



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2013

General Studies (Specification B)

GENB2

Unit 2 Space

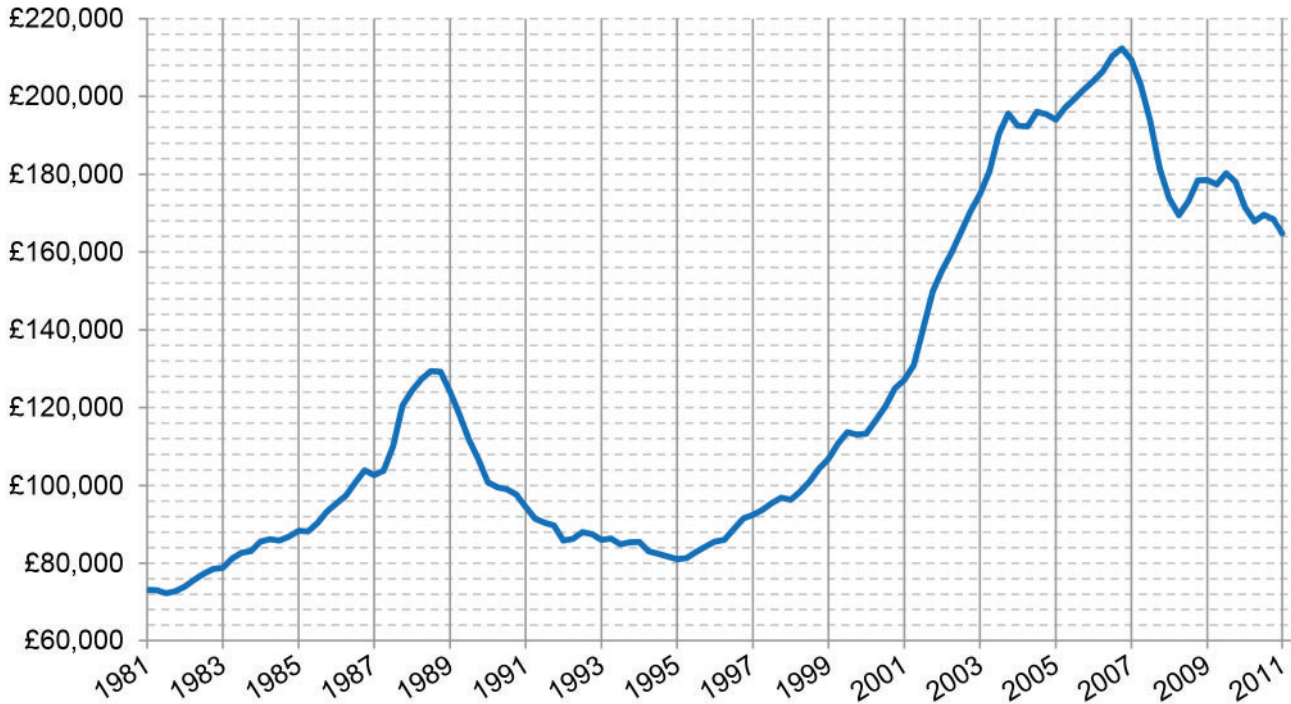
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Source Booklet for use with **Questions 1, 2 and 3**

Study **Sources A** and **B** and then answer **Question 1**.

