

**ADVANCED GCE  
GENERAL STUDIES**

**2968**

Culture, Science and Society: Making Connections

**MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2008**

Morning

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Additional materials (enclosed):** Answer Booklet (8 page)

**Additional materials (required):**  
None



**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answers in the Answer Booklet.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **both** questions.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You are advised to divide your time equally between Sections A and B.
- In both your answers you should draw upon your studies from the Cultural, Scientific and Social Domains to demonstrate a broad understanding of the issues.
- **Where an answer requires a piece of extended writing, the quality of your written communication will be assessed, including clarity of expression, structure of arguments, presentation of ideas, grammar, punctuation and spelling.**

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

## Section A

Read the following source concerning **euthanasia** and answer the question that follows in the form of an essay.

## SOURCE 1

One of the country's leading experts on medical ethics today calls for doctors to be able to end the lives of some terminally ill patients "swiftly, humanely and without guilt" – even if they have not given consent. Len Doyal, Emeritus Professor of Medical Ethics at Queen Mary's, University of London, takes the euthanasia debate into new and highly contentious territory. "It would be better if their lives are ended without unnecessary delay," he writes in *Clinical Ethics*, published by the Royal Society of Medicine. He says doctors should recognise that they are already killing patients when they remove feeding tubes from those whose lives are judged to be no longer worth living. Some will suffer a "slow and distressing death" as a result. It would be better if their lives were ended without this unnecessary delay. 5 10

Professor Doyal argues that doctors are already effectively practising euthanasia on patients who have no consciousness beyond the capacity to suffer pain and says this should extend to those patients who can no longer speak for themselves. Withdrawing life-saving treatment from severely incompetent patients – which may involve turning off a ventilator, ending antibiotics or withdrawing a feeding tube – is "believed to be morally appropriate because it constitutes doing nothing. It is the disease that does the dirty work not the clinician. Yet this argument cannot wash away the foreseeable suffering of severely incompetent patients sometimes forced to die avoidably slow and distressing deaths." 15

"Clinicians who starve severely incompetent patients to death are not deemed by law to have killed them actively, even though they begin the process by the removal of feeding tubes. The legal fiction that such starvation is not active killing is no more than clumsy judicial camouflage of the euthanasia that is actually occurring. The category of patient that concerns me the most are the patients where we are not sure. There is still some brain function, but they will never have any brain awareness or cognitive function, but they seem to be suffering." He does not believe that legalising non-voluntary euthanasia for such patients would lead to more or inappropriate deaths. 20 25

"We have a situation where these decisions are being made all the time and yet we have no coherent system of regulation for them. We really don't know what is going on out there, as they do in Holland where all this is legal or in Oregon where they have physician-assisted suicide." 30

The British Medical Association declined to comment on Professor Doyal's article. "We have a neutral position," said a spokeswoman. "We leave it for society to decide."

Extract from Sarah Boseley, *Call for no-consent euthanasia*, 8 June 2006 © Guardian News and Media Ltd 2006

- 1 How far do you agree with the proposal that euthanasia should be made legal in the UK? Refer to **one** cultural, **one** scientific, and **one** social issue which would influence this decision. Use the source to inform your answer. [50]

## Section B

Read the following source concerning **Britishness** and answer the question that follows in the form of an essay.

## SOURCE 2

People were asked how important they felt that each of the points listed below were in defining Britain.

		Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%
1	British people's right to say what they think	61	30	7	1	1
2	Britain's defiance of Nazi Germany in 1940	59	28	8	3	2
3	British people's sense of fairness and fair play	54	36	7	1	2
4	The achievements of Britain's scientists and engineers	51	37	8	2	2
5	British justice	50	35	10	3	2
6	Having a strong economy	43	39	13	3	2
7	The Royal Navy	42	37	15	4	2
8	Tolerance of other people and other people's ideas	41	40	13	4	2
9	The fact that Britain has not been invaded since 1066	41	27	17	12	3
10	British people's stoicism – their ability to 'take it'	40	39	15	3	3
11	The Monarchy	37	31	15	15	2
12	Britain's role in the world today	38	42	14	4	2
13	The House of Commons	37	41	15	5	2
14	The Common Law	34	41	18	4	3
15	The BBC	27	39	21	11	2
16	Pubs	27	36	25	10	2
17	William Shakespeare	24	38	26	10	2
18	Our weather	23	33	31	11	2
19	The fact that we don't have to carry identity cards	23	17	31	25	4
20	The Church of England	17	28	29	23	3
21	The quality of Britain's restaurants	9	32	41	16	2

YouGov for *The Daily Telegraph*, July 2005 [figures may be rounded up]

- 2 Outline **at least one** cultural feature, **one** scientific achievement, and **one** social condition that you believe to be uniquely British. Use the source and your own ideas and experiences to justify your answer. [50]

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

- Source 1                    Extract from Sarah Boseley, *Call for no-consent euthanasia*, The Guardian, 8 June 2006 © Guardian News and Media Ltd 2006, [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)
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