



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2013

## General Studies (Specification B)

## GENB3

Unit 3 Power

### Insert

#### SOURCE MATERIAL

These texts are to be read in conjunction with the questions in unit GENB3.

The questions arise from the texts.

Use the texts, your own knowledge and examples to answer **both** questions in Section A, and **either** Question 03 or Question 04 from Section B.

---

## Text A

### The Iran Nuclear Issue

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that medium-level uranium enrichment had begun at a plant in northern Iran. Tehran has said it plans to carry out uranium enrichment there for purely peaceful purposes. The West argues Iran is building a nuclear weapons capacity. In November 2011, the IAEA released its latest report on Iran's nuclear programme, presenting new evidence that suggests it is secretly working to obtain a nuclear weapon. Iran dismisses the claims as fictitious.

#### The UN Security Council has ordered Iran to stop enrichment. Why?

Because the technology used to enrich uranium to the level needed for nuclear power can also be used to enrich it to the higher level needed for a nuclear explosion. Iran hid an enrichment programme for 18 years, so the Security Council says that Iran's peaceful intentions cannot be fully established.

#### How does Iran justify its refusal to obey the Security Council resolutions?

Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a signatory state has the right to enrich uranium to be used as fuel for civil nuclear power. Such states have to remain under inspection by the IAEA. Iran is under inspection, though not under the strictest rules allowed because it will not agree to them. Only those signatory states with nuclear weapons at the time of the treaty in 1968 are allowed to enrich to the higher level needed for a nuclear weapon.



Iran says it is doing what it is allowed to do under the treaty and intends to enrich only for power station fuel and other peaceful purposes. It says the UN resolutions are politically motivated. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said: "The Iranian nation will not succumb to bullying, invasion and the violation of its rights."

#### Doesn't Israel have a nuclear bomb?

Yes. Israel, however, is not a part of the NPT, so is not obliged to report to it. Neither are India or Pakistan, both of which have developed nuclear weapons. North Korea has left the treaty and announced that it has a nuclear weapons capacity.

In 2009, the IAEA called on Israel to join the NPT and open its nuclear facilities to inspection but Israel refuses to join the NPT or allow inspections. It is reckoned to have up to 400 warheads but refuses to confirm or deny this.

Source: adapted from 'Q & A Iran Nuclear Issue', BBC Website, BBC © 2012, 23 January 2012  
Image: © AP/Press Association Images, 2012

---

**Text B****International Whaling Commission (IWC)**

Set up in 1946, the IWC's 89 members are roughly divided between those that back whaling nations Japan, Iceland and Norway, and countries whose main priority is conservation of cetaceans, an order that includes 80-odd species of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Pro-whaling nations include most of Asia, a number of Caribbean and African states, and Russia. Countries hostile to whaling, led by Australia, include the European Union (except Denmark), most English-speaking nations (including South Africa, Kenya and India), and all of South America.

**The Moratorium**

In 1982 the IWC voted to implement a moratorium – what it called a “pause” – in the commercial hunting of whales.

The ban went into effect in 1986. Three countries – Japan, Norway and Iceland – have either defied the ban or used legal loopholes to resume hunting of several whale species.

**Legal Framework for Whaling**

Any IWC member can object to the moratorium, declaring itself exempt. Invoking this provision, Iceland harvested 38 whales in 2009, and Norway 536.

A country can also set its own “scientific permits” for whaling, claiming to further research on conservation. Under this rule, Japan harvested 1004 whales in 2008–2009.

**'By-Catch' Whaling**

Every year, whales, especially minke whales, get caught in fishing nets and die in coastal waters off Japan and South Korea. Since 1996, both countries have reported these allegedly accidental catches which, in the case of Japan, have steadily increased.

Over the 12 years up to 2008, each country has acknowledged more than 1000 whales lost to by-catch. Products from these whales are sold openly in both countries, and DNA analysis suggests that the actual number killed may be twice as high.

**Whale Sanctuaries**

There are currently two major whale sanctuaries. The Southern Ocean sanctuary, surrounding the continent of Antarctica, was proposed by France and set up in 1994. Japan has harvested nearly 10 000 whales there in the name of scientific research since 1982. For the first time, Japan earlier this year recalled its Antarctic whaling fleet a month ahead of schedule, citing harassment and interference by the militant environmentalist group Sea Shepherd.

