



General Certificate of Education

General Studies 5766

Specification B

GSB1 Conflict

Mark Scheme

2005 examination – June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

General Studies

Specification B

Unit 1

(GSB1 Conflict)

Answers given in the mark scheme are not necessarily definitive. Other valid points must be credited, even if they do not appear in the mark scheme.

Marks should be awarded in these bands:

11 - 15 (Band One)

- A good response showing knowledge and understanding of the topic and the issues covered.
- Clear and accurate expression used with no significant errors of style, spelling or grammar, ensuring a logical and relevant response.
- Evidence is well marshalled, ensuring interpretation and evaluation and thus allowing a valid and thoughtful conclusion to be reached.

6 -10 (Band Two)

- A competent response showing some knowledge and understanding of the topic and the issues covered.
- Reasonably clear and accurate expression used with relatively few errors of style, spelling or grammar, ensuring a fairly logical and relevant response.
- Evidence is moderately well marshalled, ensuring some interpretation and evaluation and thus allowing a valid conclusion to be drawn, though there may be a lack of structure and balance.

1 - 5 (Band Three)

- A limited response showing little knowledge and understanding of the topic and the issues covered.
- Poor and inaccurate expression used with significant errors of style, spelling or grammar leading to a rather illogical and/or irrelevant response.
- Evidence is poorly marshalled, ensuring little interpretation and evaluation and thus leading to little or no valid conclusion, with a possibility of assertions being made from no hard evidence.

0 (Band Four)

- No response or no relevant points.

1 How far do you agree that modern employment patterns have led to less leisure time?

(15 marks)

Have led to less leisure time:

- (a) many people desire affluence, work longer hours, take second jobs etc. – hence have less free time
- (b) much leisure can be on a family basis. This can prove difficult with differing work patterns for each member
- (c) growth of service industry has led to changing shift patterns e.g. 24/7 opening hours may inhibit leisure activities
- (d) on a regional level, those involved in primary production e.g. farming, may find that employment patterns ensure little leisure time
- (e) commercial leisure facilities need not always be available for those with differing shift patterns e.g. opening and closing times of entertainment venues
- (f) competition and the desire for promotion lead many to work longer hours than in the recent past
- (g) the greater ability to take one's work home has meant that there is less time to "switch off" from the work ethic e.g. computer and mobile phone technology.

Have not led to less leisure time:

- (n) a greater flexibility as to when leisure can be taken e.g. shorter working week, part time working etc.
- (o) less time is spent on commuting if a person works from home
- (p) early retirement/partial retirement allows increased holiday taking etc.
- (q) casualisation can add to enforced leisure
- (r) leisure can be used to conduct business e.g. golf course conversations
- (s) less overtime is worked as standard
- (t) 48 hour per week rule has protected employees.

A balanced response is preferable; however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

2 “It is their wealth not their social class which decides a person’s position in UK society today.”

To what extent do you agree with this view?

(15 marks)

Agree:

- (a) wealth opens doors; the monetary power of groups such as celebrities exemplifies this
- (b) wealth can buy private education which often leads to better qualifications
- (c) wealth can ensure contacts which can lead to higher status
- (d) wealth leading from occupational talent allows social mobility e.g. Richard Branson, Elton John etc.
- (e) the lessening of emphasis on social class means that wealth has become the trigger for social mobility.

Disagree

- (n) can only move from working class to middle class; upper class is difficult to attain without family background
- (o) being upper class still opens doors e.g. Gentlemen’s Clubs
- (p) wealth can have a transitory influence e.g. sports stars do not have the same status once their star has waned
- (q) position is not always linked to wealth e.g. Trade Union leader, Archbishop of Canterbury etc.
- (r) educational qualifications are necessary for a career
- (s) status in society is often linked to a person’s profession
- (t) ethnicity/gender can affect social status.

A balanced response is preferable; however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

3 “The increasing use of special effects in film-making explains the popularity of cinema.”

How far do you agree with this view?

(15 marks)

Does explain the popularity of cinema:

- (a) a greater variety of spectacle can be offered
- (b) cinematic suspension of belief can now be total with aural and visual effects etc.
- (c) IMAX/3D presentations make the audience feel they are part of the action
- (d) an inexpensive way to experience thrills
- (e) it enhances storylines e.g. Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings
- (f) technological developments such as greater computer memory, new animation physics/packages, and new camera technology etc.

