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Examiners' Report January 2010

GCE General Studies 6GS03

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General Comments

This was the first session of the GCE2008 specification for this unit. Around 2200 candidates took the paper. The questions seemed to work well and most showed good differentiation between candidates. Very few candidates left blank spaces for their answers, indicating that the paper was not too daunting, and that the topics were reasonably accessible. Timing did not seem to be an issue, although some candidates may not have left themselves enough time to deal adequately with section C. Some candidates might benefit from starting with the section C essay, keeping an eye on the time and not spending more than half an hour on it. The rationale for this is that the essay is worth a total of 30 marks, and if you have left only 10-15 minutes to do it, you may miss out on proportionately more marks than if you had done the same with section A or B. Teachers need to discuss the best strategy with individuals.

The handwriting and tidiness of candidates' answers is still a matter of concern, although there were very few scripts that were excessively difficult to read. The answers to the "txt" issue with mobile phone messaging were surprisingly prescriptive, with threats to ban text-speak altogether!

Question 1

Multiple-choice question – answer C (authority)

The response to this question, which appeared to be straightforward, was poor.

Question 2(a)

An easy question where most candidates gained a mark. To be correct, candidates had to make sure they made their reason specific enough – the commonest error was merely to state that mobile phones became more common, without saying that they were being used **instead** of a landline.

2 (a) Give one reason why the percentage of households with telephones (landline) declined in the years 2001–2007.

(1)

The increase of people using mobile phones



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Examiner Comments

The observation that more people use mobile phones does not justify the decline.



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Examiner Tip

The answer should have indicated that this use was making the landlines redundant, or that people find it too expensive to maintain two types of phone when one would do.

Question 2(b)

Well answered, and a question that differentiated between candidates. There was no expectation by markers that any category of information was more important than any other.

(b) Using the chart, if we wanted to calculate the number of mobile phones in use in the UK, what additional information would we need?

(2)

We would need to know how many took part in the survey. We would also need to do the survey on a much larger basis, this would allow with knowing how many took part we can work out the percentage for it.



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Examiner Comments

No mark awarded since the answer does not make it clear whether it refers to households or individuals.

the number of households in the UK and the number of mobile phones per household.



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Examiner Comments

Short and simple for two marks, identifies two correct, relevant statistics that we need to collect.

Question 3(a)

Not many candidates clarified that the question is looking for **ethical** issues – where the issue is right or wrong, or arrived at through moral reasoning. The violation of privacy was a common concern, but few candidates explored the issue of other human rights. “Big brother” often loomed large, and a justification for state intervention was commonly seen in “preventing terrorism”. The question differentiated between candidates.

(a) Briefly explain the ethical issues involved if the government wishes to use this information.

(4)

There is a lack of consent from mobile users as well as the individual networks. There is also privacy issues as texts and calls are private for the mobile users themselves, this information could cause harm to another individual if used by the government. There are also cultural differences and languages maybe misinterpreted causing danger or a threat which is not really present.



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Examiner Comments

This qualified for 2 marks – it identifies that fact that users expect their activity on the phone to be private, and that they have a right to privacy; it also states that it is possible for the information to be misused.

First of all, no clear ethical issues against it would be that it is an absolute invasion of privacy and that the majority of people would agree that the government has no right to use their personal phone calls. Also, if the government can listen to our phone calls, it will make people explore into what other information about an individual that the government has access to and causes people to mistrust the government. However, as it would be used by the government as protection for the population, to catch terrorists etc, we have to balance our need for safety with our want for privacy, leading to ethical issues for and against.



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Examiner Comments

A good answer for 3 marks, but fails to yield the full 4 marks. One mark is for the expectation/right to privacy, another for the suspicion that a government could misuse information and finally the government should have the right to monitor for potential attacks on the nation.

Question 3(b)

Most candidates found this part easier to relate to, and commented that it was quite reasonable for networks to collect information on telephone traffic because they needed it for business reasons. Many candidates pointed out that you signed a contract and everything was made plain in that. Rarely did they regard networks as a potential threat to their customers.

(b) How are the issues different for the networks themselves when they use this information?

(2)

the phone networks tend to use this information as a form of market research. they do not retain the information as a way of keeping tabs on people, they do it so they can spot any trends which they can act on and then bring out new products and contracts.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate has identified a legitimate (fair, right) reason to collect data – namely for market research. The answer has expanded on this point, justifying the networks' approach, resulting in 2 marks.

