."

Source: "'Worrying" slump in tree planting prompts fears of deforestation', CAHAL MILMO,
The Independent, 11 June 2010

Text E**Nature and Nurture**

The conflict about ethnicity and intelligence shows no sign of disappearing. For most of its participants, science long ago gave way to sociology. In spite – or perhaps because – of a mass of statistics it has become impossible to resolve the issues surrounding the supposed divergence in the ability of ethnic groups, or even to discuss them in an impartial manner. Every statistic quoted by one camp is countered by the other. The study of the supposed difference in intellect between blacks and whites has largely been abandoned to polemic*, with far too much consistency between the political and biological views of the supporters of each theory. Science can, nevertheless, still say what is, and what is not, known about inherited differences in intellect among the peoples of the world.

The figures are straightforward, at least on first sight. In the United States, using standard IQ tests, blacks score, on the average, between ten and fifteen points lower than do whites. Certain groups (such as Koreans and those of Japanese descent) do better on the tests than do whites. Large disparities in test score also exist between people of different social class, whatever their colour.

How to interpret this causes intense bitterness. The test or the testers may be biased; or like may not be compared with like. However, most now accept that IQ tests provide a measure of intellect, whatever the ethnic or social background of those involved. The tests themselves do not, of course, say anything about whether such differences are inherited, no more than bathroom scales tell whether differences in weight are due to gluttony, to genes or to both. The issue of the inheritance of IQ score has also attracted much attention. In spite of earlier fraudulent work, it is clear that the ability to do well on tests runs strongly in families.

The argument about the relative importance of nature and nurture in producing ethnic divergence in IQ score is unresolved and probably unresolvable. The case for an immutable genetic divergence in intelligence between ethnic groups or social classes is, at best, unproved. This has not stopped politicians (whatever their agenda) from making capital from the results of IQ tests; a classic case of science being hijacked for non-scientific purposes.

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20 Pewis Mews, London, W11 1JN

* polemic – angry debate

END OF STIMULUS MATERIAL

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