Does not explain the popularity of cinema:

- (n) cinemas are far more comfortable nowadays
- (o) range of food/drink available makes it more of a “night out”
- (p) multi-screen cinemas means that a large variety of films are available
- (q) various genres of film still attract large audiences e.g. musicals, romances, action thrillers etc. which do not major on special effects
- (r) more disposable income and leisure time
- (s) advertising and media coverage e.g. Oscars, Baftas attract cinema goers
- (t) cinema-going is a peer group activity – something which young people do as part of their age group.

A balanced response is preferable; however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

4 How far would compulsory identity cards be an intrusion into our lives?

(15 marks)

Would be an intrusion:

- (a) freedom implies our not having to identify ourselves on demand, we have the right to privacy
- (b) this is a further move along the road to a “nanny state”
- (c) part of the Human Rights Act 2000 was to lessen interference on the part of the state, not increase it
- (d) the cost of an I.D. card (£35) means that the state is directing us on how we spend our money
- (e) the advent of I.D. cards will lead to centralisation and bureaucratisation ensuring that 1984’s Big Brother will become a reality
- (f) we have a history of fighting for our individual freedom
- (g) identity card theft.

Would not be an intrusion:

- (n) people who have nothing to hide have nothing to fear from this system
- (o) it may improve/speed up the system by which illegal immigrants in the UK can be apprehended
- (p) it is used in many countries without any apparent rancour or ill-will e.g. France
- (q) the amalgamation of many of our details on one I.D. card could actually make our lives less complicated
- (r) there is little real difference between the I.D. card and the information held on credit card chips.

A balanced response is preferable; however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

5 More couples are living together without getting married.

To what extent does this mean that marriage is no longer important?

(15 marks)

Is no longer important:

- (a) some men and women want children, but do not necessarily want to make a formal commitment to each other
- (b) the financial costs of the wedding ceremony and reception deter many
- (c) the increase in acrimonious divorce settlements has led many to see cohabitation as the easier option
- (d) far fewer acknowledge the religious significance of marriage, consequently church weddings have become less popular
- (e) many do not wish to go through a legal ceremony
- (f) social mores no longer demand marriage before procreation
- (g) tax system has stopped the married person's allowance.

Is important:

- (n) often cohabitation can be seen as a prelude to marriage
- (o) the licensing of institutions, other than churches and registry offices, has encouraged many to marry
- (p) there are still far more legal rights for married couples than cohabiters
- (q) a large proportion of ethnic minority couples marry i.e. there is a stronger religious steer in these groupings
- (r) though there is a decline in marriage, there is an increase in re-marriages i.e. marriage is valued
- (s) age for first time marriage is increasing, so it is necessary to look at longer trends
- (t) gay marriage is important to some
- (u) the romance of marriage is large in the media, and is seen as something to aim for.

A one-sided response to this question can reach Band One.

6 Should doctors try to keep people alive at all costs?

Give reasons to support your answer.

(15 marks)

Should keep people alive:

- (a) it is part of the medical professions' Hippocratic Oath
- (b) a cure for the disease could be discovered in the near future
- (c) it is only God who can take away life
- (d) society perceives this as a major element of a doctor's role
- (e) legally the doctor could be held accountable for the patient's death
- (f) the use of life support machines can ensure that the patient is not in great pain.

Should not keep people alive:

- (n) the cost can be prohibitive in the utilisation of hospital resources
- (o) the quality of life for the patient can be very poor e.g. severe disabilities at birth
- (p) the dignity of the person concerned should be an important factor
- (q) keeping people alive can put pressure on the family because they cannot start/complete the grieving process
- (r) the financial input could be used to cure other patients
- (s) there should be a system of prioritisation
- (t) the age criterion argument can also hold sway.

A balanced response is preferable; however it is possible for a one-sided answer to reach Band One.

Approximate distribution of Assessment Objective marks across Unit 1

Candidates answer 4 out of the 6 questions

Question Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	AO marks per unit
Assessment Objectives AO1	9	9	9	9	9	9	36
AO2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8
AO3	4	4	4	4	4	4	16
Total marks per Question	15	15	15	15	15	15	60