They have a duty to their client to keep the information private and confidential which comes under a legal contract. With regard to tracing the location of a phone that can only be carried out by the instruction of the client if their phone went missing or got stolen.



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Examiner Comments

One mark is awarded for pointing out that the user has a contract with the company that it is morally and legally obliged to uphold. The rest of the answer does not offer sufficient expansion of that point.

Question 4

Most candidates, not surprisingly, identified a health risk. Although there is as yet no evidence to support the view, many candidates think that using a mobile phone provides a radiation risk to the user. They could gain a mark however, by saying that actually inserting the phone into the head would present an unknown health risk, and the nature of the risk (microwaves, radioactivity, wireless frequency radiation) was treated liberally by markers. The question did not differentiate particularly well as candidates overall scored highly on this question.

4 It may soon be possible to implant a small mobile phone device surgically in the ear.

What might be the disadvantages of such a device?

Mobile phones already emit a small amount of radiation, especially when they are pressed to the ear to make or receive calls. The damage another mobile ~~device~~ device even closer to the inner ear could do in the long term to the brain (such as loss of brain cells) may be inevitable.



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Examiner Comments

One mark awarded, since the answer only identifies a potential health disadvantage (even though there is, at the moment, no evidence that mobile phones present such a risk).

The disadvantages of such a device could firstly be the health of a person having a device in their ear. It could be dangerous. Also, this technology could be miss used for example students cheating in exams. It will be harder to coincide in society with regard to authoritative figures as well.



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Examiner Comments

This answer correctly identifies a health risk as well as a security issue.

Question 5

A well answered question, but higher scoring candidates achieved nearly a mark more than the low scorers. Commonly mentioned points included – speed of inputting, saving space in texts and potential spread of poor spelling and grammatical skills. Very few candidates realised that you need to be able to spell a word in “normal” writing before you could make much of an attempt at “text” messages. Some studies have shown little impact on conventional writing in those who use a lot of texting. A small proportion professed discomfort, even irritation, at the common abbreviations used.

5 Text messaging on mobile phones is changing the English language through its use of abbreviations and the mixing of text and numerals. Discuss whether these changes are a good thing.

I think the ~~use~~ use of abbreviations in texting are purely for time saving rather than lazy english. for example 'M8' is much faster



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Examiner Comments

Only one issue is identified – communication can be quicker.

To an extent they are a good thing as short texts and abbreviations used are less time consuming and costly however, they are affect childrens and other mobile users english language. Spelling, pronunciation aswell as correct sentence structure are being affected in negative way. This has caused negativity through schools, especially english teachers.



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Examiner Comments

The answer matches two marking points – saving time and hence expense, and potential harmful effects on children's communication. The last point has been developed for an extra mark.

Question 6

Most candidates were able to argue a good case on the benefits of the mobile phone, and hence gain reasonable AO2 marks. Rather few made the case against another device or devices in the list, which was demanded by the question, and as a consequence may have missed out on the final mark.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates are still floundering for AO3 marks because they readily offer their own opinions but don't realise that they need to differentiate between those opinions and the facts that they have been provided with.

- 6** The writer ends with a gloomy view of the increase in personal communications. Present an argument supporting the **alternative** conclusion that the mobile phone is the most significant and useful device listed in the chart.

You should consider the strengths and limitations of the evidence available.

Since the mobile phone has been developed, communication has been much easier world wide. It has also become cheaper and is very popular throughout all countries. Hand line telephones reduced from over 90% to under within 5/6 years. Mobile phones doubled more than twice during this period to 80%. It could be seen as a necessity ~~and~~ as through innovation and product development the mobile market has been booming. Creations such as the Iphone and Blackberry have a lot of accessories as well as functions such as texting and calling. Organisers, games and the internet can be accessed through phones. Computers are not even needed for internet connection as phones allow this for a good price.

Through the use of mobile phones privacy has been more easier as calls and texts can be made from anywhere where not just home and even there are people who ~~are~~ do eavesdrop, it won't be for long as you can stay on the move whilst on a mobile phone.

An individual politeness is controlled by themselves, so whether they on a mobile device is not significant.

From the source any type of communicator such as internet connection, home computer, digital receiver has more than doubled in ownership by 2007, this shows the could be to significance, usefulness and the fact they are known to be necessities in life today.