Source: adapted from 'Whales and whaling: facts and figures', AFP/Terradaily.com, July 2011

Turn over ►

## Text C

### Corporations

Today we know that corporations, for good or bad, are major influences on our lives. For example, many have profits greater than the income of some countries.

In this era of globalisation, some people are becoming angry at the motives of multinational corporations, and corporate-led globalisation is being met with increasing protest and resistance.

#### Corporations and Human Rights

Large, transnational corporations are becoming increasingly powerful. As profits are naturally the most important goal, damaging results can arise, such as violation of human rights, lobbying for and participating in manipulated

international agreements, environmental damage, child labour, driving towards cheaper and cheaper labour, and so on. Multinational corporations claim that their involvement in foreign countries is actually a constructive engagement as it can promote human rights in non-democratic nations. However, it seems that that is more of a convenient excuse to continue exploitative practices.

#### The top 10 global corporations in 2011

Rank	Name	Business	Country
1	Wal-Mart	Retail	US
2	Exxon-Mobil	Energy	US
3	Royal Dutch Shell	Energy	Netherlands
4	BP	Energy	UK
5	Saudi Aramco	Energy	Saudi Arabia
6	Toyota	Automotive	Japan
7	Samsung	Technology	South Korea
8	Chevron	Energy	US
9	Sinopec	Energy	China
10	ING	Banking	Netherlands

#### Pharmaceutical Corporations and Medical Research



For a while now, pharmaceutical companies have been criticised about their priorities. It seems the profit motive has led to emphasis on research that is aimed more at things like baldness and impotence, rather than various tropical diseases that affect millions of people in developing countries. Unfortunately, while a large market exists, most of these people are poor and unable to afford treatments, so the pharmaceutical companies develop products that can sell and hence target wealthier consumers.

In addition, there is concern at how some pharmaceutical companies have been operating: from poor research and trial practice to distorting results, and politically lobbying and pressuring developing countries that try to produce their own versions or try to get cheaper medicines for their citizens.

Source: excerpts from ANUP SHAH, [www.globalissues.org/issue/50/corporations](http://www.globalissues.org/issue/50/corporations)

---

**Text D****Energy Company Infinis and the Human Rights Act**

For the first time, the Court has awarded what may turn out to be substantial damages to an energy supplier for the breach of their human rights by the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM).

Renewable energy supplier, Infinis Plc, had been refused accreditation by OFGEM for two of its electricity generating stations for the issue of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs). ROCs are highly valuable since they can be sold on to energy suppliers who cannot meet the required 11.1% electricity from renewable sources. OFGEM's refusal to accredit these two electricity generating stations, therefore, caused Infinis to miss out on substantial revenue. The two generating stations in question are fuelled by landfill gas, which is a recognised form of renewable energy.

Landfill gas comprises approximately 60% methane, which is one of a number of gases contributing to global warming. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas with a contribution to global warming that is over 20 times greater than that of carbon dioxide.

By extracting landfill gas, Infinis fulfils an important role in meeting environmental compliance obligations. As Infinis uses the collected gas to generate power, it not only reduces the global warming impact of the methane emissions, it also provides an efficient and secure source of power generation to local communities.

The Court decided that OFGEM's unlawful refusal to grant accreditation was a breach of Infinis' right to property under the European Human Rights Convention. Infinis was entitled to be accredited and, therefore, OFGEM's conduct had unlawfully denied it the payments for the ROCs produced by the two stations. The Court decided that overturning the decision itself was not adequate compensation and so relied on section 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 to award Infinis damages. OFGEM objected on the grounds that awarding damages could lead to other energy suppliers who believed they had been wrongly refused accreditation making claims against it. This was not considered by the Court to be a valid reason for not awarding damages under the Human Rights Act.

Source: adapted from Dispute Resolution News, *Clarkslegal LLP*,  
© Clarkslegal LLP. All rights reserved. September 2011

**END OF SOURCE MATERIAL**

**There is no source material printed on this page**

**There is no source material printed on this page**

**There is no source material printed on this page**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Copyright © 2013 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.