



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA3

Unit 3 A2 Culture and Society

Monday 18 June 2012 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

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 **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** and **B** on **religious faiths** and then answer **Questions 01** and **02**.

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

Extract A

Bishop Bernard Fellay, superior general of the Society of St Pius X, has said that he is “deeply indignant” at the Pope’s decision to hold another inter-religious gathering at Assisi. Bishop Fellay is not alone in viewing these gatherings with suspicion. Benedict XVI himself, as Cardinal Ratzinger, chose to miss the first one in 1986. He said later that the sight of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus and others praying together could give “the false impression of common ground that does not exist in reality”. But he insisted on the possibility of “multi-religious prayer”, in which members of different religions prayed at the same time for the same intention without praying together. And he did attend the second Assisi gathering in 2002.

Yet even if different religious leaders are not, strictly speaking, “praying together”, it still looks like they are: the impression is given that all religions are equally valid, that they believe in the same God. On the other hand, to unite the world’s religions in the cause of peace is a crucial and pressing task – one that would be especially appreciated by Christians in the Middle East.

So, do inter-religious gatherings sow confusion among the faithful, or is bringing the world’s religions closer together worth that risk?

Source: adapted from ‘Do inter-religious gatherings sow confusion among the faithful?’,
The Catholic Herald, 13 January 2011

Extract B

I accept that religious faith on the individual level can be something that sustains and succours people, as can a deep commitment to the communist cause. The psychological prop of identifying yourself with something is a well-established fact. But when you look at history, what you see overwhelmingly is division, you see conflict, you see the oppression of the individual. And I think, on balance, it has been a very bad thing that religious organisations have had such power over human individuals and societies for centuries.

I think that a good world would be one in which people approached one another first and foremost as fellow human beings with whom they share far more than they have differences.

Source: adapted from A. C. GRAYLING, *The Observer* ‘Is religion a force for good... or would we be happier without God?’, 21 November 2010 © Guardian News and Media Limited

0	1
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 Compare and contrast the views and ideas expressed in the two extracts. (12 marks)

0	2
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 How do you account for the mistrust that can occur between people of different religions? (8 marks)

END OF SECTION A

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ▶

Section B

Answer **one question** from **Questions 03 to 06**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0	3
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Discuss the importance of holding on to your cultural traditions in a multi-cultural society.

OR

0	4
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'Comedy is one of the most popular forms in film, a status it has enjoyed since the birth of the medium and across much of the globe.'

Account for the continued popularity of humour in films and discuss some of the many forms of humour that are used.

OR

0	5
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'Even in difficult economic times it is vitally important that live performing arts spaces, such as theatres and music venues, are kept open.'

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

OR

0	6
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'The Classics have nothing to offer young people any more.'

Discuss the validity of this statement with reference to **one or more** of music, drama, literature and visual arts.

END OF SECTION B

Section C

Answer **one question** from **Questions 07 to 10**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0	7
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Account for the growth of international terrorism in recent years and discuss the extent to which measures designed to combat terrorism are likely to threaten our civil liberties.

OR

0	8
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A film and several well-known songs have proclaimed 'the best things in life are free'.

How far do you believe this to be true?

OR

0	9
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'The House of Lords is a club for the rich, well-connected and famous.'

Discuss whether Britain should continue to have an unelected second chamber in parliament.

OR

1	0
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'Too many young people crash their cars, drink too much and fail to exercise their right to vote.'

Discuss the proposition that the minimum age for driving, voting and purchasing alcohol should be raised to 21.

END OF QUESTIONS

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