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Examiner Comments

This answer scores in the upper range – a total of 12 marks. The AO2 mark is 6 – the candidate has covered a wide range of innovations and advantages associated with a mobile phone, but has also included a reference in the last paragraph to other devices in the chart. The AO3 mark is 3, since the answer includes a range of facts and data and has, moreover, commented on their strengths and weaknesses. The answer is well written for an AO4 mark of 3.

It could be argued that mobiles have made a great change in society today. Having this form of easy communication has saved peoples lives in the time of an emergency.

People are able to keep in contact with family and friends at the touch of a button, while on the go. Comparing the levels of increase in mobile phones on the chart ~~to~~ compared to any of the devices, it is clear that mobile phones have increased the most. Not only have they created a worldwide form of connection but with the growth of technologies mobile phones now take pictures, check emails as well as sending messages. You can surf the net at the touch of a button.

However, regardless of the good points every thing has a few downsides to it like the concept of eavesdropping. People are able to nosey around and look at peoples personal things via bluetooth and people are able to thieve money from you through a phone through fraudulent methods.

You could say with this increasing

technology society has become consumed by these materialistic appliances and spend more time on their phones than with family.

Yet regardless of the bad sides mobile phones may have it has definitely made a difference be it good or bad as does everything in society.



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Examiner Comments

Although the usefulness of the mobile phone is elaborated, the answer lacks a comparison with other devices, therefore AO2 gains 5 marks. The answer does not reflect anywhere on the nature or strength of the information used (AO3 – 2). The arguments are not coherent (AO4 – 2).

Question 7(a)

Quite a few candidates have studied questionnaire and survey construction, as was evidenced by their professional answers to this and 7b. Commonest correct answer was "age" or "age group", followed by ethnicity (or race). Common incorrect answers were "religion" which was in a sense the dependent variable, and "gender", which had been noted as having been adjusted for in the source. A few candidates misinterpreted the question and discussed the outcome of the survey.

- (2)
1. the age of the respondents
 2. the religion of the respondents.



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Examiner Comments

One mark was given for "age".

1. The age ratio of respondents.
2. The place of birth of the respondents.


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Examiner Comments

Two marks – for age and “place of birth”, which is interpreted as “region”.

Question 7(b)

Answers here were comfortingly sceptical about the use of the Internet to gather information. Although obviously convenient, the problems of correct identification of the respondent, and the possibility of frivolous, mischievous or untrue replies were very commonly mentioned.

(b) How valid are surveys based on email questionnaires?

(3)

The validity of surveys based on email questionnaires are weak because it is very easy to lie and make information in an email. Unlike face to face interviews where people may feel pressured to tell the truth, in an email where you can be comfortable in your surroundings and answer the questions in your own time it is easier to lie. It is also easy for other people to hack into someone's email and lie obviously giving incorrect information.


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Examiner Comments

Only one mark is given for stating the problem of being able to trust the veracity of the responses. The mark scheme for this question does not permit an extra mark for development of one point.

Firstly, the sample is biased as only considers people who have computers and hence can email; maybe this questionnaire would focus on a younger generation, more adopted to computers and new technology. Many people will give socially desirable answers about what they expect ~~is~~ is the correct or "right" answer to give. Many people will simply give quick or unthoughtout answers ~~as~~ as people are often busy when using computers and emailing; some may even just click a random answer. All these factors would reduce the validity and reliability of the results.

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Examiner Comments

Correct points here were – limited to those with Internet connections and computers; might be skewed towards younger people (since they will be more familiar with using computers for this purpose); responses may be made quickly and possibly with insufficient thought.

Question 7(c)

Most candidates were able to speculate on the reasons why fewer young people professed to Christian than their elders. Often they thought this was because of implied peer pressure – it isn't "cool" to be seen to be Christian; or the rather more lofty "young people are brought up to question old beliefs". On the other hand older people are more experienced in life, or may want to take out insurance before an imminent exit from life. Competition for time was another common explanation.

(c) From this survey it appears that fewer young people claim to be Christian than the elderly. Suggest why this might be so.

(4)

This may be because religious ~~teach~~ teaching was more popular when the elderly were growing up and they were likely to follow what their parents believed in which is likely to also be Christianity. ~~However~~ In comparison younger people are given more freedom to believe in what they want to, partly due to the media and the information they have access to ~~via~~ via the internet and television which the elderly wouldn't have had when they were growing up. And partly due to education, these days religion is ~~te~~ taught to inform not on how it should be practised.

