



ADVANCED GCE

GENERAL STUDIES

Culture, Science and Society: Making Connections

F734

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

**Tuesday 2 February 2010
Morning**

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **both** questions.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You are advised to divide your time equally between the questions.
- **Where an answer requires a piece of extended writing, the quality of your written communication will be assessed, including clarity of expression, structure of arguments, presentation of ideas, grammar, punctuation and spelling.**
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Answer **both** questions

SOURCE INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 1

Consider the following sources concerning volunteering and answer the question that follows in the form of an essay.

SOURCE 1

In the summer 2008 edition of *The National Trust Magazine* the Director General noted that the association now had over 50,000 volunteers.

SOURCE 2

In the same edition Baroness Julia Neuberger, who had chaired the Commission on the Future of Volunteering, wrote the following article:

We're all time deprived so why should we give up precious spare hours to volunteer? Well, there's the fact that it can be a truly life-enhancing experience and even a way into paid employment.

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To listen to politicians, you would think that volunteering was the answer to all society's ills. It isn't, but it makes a huge difference in our local communities, in our treasured institutions, in our public services and just about everywhere else. It also makes us feel differently about ourselves.

Ask the public at large what comes into their minds when they think about volunteering and they don't say that it's the essential grease that keeps the wheels of our society in motion. They come up with little old ladies sorting clothes in a charity shop. Many people - old, young and in between - do indeed work in charity shops as volunteers and many charities would not be able to manage without them. But people assist with a plethora of other activities, for example offering invaluable and highly varied help in our health services.

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It sounds incredibly demanding, and sometimes it is, but everyone can volunteer to do something. It does not necessarily require huge amounts of time, though it may mean a regular commitment, and most people who do it learn new skills and have fun. Indeed, although the public perception of volunteers is of people who 'do good', many people volunteer as much for their own benefit as for other people's. Many people volunteer to gain a sense of purpose in their lives, as well as to get training, qualifications, experience, new friends and sometimes a leg up into paid employment as well.

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So it's not just about being worthy – even if you are doing good. It's about learning, joining, helping, supporting and sharing. If volunteering is to become part of the DNA of our society, we will all be needed, giving our time as well as receiving services from others to our mutual benefit.

25

(Article adapted from *The National Trust Magazine*, summer 2008)

SOURCE 3



www.alamy.com

- 1 Using the sources and your own knowledge and experience, consider to what extent volunteering offers cultural, scientific and social benefits to society. **[50]**

SOURCE INFORMATION FOR QUESTION 2

Consider the following sources concerning communication methods and answer the question that follows in the form of an essay.

SOURCE 4

In December 2006 the Government initiated a national public consultation with a view to modernising the Post Office. In 2007 its Response Document announced a proposal to make a compulsory closure of Post Offices to reduce the number from 14000 to 11500 branches.

SOURCE 5**Half will join social network sites**

Almost half of all Britons will belong to an online social networking site within four years, a report has predicted.

A study into the rise of the internet phenomenon showed that Britain has the highest membership in Europe of sites such as MySpace and Facebook.

At least 9.6 million Britons use these sites, with participation levels expected to rise to 27.1 million by 2012. 5

The report expects Britain to see the strongest growth in numbers in Europe over the next five years. Although the trend is being driven by the young, many older people have proved keen to embrace social networking.

In Europe as a whole, usage is predicted to more than double from 41.7 million to 107.4 million. 10

The research found that the convenience of socialising without leaving home has proved appealing to customers.

(Adapted from *Daily Telegraph*, May 2008)

SOURCE 6

www.alamy.com

- 2 Using the sources and your own knowledge and personal experience, consider the suggestion that the growth of electronic communication is having a negative rather than positive impact on modern culture, science and society. **[50]**

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