Source A

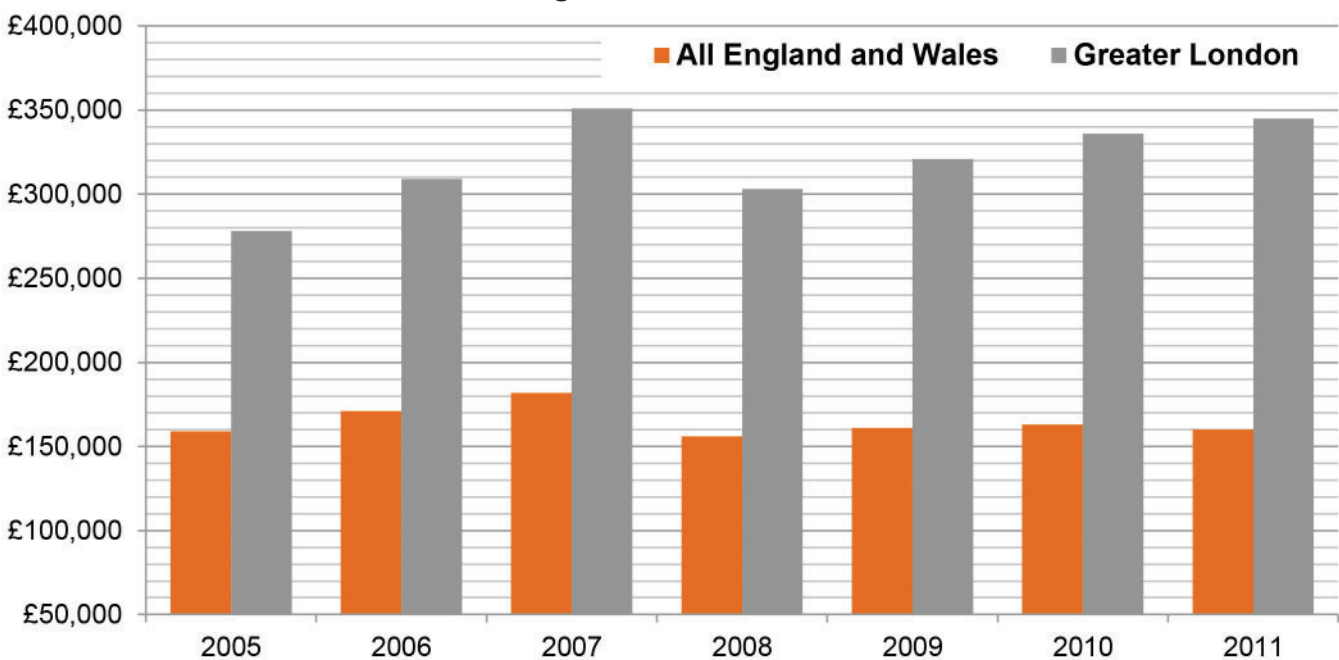
UK Mean Average House Prices, 1981–2011



Source A: data from Nationwide Building Society, 2012

Source B

Mean Average House Prices, 2005–2011



Source B: data from Land Registry, © Crown copyright, 2012

Study **Sources C** and **D** and then answer **Question 2**.

Source C

Hurricane Katrina over
the Gulf Coast, USA, 2005



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Source D

The Crab Nebula
(the result of a
supernova explosion)
observed from the
Hubble Telescope



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Study **Source E** and then answer **Question 3**.

Source E

Foreign Music on French Radio

Music is a universal language but it brings with it cultural traces. I studied foreign music presence on two popular French radio stations, *NRJ* and *Radio Nova*, as well as speaking to French people to gain a better understanding of how foreign music is influencing French culture.

The media, spreading from western capitalist societies, carry culturally-specific values which are promoted and become dominant. Since the United States exports the most media goods in the world, and France is an advanced society, the most obvious cultural difference between the two is language. The Académie Française is in charge of protecting French culture, language and heritage and at least 40 per cent of songs played on prime-time French radio must be in French.

Over a 24 hour period, I found that *NRJ*, the top popular music station, played 309 songs. Of these songs, 111 were by American artists, 53 were by UK artists and 88 were by artists of various nationalities: only 57 were by French artists. On *Radio Nova* the pattern was similar.

I spoke with some young French people to try to get some insight on how this large amount of foreign, American and English-speaking music is experienced. In their experience, most popular radio stations don't play French artists much and most music is foreign. These foreign artists then are more popular whilst there is less focus on French artists and towards using French language in creating songs. English is becoming increasingly normalised in music. Antonin Pierre of the French band *Pony Pony Run Run* said that "[foreign music] influenced everything and that it seemed natural to sing in English...we learned the language that way".

While France is concerned with maintaining its national identity and language in music and on radio, it seems that foreign music and the English language are unavoidable. The practice of playing more foreign artists on the radio promotes the idea that to be successful you must sing in English. This then influences the tastes and preferences of young musicians towards using English in their songs. Whether it is through slang or song, English seems to be slowly creeping into French life, no matter how hard the French language guardians try to hinder its advance.

Source: adapted from an article by KATHERINE HOM, BSc in Media and Communication, 6 May 2010

END OF SOURCES

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