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Examiner Comments

Two marks – for Christianity being more accepted when the elderly were younger, and that they were affected by their parent's beliefs; young people given more opportunities to question – they are taught to be informed about religion, but not to follow a particular practice.

This is because society is changing, and religion is declining. Elderly people are more likely to be Christian as they were brought up with it, where as now ~~children~~ younger people have more choice & less time to be religious. The generation effect has happened where religion has slowly decreased and has less effect on people's lives. According to the generation effect it can be said that religion in years to come will have completely disappeared. Elderly people have more time ~~to~~ due to retirement etc to participate as a Christian.

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Examiner Comments

3 marks here – religious belief seen as more important in parent's youth; they were expected to believe; young people have more choice over their activities and potentially have less time to devote to religious practice.

Question 8(a)

Too often, candidates failed to spot that they should be looking at the 20-29 year olds in 2006, if they were to comment on the change of belief of 15-19 year olds as they grew up. So although a first mark was relatively easy, by referring to an increase in disbelief, if the candidate did not refer specifically to the ageing of the 1996 cohort, or if they identified the extent of disbelief as 42 or 43% by reference to the graph (instead of the correct 48 or 49%), they failed to gain that extra mark. This question proved to be a good discriminator for that extra mark.

In 1996, the number of 15-19 year olds with no religious beliefs is 32%, but over the next ten years this group of people's ~~number~~ appear to decrease their religious beliefs, as in 2006 the number of people with no religion increases by over 10%.


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Examiner Comments

This gains 1 mark, illustrating the point above. By referring to the increase in disbelief as "over 10%", instead of "over 15%", they had misinterpreted the information. Many other candidates did the same.

In 1996 approximately 32% were expressing no religious beliefs, in 2006 10 years later when they are in the age range of 20-29 approximately 48% were expressing no beliefs hence 16% increase over ^{ten} 10 years in the decline of religion.


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Examiner Comments

This gained both marks, illustrating clearly the comments above.

Question 8(b)

Candidates found it difficult to get more than 3 marks out of the 5 available, and question proved to be a good discriminator.


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Examiner Tip

To give themselves a chance, candidates could have commented on the two charts separately, since it was sometimes difficult to see what data they were referring to in their comments.

Higher scoring candidates dealt with the charts separately, realised that the Bible Society survey only dealt with the population at one point in time and therefore could only give information on **Christian** belief of different age groups; whereas the Census data told us about changes in **religious** belief, over a 10 year period. Only then were candidates able to answer the general question about declining religious belief.

(b) What justification is there from both these surveys for the view that religious belief is declining in the New Zealand population?

(5)

In Chart 1 the younger people are more anti religious. As they are the future of New Zealand this means the country will be less religious especially if future generations follow this trend. Chart 2 shows that every age group has had an increase in non-religious feeling showing that New Zealand is becoming less religious again. The younger generation appear to be less religious than the older generation. Younger people are less religious which means their children will be less religious.


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Examiner Comments

A simple answer, commenting on the charts separately for 2 marks.

Chart 1 - illustrates that from ages 15-44 yo there is significantly more of the population that feels they are not christian. Though as age increases more of population describe themselves as christian. Though, this is older half of newzealand population that will eventually die, leaving younger age groups who do not class themselves as christian, which illustrates religio belief in Newzealand is falling. Chart 2 - illustrates that as time increased more of the population from all age groups are classing themselves as no religious beliefs - for example 20-29yo inc from 34% in 1996 to 47% in 2006. Although, charts only allow 2 categories - no faith & christian, excluding all other religions. Therefore ^{all} religious beliefs ~~would~~ not be declining, just christianism. As correct 'no faith' beliefs (Total for Question 8 = 7 marks) seems


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Examiner Comments

A more developed answer, referring to the value of the census data, but not detailed enough to get more than 3 marks.

Question 9

This proved to be a difficult question, largely because candidates rarely addressed the meaning of “social policies”. A minute or two’s thought about this would have helped candidates to develop a more structured approach. However, most candidates answered the question in very general tones – their marks often coming from points that they made about the strength of the opinions on religion and whether these might affect political decisions. Some candidates did stray into ideas about secular government.

- 9 On the basis of the evidence from the two surveys, would a government have sufficient justification to change its social policies?

You should consider the strengths and limitations of the evidence available.

A government should not change its social policies as it has no justification to do so just because belief in religion is declining.

We live in a secular society in modern times where religion should play no part in government policy. Policy should be derived from experts that believe each policy will benefit the greatest amount of people.

