

GCE 2005
January Series



Mark Scheme

General Studies Specification B

Unit GB4W – Conflict-Resolution

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General

Unit 4 **(GB4W Conflict-Resolution)**

Answers given in the mark scheme are not necessarily definitive. Other valid points will be credited.

Study the source and answer the following three questions:

- (i) Using the source, analyse the nature of the problem and identify the underlying issues; *(15 marks)*

- (ii) Identify which parties you consider to be responsible for the problem and analyse the extent of their responsibility, explaining why some might be said to be more responsible than others; *(15 marks)*

- (iii) Explain what measures might be taken in the short term and the long term to resolve the problem and evaluate the likely success of these measures. *(20 marks)*

A further ten marks will be awarded for communicating in a concise and logical way in a form appropriate to report writing. *(10 marks)*

General Descriptors**(i) Knowledge and Understanding (0-15 marks)**

In awarding marks in this section, examiners should be concerned with the candidate's knowledge of the situation, and understanding of the problem.

- 11-15 the focus is clear and well-chosen; knowledge is thorough and comprehensive; and the problem is evidently well understood.
- 6-10 the focus is less clear; knowledge is adequate for the task in hand; and the problem is quite well understood.
- 1-5 the focus is unclear; too little is known about the situation; and understanding of the problem is limited.
- 0 no relevant knowledge and understanding.

(ii) Critical Analysis (0-15 marks)

In awarding marks in this section, examiners should be concerned with the candidate's understanding of the different interests involved, and appreciation of the limits of each in terms of their knowledge, their beliefs and their interpretation of the facts.

- 11-15 there is thorough understanding of the relative positions of the interest groups and their impact on the situation. There is also clear appreciation of their knowledge, their beliefs, of their interpretation of the facts, and of the limits of their knowledge-base and impartiality.
- 6-10 there is appropriate understanding of the relative positions of the different interest groups and their impact on the situation. There is also some appreciation of their knowledge, their beliefs, of their interpretation of the facts, and of the limits of their knowledge-base and impartiality.
- 1-5 there is little apparent understanding of the relative positions of the different groups and their impact on the situation. There is also little appreciation of their knowledge, their beliefs, of their interpretation of the facts, and of the limits of their knowledge-base.
- 0 no critical analysis or judgement.

(iii) Evaluation and Interpretation (0-20 marks)

In awarding marks in this section, examiners should be concerned with the appropriateness and thoughtfulness of the steps chosen for resolving the problem in an interdisciplinary context.

- 16-20 marshalling of evidence is excellent, and conclusions drawn are highly appropriate; facts and values are well integrated in a very thoughtful resolution of the problem.
- 11-15 evidence is well marshalled, and appropriate conclusions are drawn; data, concepts, and opinions are quite well integrated; the resolution suggested is an appropriate one.
- 6-10 adequate evidence is marshalled, and conclusions are drawn; there is some confusion of factual matter and opinion; the resolution suggested is partly appropriate.
- 1-5 little evidence is presented, and conclusions are limited; evaluation is limited, and indistinguishable from factual matter; resolution of the problem is questionable or absent.
- 0 no relevant evaluation or conclusion.

(iv) Communication (0-10 marks)

In awarding marks in this section, examiners should be concerned with the clarity and accuracy of communication and with the logical progression of ideas.

- 8-10 the language used is in an appropriate register; ideas and information are organised in a well-structured, logical way; there are few errors, if any, of punctuation, spelling and grammar.
- 4-7 the language used is mostly appropriate and generally clear; links between ideas and information are for the most part clear and adequately structured; there are some errors of punctuation, spelling, and grammar, but these do not hinder communication.
- 1-3 the language used is mostly imprecise or inappropriate; links between ideas and information are not always clearly made though there is some structure; there are errors of punctuation, spelling, and grammar, some of which may obscure points made.
- 0 no relevant knowledge and understanding.

Specific Descriptors

- (i) (a) The underlying problem is the need to find environmentally acceptable alternative renewable fuel to meet Britain's energy needs.
- (b) Wind farms will not alone solve Britain's energy problems. Wind-generated energy is unreliable, depends on unpredictable weather and needs back-up energy supplies.
- (c) Wind farms built inland require a great deal of space, even though this is the cheapest and easiest option.
- (d) Wind farms built at sea are expensive.
- (e) Wind farms built at sea can be disruptive to the locality e.g. to local industries such as fishing, shipping and tourism.
- (f) Environmental issues arise from wind farms such as noise/visual pollution and impact on wildlife.
- (g) Some members of the public have a NIMBY mentality. They want the benefits of wind power without the consequences.

(15 marks)

- (ii) (a) The Government has a responsibility to develop an energy policy that ensures future energy supplies and is environmentally friendly.
- (b) The Government has a responsibility to consider all the energy options and to ensure its policies bring the most benefit to the country and do not create a different set of problems.
- (c) The Government has a responsibility to ensure that sufficient action (e.g. legislation) is taken for its policy to progress at sufficient pace to reduce current energy problems in Britain.
- (d) The public has a responsibility to balance the need to find alternative energy sources and to see the bigger picture in which everyone stands to benefit, with protecting the environment in its own locality.
- (e) Protest groups have a responsibility to balance their challenge to government thinking and the desire to act as a voice for the people, with an awareness of the country's needs.
- (f) Energy companies have a responsibility for the appropriate siting and planning of wind farms to ensure there is minimum negative impact on the local people and the environment.
- (g) Planning authorities have a responsibility for environmental protection, but also, as local councils, for supporting central government policies.

(15 marks)

(iii)**Short-term measures**

- (a) Wind farms should be confined to off-shore development if that is less environmentally damaging. If that option is more expensive, then it should be funded nonetheless.
- (b) Planning authorities need to be more supportive of central government policies and pass more planning applications for wind farms.

Long-term measures

- (c) The Government should take steps to protect the environment affected by wind farms e.g. subsidies and relocation for affected industries, protection of wildlife etc.
- (d) The Government could be more ambitious in its targets for using renewable fuels by setting a shorter timescale and a higher usage.
- (e) The Government could consider investing in other types of renewable energy to meet its targets e.g. wave, water, bio-gas (such as methane), energy crops (such as rape seed).
- (f) The Government should leave open the possibility of building new nuclear energy plants.
- (g) There should be a further awareness-raising campaign to educate the public in the need for renewable fuels. They may need to be convinced of its merits.
- (h) Energy conservation should be encouraged e.g. individuals should try to save energy and there could be more stringent building regulations.
- (i) Energy companies/the Government should invest in improving wind technology so that it becomes cheaper to build and is able to produce more electricity.
- (j) Protest groups should be prepared to compromise. Wind farms are less environmentally damaging than power stations. They should be built inland as well as offshore if that is what is needed to address Britain's energy problems.

(20 marks)

Approximate distribution of Assessment Objective marks across Unit 4

Questions	((i) (ii) (iii))	(Comm)	
AO1	15		
AO2		10	
AO3	20		
AO4	15		
Total marks	50	10	60