



General Certificate of Education

General Studies 5766

Specification B

GSB1 Conflict

Mark Scheme

2007 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.

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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:

Band One 11 – 15

- 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.

Band Two 6 – 10

- 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.

Band Three 1 – 5

- 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.

Band Four 0

No response, or no relevant information.

1 'Life-saving medical treatments must always be made available to patients.'

To what extent do you agree with this view?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the statement may argue:

- (a) people may live longer and have rewarding lives
- (b) major diseases can be controlled so that the whole world can benefit
- (c) it is part of doctors' responsibility to ensure that lives are saved.

Candidates disagreeing with the statement may argue:

- (n) cost of major life saving treatments may be prohibitive
- (o) quality of life of many 'saved' patients can be very low
- (p) some patients should be denied treatment when conditions are self inflicted.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether life-saving medical treatments must always be made available
- use a range of arguments
- refer to specific examples to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to the concept that life-saving medical treatments must always be made available
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to the concept that life-saving medical treatments must always be made available
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make little or no use of examples to back up their arguments.

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

- 2** 'A family consists of a father, a mother and one or more children.'
To what extent is this an accurate description of the family today?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing that this is not an accurate description may argue:

- (a) societal changes have ensured that other family groupings have grown
- (b) increased life-expectancy has led to many of the older generation living alone
- (c) legal changes have 'encouraged' other forms of family unit.

Candidates agreeing that this is an accurate description may argue:

- (n) approximately 25% are still in nuclear family situation
- (o) both government and media propagate the traditional family and its values
- (p) traditional family unit is one of many types of grouping.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss the extent to which a 'traditional' family unit still exists
- use a range of arguments
- refer to specific examples to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether the 'traditional' family unit still exists
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether the traditional family unit still exists
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make little or no use of examples to back up their arguments.

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

3 'There is very little news in popular red-top newspapers such as *The Sun* and *Daily Mirror*.'

How far do you agree with this view?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with this assertion may argue:

- (a) an extensive coverage of celebrity lifestyle dominates the tabloids
- (b) there is relatively little analysis of issues/serious news e.g. politics and foreign affairs
- (c) tabloids target readership who require rapid information; hence a plethora of pictures and little depth of information.

Candidates disagreeing with this assertion may argue:

- (n) what is news?
- (o) tabloids differ; many do indulge in lengthy detailed news articles
- (p) readers' perception is that they are presented with serious news.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether 'popular red-top' newspapers contain little or any news
- use a range of arguments
- refer to specific examples to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether 'popular red-top' newspapers contain little or any news
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether 'popular red top' newspapers contain little or any news
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make little or no use of examples to back up their arguments.

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

4 'Theatre cannot compete successfully with cinema.'

To what extent is this assertion valid?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (a) cinema can offer a greater variety of spectacle
- (b) cinematic suspension of belief can now be total with aural and visual effects
- (c) cinema is cheaper, more flexible and accessible.

Candidates disagreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (n) theatre is live allowing actual audience interaction with the performers
- (o) there is more emphasis on performance in theatre
- (p) it is perceived as far more of an occasion to visit a theatre.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether theatres can compete successfully with cinema
- use a range of arguments
- refer to specific examples to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether theatres can compete successfully with cinema
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether theatres can compete successfully with cinema
- make few relevant points, with little or no development
- make little or no use of examples to back up their arguments.

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

5 How far do you agree that the small, family business will lose out in competition with larger businesses?

(15 marks)

Candidates agreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (a) larger businesses benefit from economies of scale
- (b) larger firms can afford widespread and costly advertising campaigns
- (c) larger firms can establish themselves in high streets in prestigious positions.

Candidates disagreeing with the assertion may argue:

- (n) small firms can find a niche market
- (o) many customers prefer the face-to-face relationship built up with smaller organisations
- (p) convenience factor is still a vital asset for small firms.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss whether small family-run businesses will lose out in competition with larger firms
- use a range of arguments
- refer to specific examples to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to whether small family-run businesses will lose out in competition with larger firms
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to whether small family-run businesses will lose out in competition with larger firms
- make few relevant points, with little or no development
- make little or no use of examples to back up their arguments.

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

6 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of state interference in our lives.

(15 marks)

Candidates discussing the advantages of state interference in our lives may argue:

- (a) the state provides services such as education and health
- (b) health and safety regulations are in place to protect individuals
- (c) social security systems acts as a safety net to ensure that there are basics for all citizens.

Candidates discussing the disadvantages of state interference in our lives may argue:

- (n) influence of the 'nanny' state stifles individuality and freedom of expression
- (o) everyone is an individual and has a right to do whatever they want as long as it does not affect others
- (p) utilisation of modern technology ensures that nineteen-eighty-four concepts could become a reality.

Band One

Answers will:

- discuss the advantages and disadvantages of state interference in our lives
- use a range of arguments
- refer to specific examples to back up their arguments.

Band Two

Answers will:

- refer to the advantages and disadvantages of state interference in our lives
- make a range of points, some of which may lack development
- refer to few examples to back up their arguments.

Band Three

Answers will:

- make little reference to the advantages and disadvantages of state interference in our lives
- make few relevant points with little or no development
- make little or no use of examples to back up their arguments.

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

Distribution of Assessment Objective marks across Unit 1

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	

Candidates attempt 4 questions out of 6