The belief in religion has absolutely no bearing on social policy as everyone should already be treated equally no matter if they follow a religion or not. So the decline in religion should not change government policy.

It could be argued, that the government should spend more on the elderly to help them live for longer to help the country more religious or better spending on religious education. But this is absurd as this would mean spending for the wrong reasons and brain washing.

In conclusion, religion has no bearing on government social policy as it is a secular society and everyone should be treated equally. Also it could lead to unethical decisions and brain washing. Therefore justification should not be sought from a change in religion following.

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Examiner Comments

This was a low scoring answer (6 marks) - very little evidence is drawn from the sources to give a simple, general conclusion (AO2 - 2 marks). The candidate has used fact, opinion and belief, but not distinguished them (AO3 - 2 marks) and communication is just below average (AO4 - 2 marks).

The evidence provides research for less religious beliefs being expressed over the last decade. This evidence on a whole cannot be generalised as there's only two charts both expressing the same/similar thing, therefore there is no opposing view to contradict these sources, therefore the charts could be misleading and biased.

I do not think that the government should change social policies, as you can't prevent social change occurring, and they can't just rely on a handful of evidence to make a sufficient justification. Firstly the evidence is not the most reliable due to the methods used to obtain the evidence eg: surveys which could be untruthful, easily influenced and biased.

Chart 1 only expresses whether a person is Christian or not therefore they could have other religious beliefs but the question was a closed one with an answer of yes or no, therefore this is not sufficient evidence to bring in social policies.

Chart 2 shows clearly that more older people class themselves to have religious beliefs and younger people have less religious beliefs, however if people aren't willing and wanting to express interests in religion why change social policies in order to imprint religion into people. This is discriminating as not everybody wants to learn or express interest in religion and this is preventing natural social change happening, which could create an unhappy society. The government can't base new policies and justifications on directed and one viewed research methods with poor methodology.

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Examiner Comments

A high scoring answer (11 marks). There is little development of contrasting viewpoints however (AO2 – 3 marks), but the candidate has clear understanding of the validity of different kinds of evidence (AO3 – 5 marks). The answer is well written and clear (AO4 – 3 marks).

Section C

Of the two essays offered, Q11 was the most popular, and about 2/3 of candidates selected it. Neither question appeared to be easier than the other, and the mean scores were about the same. A possible reason for the difference could have been the recent press interest in the Copenhagen climate conference, although not many candidates mentioned it. Another reason could be that “culture” and “artistic creativity” questions have not been particularly popular in the previous specification and this may be a hangover effect.

Question 10

This question inspired a very descriptive response from candidates. Various TV shows were outlined, and answers focussed on viewing figures and argued that producers delivered the kinds of programmes that the public wanted. Answers contained little reference to the kind of evidence that was being used. More seriously, “popular culture” and the notion of quality in relation to it were rarely discussed, in spite of these being at the heart of the question.

**ResultsPlus****Examiner Tip**

Some candidates could incorporate ideas on creativity and how this quality could apply to shows that were at heart appealing to the same type of audience.

Previously, popular culture has revolved around the mass media. Working class numbers have increased, with a demand for manual jobs, of which are low paid, due to the recession. The three classes have different expectations.

I think celebrity competitions and pop talent shows, have become so popular, as more people have become lazier, and people have simpler expectations. They don't want to have to think. Anyone can watch television, and anyone can get onto television, with shows such as the X Factor and Big Brother. The media talks about this news in newspapers, online and in magazines.

I believe at some point, the working class will expect better, and through this we will say goodbye to simple and tedious television.

Due to the different classes having expectations, the working class will no longer put up with low paid jobs. They will expect much more, like what the middle and upper class receive. They will achieve this through other means than crime, of which they do now. They will no longer feel material deprivation, and therefore will not commit crime to receive material goods, such as cars, large houses and i-pods. We shall live in a society of the bourgeoisie, of which Karl Marx believes in.

People only have low expectations due to their socialisation. Others, on the other hand, aim to tackle the world. The working class have become more socially acceptable in society. With young mothers on the dole, receiving benefits, to minors dropping out of school and not continuing with higher education. Of which, could lead them to university, and receive a higher salary in their chosen profession.

I believe if you look at the world and believe nothing good will happen, you're not going to try and change society for the better. We should not live in a communist society, however, we should help ourselves ~~to~~ ^{to} do our best, to get out of life what we put in.



