



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2015

General Studies (Specification B)

GENB3

Unit 3 Power

Insert

Source Material

These texts are to be read in conjunction with the questions in unit GENB3.

^A The questions arise from the texts.

Use the texts, your own knowledge and examples to answer **both** questions in Section A, and **either** Question 03 **or** Question 04 from Section B.

Text A

Row over Gibraltar

The UK government says that it is considering legal action against Spain over the imposition of additional border checks in Gibraltar. What is this dispute about?

What and where is Gibraltar?

Gibraltar, granted to Britain by Spain in a treaty of 1713, is a British Overseas Territory, although Spain, which it borders, also claims sovereignty. The people who live there are British citizens, but they run their own affairs under a chief minister.

The territory is self-governing in all matters – including taxation – except foreign policy and defence, which are dealt with by the British government. Known as ‘The Rock’, it is also a popular tourist destination, particularly for visitors from Britain.



Although Gibraltar is small, it is strategically important, standing at the mouth of the Mediterranean only 20 km (12 miles) from the north coast of Africa. It has a UK military base, including a port and airstrip.

Why is Gibraltar back in the news?

The underlying dispute over the sovereignty of the territory has continued for centuries, but in the last couple of years it has concerned a clash over fishing rights. Both Spain and Gibraltar have claimed jurisdiction over the waters off the Rock, and both sides have complained about incursions into what they claim are their waters.

In July 2013, Gibraltar dropped concrete blocks into the bay to start creating, it said, an artificial reef to encourage sea life to flourish in what it sees as its marine reserve. Spain said that the blocks had been laid “without the necessary authorisation” in what it sees as Spanish waters, and contravened its own environmental laws and also damaged its fishing industry, because Spanish fishing nets were in danger of catching on the concrete reef blocks.

How did Spain react?

Shortly after this, Spain introduced more rigorous border checks at the crossing point between Spain and Gibraltar. This led to extremely long traffic queues on the weekend of 27–28 July 2013. Some visitors found themselves waiting at the border in six-hour queues in searing summer temperatures. The UK government summoned the Spanish Ambassador in London to complain, while Foreign Secretary William Hague personally called the Spanish Foreign Minister to ask him to intervene. After this, the jam at the border eased. But, in an interview given to a Spanish newspaper, Spain’s Foreign Minister suggested that Spain was considering more formal border restrictions. This reignited the row.

Source: article from Q&A Gibraltar row, BBC News, November 2013

Text B

What is 'Reproductive Medicine'?

Reproductive medicine is an area that deals with the prevention, diagnosis and management of reproductive problems, including the improving or maintaining of reproductive health and allowing people to have children at a time of their choosing. It raises some religious, ethical and moral dilemmas that are further complicated because of advances in the science of genetic engineering. Further issues are raised by the rising world population and the views of some governments that family sizes need to be regulated, although China, for example, also recognizes the need for more young people to maintain the size of the active work-force in the face of an ageing population.



Religions and Birth Control

Christianity

In modern times, different Christian churches hold different views about the rightness and wrongness of using birth control.

Liberal Protestant churches often teach that it is acceptable to use birth control, as long as it is not used to encourage or permit promiscuous behaviour.

The Roman Catholic Church only allows 'natural' birth control, by which it means only having sex during the infertile period of a woman's monthly cycle. Artificial methods of contraception are banned.

Islam

Islam is strongly pro-family and regards children as a gift from God.

Muslim sexual ethics forbid sex outside marriage, so its teachings about birth control should be understood within the context of husband and wife.

There is no single attitude to contraception within Islam; however, eight of the nine classic schools of Islamic law permit it.

Hinduism

There is no ban on birth control in Hinduism.

Because India has such a high level of population, much of the discussion about birth control has focused on the environmental issue of overpopulation rather than more personal ethics, and birth control is not a major ethical issue.

Designer Babies

As genetic technology develops, parents may have the opportunity to make decisions on their unborn child, affecting their susceptibility to certain diseases, but also, possibly, their physical appearance, intelligence or other aspects deemed desirable by those parents. It could be argued that this gives parents-to-be choice, the power to decide about their children and provide them with important life-opportunities. Certain genetic diseases that shorten life or affect its quality might be eradicated, to the benefit of the individuals concerned and their families.

Alternatively, interfering with the genetic make-up of the unborn might create unexpected and serious physical or mental health problems; empowering parents could cause problems that their children will have to live with.

Source: 'Religions and Birth Control' section adapted from BBC Ethics guide

Turn over ►

Text C

Pressure Groups

What are pressure groups?

- Organisations of people who believe in the same cause
- They have strongly held views and wish to influence some aspect of society
- Groups of people working together usually having more effect than individuals.

What rights do pressure groups have?

- They have the right to criticise the government
- They have the right to hold meetings
- They have the right to protest
- They have the right to make their views known by using the media.

What responsibilities do pressure groups have?

- They have the responsibility to base their criticism on fact
- Meetings should be peaceful and legal
- They should inform the local authorities and the police when they are making a protest
- They have a responsibility not to intimidate.

What methods do pressure groups use?

- Internet – email and websites
- Letters
- Lobbying
- Petitions
- Demonstrations
- Mass media campaigns (TV, radio and newspapers).

What are some pressure groups?

- Shelter – aims to help homeless people
- Amnesty International – defends human rights
- Greenpeace – campaigns on environmental issues
- Confederation of British Industry (CBI) – promotes business interests
- Trade Union Congress (TUC) – promotes workers' interests
- Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) – anti-smoking group
- Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST) – pro-smoking group.

Source: information from www.modernstudies.org.uk

Text D**Globalisation**

'Globalisation' is commonly used as a shorthand way of describing the spread and connectedness of production, communication and technologies across the world. That spread has involved the interlacing of economic and cultural activity. Globalisation, in the sense of connectivity in economic and cultural life across the world, has been growing for centuries. However, the speed of communication and exchange, the complexity and size of the networks involved, and the sheer volume of trade, interaction and risk give what we now label as 'globalisation' a peculiar force.



Globalisation involves the diffusion of ideas, practices and technologies. Anthony Giddens (a British sociologist) has described globalisation as 'the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa'. This involves a change in the way we understand and experience localness.

A further, crucial aspect of globalisation is the nature and power of transnational and multinational corporations. Such companies now account for over 33 per cent of world output, and 66 per cent of world trade. Significantly, something like a quarter of world trade occurs within such corporations, a point well illustrated by the operations of car manufacturers who typically source their components from plants situated in different countries. However, international businesses are still largely confined to their home territory in terms of their overall business activity; they remain heavily 'nationally embedded'.

With increased economic interconnection has come deep-seated political changes – poorer countries have become even more dependent on activities in 'central' economies such as the USA, where capital and technical expertise tend to be located. There has also been a shift in power away from the nation state and toward, some argue, global corporations. We have also witnessed the rise and globalisation of the 'brand'. It isn't just that large corporations operate across many different countries – they have also developed and marketed products that could just as well be sold in Beijing as in Washington. Brands like Coca Cola, Nike, Sony, and a host of others have become part of the fabric of vast numbers of people's lives.

Source: adapted from Globalisation: theory and experience
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