

General Certificate of Education
January 2005
Advanced Level Examination



GENERAL STUDIES (SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 5 Power-Regulation

GSB5

Tuesday 25 January 2005 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 GSB5.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.

Advice

- You will be assessed according to your ability to:
 - select and use a form and style of writing appropriate to purpose and complex subject matter;
 - organise relevant information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary when appropriate;
 - ensure text is legible, and spelling, grammar and punctuation are accurate, so that meaning is clear.

Answer **all** questions.

You are advised to use examples to illustrate your answers where appropriate.

- 1 How far do you believe that we are in the middle of a 'shopping revolution'? *(12 marks)*

The source for Question 1 is not produced here due to third-party copyright constraints. The full copy of this paper can be obtained by ordering GSB5 from our publications section. Tel: 0161 953 1170.

- 2 “Pressure and interest groups are an essential part of democracy in the UK.”

To what extent do you believe that this statement is correct?

(12 marks)

British citizens have other ways – apart from elections to Parliament and local councils – of expressing their views and trying to influence the way their lives are governed.

Many people belong to political parties but millions of people also belong to other organisations which reflect their interests and concerns, organisations such as ‘Friends of the Earth’, ‘Amnesty International’ and ‘Greenpeace’.

Source: adapted from Central Office of Information, Aspects of Britain: Pressure Groups, 1994

TURN OVER FOR THE NEXT QUESTION

Turn over ►

3 “Governments should increase taxes to fund benefits for the less well off.”

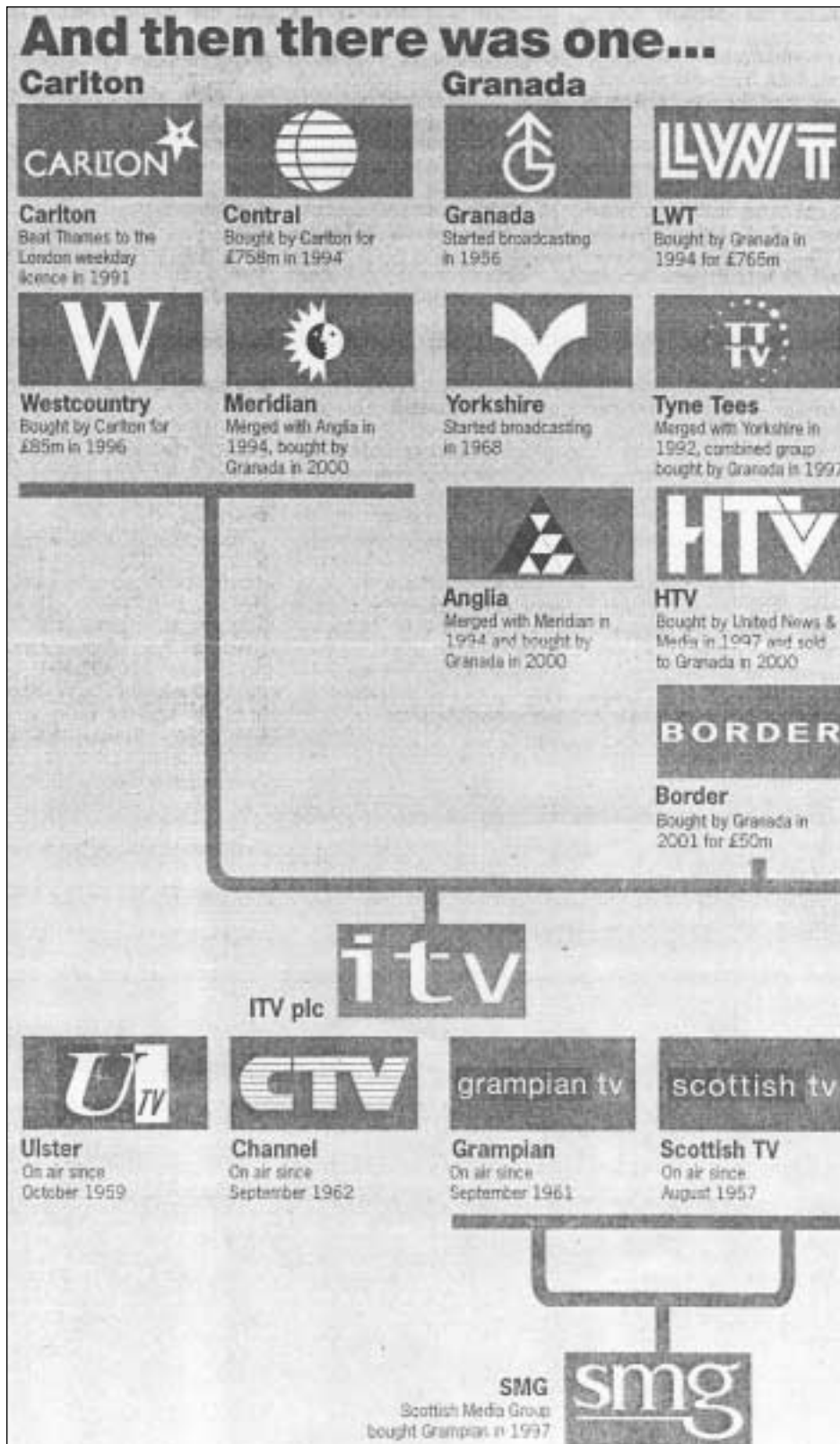
How far do you agree with this view?

(12 marks)

The future of the welfare state is uncertain. The attitude of the public is ambiguous. On the one hand are the results of opinion polls which suggest support for the welfare state and for such levels of taxation as are needed to fund it adequately. On the other hand, the public supported governments which reduced taxes rather than funded the welfare state adequately. Social justice still conditions the response of a lot of people. However some core attitudes are firmly regressive. A clear majority think income tax is “too high”. Nevertheless, successive British Social Attitudes reports have found a majority of people do favour welfare state solutions to social problems, including extensive redistribution of income to the less well off.

Source: adapted from an article by DAVID WALKER in *The Guardian*, 28 November 2000

4 To what extent should we be concerned about the concentration of media power in relatively few hands?
(12 marks)



Source: The Guardian, 8 October 2003

- 5 How far do you believe that it is acceptable for the UK to sell arms to less economically developed countries? *(12 marks)*

“One of the biggest areas of trade that exists with less economically developed countries is that in arms. The UK along with USA, France, Italy and Russia is one of the world’s biggest manufacturers and sellers of military equipment to such states.”

“The sale of military technology and weapons to less economically developed countries often accounts for a disproportionately high level of the spending of the governments of such countries.”

END OF QUESTIONS

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases efforts to contact copyright holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Copyright © 2005 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.