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Examiner Comments

This answer considers only one idea – that audiences have become “working class” and lazier because of the recession. A simple and unsubstantiated argument is put forward, but some sociological evidence is offered which is of little relevance to the question. Hence the AO1/AO2 mark is low, 5 marks. Some facts and opinions are used to produce AO3 1 mark. The argument is not very clear, although the text is easy to follow, AO4 2 marks.

Total mark 8

This statement, to a certain extent, could be said to be true as an increase in both celebrity competitions and pop talent shows is evident. For example, Big Brother, I'm a Celebrity, Get me out of here!, X Factor, Britain's Got Talent, Pop Idol etc. gain more and more viewers each year. However, I would not say such programmes restrict creativity and do not lower the public's expectation. In retrospect, a programme such as X Factor contradicts the statement completely, as singing is one of the most creative things a person can do. The show inspires individuals to dream and encourages that if they feel they can sing; if they feel they have the 'X Factor' then they could succeed and change their lives forever. E.g. the most recent winner, Joe Mcelderry, is only 17 (I think) yet his life will now never be the same and he now has the CREATIVITY to control his life and what he sings like he never would have had before the show. Also, as popular as these shows can be, I, and many of my friends, are no longer interested in Big Brother and switch over without a thought when it is on, showing that in some cases expectations are increased as just a few years ago I was hooked on that very programme.

In fact, I believe that as time progresses, the more and more creative programmes are. My support for this claim are the amount of new and immersive dramas that have been created recently; programmes such as ~~the~~ Doctor Who, Heroes, Skins, Misfits and Wallander. Doctor Who is a good example as each episode is about as creative as a show can be due to new characters, creatures, locations and an ever-changing lead role. Since being revived it has re-captured the imagination of those lucky enough to see it the first time round while also appealing to and being loved by a whole new generation. Each episode is met with high expectations from viewers and each week it delivers already having produced 4 seasons since being revived with a 5th one in production. And once again, the generation of viewers this time will be inspired to be as creative and therefore may aim to work in the media, in turn producing original and creative programmes that they admired as children.

Even celebrity competitions have some benefit as they allow viewers at home to see who the person they read about in magazines and watch in

films really is. For example, Jordan and Peter meeting in the jungle of I'm a Celebrity gave the public something to talk about for years, and never lowering expectations for when they were on tv together, expecting a fun but not altogether too serious show.

In conclusion, I feel that the media is just becoming more and more creative in the hope of attracting new audiences and that the public's expectations have not been lowered, yet possibly increased, always expecting to be bigger and better than before.

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Examiner Comments

This answer strongly supports a conflicting view to that expressed in the body of the question, and offers plenty of evidence. Examples of TV programmes which exhibit creativity and (less clearly) innovation are discussed and secondary evidence from the views of the candidate's friends are put forward. The nature of creativity is implied rather than explicit, and the concept of popular culture is not explored. This answer produces a reasonable AO1/AO2 mark of 13, AO3 – 3 marks and a well expressed and written essay gains AO4 – 5 marks
Total mark 21

Question 11

Many answers to this considered, with varying degrees of success, the reality of and evidence for global warming. A good proportion considered the alternative views of climate change sceptics. More aware candidates mentioned the Copenhagen conference and its disappointing (to most observers) outcome. The proposition that we do nothing and try to adapt to changes that nature might throw at us was, on the whole, rejected by using the argument that even if we made only a few changes now, this might have small but significant effects in the future.

It would be beneficial to plan for life in a changed way however many scientists say that the prevention of global warming is not impossible however many people want walk to the shops or to work they ~~probably~~ will use their car and this probably would make ~~the~~ global warming inevitable.

However instead of trying to change the way we live, ~~people~~ governments and people of authority eg scientists etc should warn the public of the devastating effects global warming will eventually have on the world. Also this should be taught to children as they are the future generation of the world and therefore telling them would be of great significance. Also telling people that by doing a little bit everyday eg walking to the shops they could significantly reduce the effects of global warming, many people would do it. Also use of public transport should be more widely used, as if more people

used public transport, there wouldn't be such a great threat of global warming on the world. If people say that changing the way we live is the only way to stop global warming, people won't want to listen, as so many people are stuck in their ways of doing things.

By telling people that plans are being made to change life to live in a different climate, ~~many people~~ this might encourage many people to change what they are doing now temporarily than have to change their ways of life permanently.

