



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2010

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA3

Unit 3 A2 Culture and Society

Monday 14 June 2010 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

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 GENA3.
- Answer **four** questions.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A, **one** question from Section B and **one** question from Section C.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 (20 for Section A, 25 for Section B and 25 for Section C).
- This paper consists of **three** sections.
 - Section A** contains two compulsory questions based on source material.
 - Section B** contains four alternative essay questions based on aspects of culture.
 - Section C** contains four alternative essay questions based on aspects of society.
- Write your answers in continuous prose as if you are addressing the intelligent general reader. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

Section A

Study **Extracts A, B and C** on **Surveillance in modern Britain** and then answer **Questions 1 and 2**.

Use your own words, rather than simply repeating those used in the sources, to show your understanding of the points being made.

Extract A

Fight against terror ‘spells end of privacy’

Privacy rights of innocent people will have to be sacrificed to give the security services access to a sweeping range of personal data, one of the architects of the government’s national security strategy has warned.

Sir David Omand, the former Whitehall security and intelligence co-ordinator, sets out a blueprint for the way the state will mine data – including travel information, phone records and emails – held by public and private bodies and admits: “Finding out other people’s secrets is going to involve breaking everyday moral rules.”

He says “Modern intelligence access will often involve intrusive methods of surveillance and investigation. This may have to be at the expense of some aspects of privacy rights. This is a hard choice and goes against current calls to curb the so-called surveillance society.”

Source: ALAN TRAVIS, *The Guardian*, 25 February 2009

Extract B

One of the worst features of the EU and the current UK government is the perpetual desire to monitor, control and watch us more and more. Today we learn that they want us to keep all emails for at least a year, just in case they need to inspect them. This snooper’s charter is justified on the grounds that there are still some terrorists and serious criminals out there, so they need to know about all the emails everyone sends just in case.

They cannot conceivably read and monitor all our emails and conversations. That would not be a realistic way to try to find the tiny percentage of the population who harbour terrorist inclinations. The overwhelming majority of us are neither terrorists nor criminals, but we have seen how anti-terrorist legislation can be used for very different purposes, as when an elderly heckler was thrown out of a Labour conference.

The law-abiding majority do feel too snooped on. We also resent having to pay ever more tax for clumsy security which targets the law-abiding but does not effectively spot the real threats. We never wanted to live in a communist state where everything you did had to be acceptable to and cleared by the authorities. Our current masters are taking too many steps in this direction.

Source: Blog by JOHN REDWOOD, Conservative MP, 9 January 2009

Extract C

The strange case of the surveillance cameras

How often are we caught on CCTV? 300 times a day, we are told. In search of the truth about a much-cited statistic

This is the story of a statistic; it is sort of a detective story.

The mystery statistic was sitting on one of our *Times* blogs and read “the average Brit is caught on security cameras some 300 times a day” and, God knows why, I just decided to chase the number down and find out where it came from.

One of the stories, sure enough, headlined “Friend or foe? The roadside spies cluttering up Britain”, was published in *The Sunday Times* almost exactly two years ago, and referred “to the results of a study by the Government’s privacy watchdog” (the Office of the Information Commissioner), which “found people were caught on a national network of 4.2 million CCTV cameras an average 300 times a day”.

It read: “one CCTV camera for every 14 people, and a person can be captured on over 300 cameras each day.” I mused on two things. First was how the “300 times” had become viral. It now occurs all over the place, and is the standard statistic used for the number of times Britons may or will be captured by CCTV cameras daily.

The second was the tendency for the statistic to mutate, as in the transformation from “can be captured” to the completely different “the average Briton is captured”. A *New Statesman* columnist had it as the “average Londoner going about his or her business... may be monitored by 300 cameras each day”, and a *Daily Mail* report that “it has been calculated that each person is caught on camera an average of 300 times daily”.

I called the Office of the Information Commissioner. After a few hours I was told that the report had been “elicited to start a debate”, its purpose was to “draw attention” to the problem, not to help to decide whether or not a problem existed. So, that was the story of one statistic in one study. Every day we hear of several statistics, and every week of several studies. I have no idea whether the “300 times” case is typical, but I fear that it might be, and that, if only there were more time to scrutinise all the claims made in such “reports” – whatever side they take – we would discover many “truths” that just aren’t. And I invite readers, if you come across any, to let me know.

Source: DAVID AARONOVITCH, Times online, 3 March 2009

0 1 Compare the views expressed in the three extracts about surveillance in modern Britain. (12 marks)

0 2 **Extract A** suggests that “finding out other people’s secrets is going to involve breaking everyday moral rules”.

To what extent do you think that this is justified? (8 marks)

Section B

Turn over ►

Answer **one** question from this Section.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0 3

'The use of abbreviations in texting and messaging will ruin the beauty of the written word.'

Examine this view and say how far you believe it to be true.

OR

0 4

'The arts are an essential ingredient of a healthy and dynamic society.'

To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

OR

0 5

In 2008 advertising posters were placed on buses saying "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life."

Examine the ideas behind this campaign and discuss the extent to which you would support them.

OR

0 6

When Barack Obama gave Gordon Brown a boxed set of DVDs selected by the American Film Institute the *Daily Mail* called the gift 'as exciting as a pair of socks'.

What would be your choice of three significant British or European films to include in such a gift to an American president? Justify each of your choices.

Section C

Answer **one** question from this Section.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0	7
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Discuss the morality of rewarding the leaders of banking and industry with substantial bonuses, payoffs and pensions.

OR

0	8
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'The system for voting in British general elections is deeply flawed and, some say, undemocratic.'

Discuss whether you believe this is true and what features of the electoral process critics may see as flawed or undemocratic.

OR

0	9
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Examine the view that using the Internet can adversely affect the personal and social development of the user.

OR

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The British press is often charged with double standards in its treatment of women and of celebrities.

Discuss how far you agree that this view is fair and accurate.

END OF QUESTIONS

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