However many people will still not change their ways of life so global warming probably is inevitable, as ~~many~~ much damage has already been caused to the ozone layer and many countries are already seeing climate change. It would be extremely beneficial to start to plan for life in a changed environment rather than wasting time

in trying to make people aware of the effects of global warming. It would be much wiser to plan for this change than to be unprepared for the change if it happens dramatically.

In conclusion it would be good to educate the population in trying to reduce global warming, however the effects are already being seen and it may be too late to educate people or may be a waste of time as people may not want to change the way they are living. eg. if ~~many~~ people are living a luxurious life style, they may not want to give this up, therefore it is better to prepare or to plan ~~life~~ for life in a changed climate, atmosphere and environment now rather than to be unprepared for the consequences we already knew were coming our way.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

Examiner Comments Quite a reasonable argument presented, with evidence, that we should proceed with education and government information programmes about the changes that could occur. This is based on the assumption that global warming is inevitable and that we may not be able to do anything about it. The common mistake of referring to the ozone layer as the atmospheric region responsible for warming is made. This is a mid level 3 answer giving AO1/AO2 for 10 marks. Facts and opinions are used, but no consideration of their strengths or weaknesses – AO3 2 marks; a competently written essay with coherent argument – AO4 4 marks.

Total mark 16

Global warming has been a rising problem ever since the late 1990's where every other news story would be about whether countries around the world should unite and restrict the amount of greenhouse gases they pump in to the atmosphere. There is no doubt that the ozone layer is thinning under the enormous amount of concentrated CO₂ emissions but a change in human activity could either stop the problem or on the other hand could only suspend it.

Remaining the status quo up until now has been the interests of most people. Countless campaigns on the television have tried to explain to households that by a few faster steps, nationally we can reduce output. However whilst a few countries have been doing their best to reduce emissions, other countries haven't agreed to reduce emissions. America is one of these. As the biggest polluter of all countries, looking at the long term situation, it would have an incentive to cut down on burning so much non-renewable energy and therefore help maintain a healthy level of output. Combine all of these countries and with the help and effort greenhouse gases should be reduced. However, due to the fact that there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that global warming is in fact happening, countries are reluctant to commit to reducing emissions. Therefore this is a conflicting argument as countries do not share the same opinion. That is why 'remaining the status quo'

temperature is difficult to achieve now and might be in the long run. There is uncertainty as to how quickly temperatures on the earth will rise and if they don't rise, countries will feel annoyed by this "patchy" evidence beforehand telling them global warming was happening.

However assuming that countries begin to plan ahead and start to adapt to the current changes this could seem a better option financially. This is because assuming that global warming happens regardless of previous attempts to reduce emissions, all the money needed to make that happen is now wasted. So there would be a strong argument to say that countries should start planning now for the long term future.

On the other hand, ~~perpetual~~ planning for life in a different climate could be risky. This is because there is still imperfect information as to how much the climate will change. Considering what the possible effects of global warming are, if the worst situations happen a lot of the world's economy will be ruined.

For example, low lying areas such as the Netherlands will be flooded far inland due to the sea level rising. The sea level will rise because of polar ice caps melting due to the rise in temperature. So it would be important to plan ahead, particularly if you would be a country affected badly by global warming.

Therefore I agree more with the point of planning for the future as maintaining the status-quo is only short term whereas the alternative is long term which is always in the common interest countries. Realistic countries should be more information on global warming but countries want to be safe.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is a broad ranging essay that covers arguments on both sides. The difficulties of planning for a catastrophic change are noted, and the potential and consequences for "getting it wrong" are pointed out. Climate change scepticism is discussed. This is a level 4 answer, on the low side and therefore scoring 14 marks for AO1/AO2. There is explicit reference to facts and opinions, but not in a consistent way – AO3 3 marks; the answer is well written and the argument is coherent and easy to follow – AO4 4 marks.

Total mark 21

Appendix A: Statistics

6GS01/01: Challenges for Society

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	90	55	49	43	38	33
Uniform boundary mark	100	80	70	60	50	40

6GS02/01: The Individual in Society

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	90	63	56	49	42	35
Uniform boundary mark	100	80	70	60	50	40

6GS03/01 Change and Progress

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	90	58	53	49	45	41
Uniform boundary mark	100	80	70	60	50	40

Maximum Mark (Raw): the mark corresponding to the sum total of the marks shown on the mark scheme.

Boundary Mark: the minimum mark required by a candidate to qualify for a given grade.

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