

**ADVANCED GCE
GENERAL STUDIES**

2968

Culture, Science and Society: Making Connections

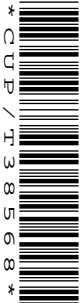
THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2008

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 **social care in the UK** and answer the question that follows in the form of an essay.

SOURCE 1

Social care is the great conundrum of UK public policy. Say NHS, education and housing, and people know what you are talking about. But “social care” commands little support and few even know what it means. The contradictions loom even larger when we check the numbers. This is a service that employs 1.6 million, works with 1.7 million adult service users, and has an annual budget of £17 billion plus. Social care is the biggest service industry in the UK. It is a key employer in the lives of many more people starting out in the labour market and who then move on to other things. It’s at least the size of the NHS and, similarly, is one of the biggest operations in Europe. 5

If the NHS has been protected by an enduring ethos of universalism and being free at the point of delivery, there are few entitlements to social care and it is heavily means tested. Many of its frontline staff, in residential and domiciliary services, still share the same low-value terms and conditions of employment of supermarket shelf stackers and checkout staff. Social care’s key profession, social work, is probably the most devalued and vilified of any profession. Yet it has been the vanguard of addressing the cultural and social changes in families and communities that all political parties now accept must transform the nature of public policy. 10 15

Social care organisations have long been weak and vulnerable. Of 70,000 registered social workers only one in seven are members of their professional association. It shares none of the glamour of the hi-tech, high-paid worlds of medical professionals. There are none of the mysteries of surgeries or deference to bedside manner. There are no emergency helicopters, no uniforms, high profile trauma teams or TV dramas. There may be a surgeon to the Queen but who could ever imagine her having a social worker? 20

The immense human complexity of social care work, highlighted every time there is a childcare tragedy or something goes wrong relating to service users’ rights and risks, is readily forgotten. This, however, may point us to a key underpinning reason for the low priority attached to social care. For all the charitable concerns expressed, the groups it works with – older people, people with learning difficulties, people with a disability, mental health service users, looked-after children and the rest – continue to be devalued groups in our society, facing high levels of exclusion and discrimination. This is a field where moral judgements are strongly applied, for example, to drug users and homeless people, but even those seen as dependent rather than dangerous can expect to be routinely treated as second class citizens. 25 30

All the evidence suggests that people tend to see social care as for “others” rather than themselves – “others” that they may not put much value on or want to identify with. 35

Extract from Peter Beresford, *A question of priorities*, The Guardian, 28 June 2006

- 1 Using the source and your own views and opinions, outline and discuss why social care has such a poor status in the UK today. In your answer, refer to **one** cultural, **one** scientific and **one** social connection which promote this view. [50]

Section B

Read the following source concerning **global warming and climate change** and answer the question that follows in the form of an essay.

SOURCE 2

KILLER STORMS

Warmer sea water means there is more energy to power hurricanes, and the computer-predicted increase in such 'extreme events' with global warming seems to be coming true. These storms are getting more violent. A sobering glimpse of the future was given by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 which killed 11,000 people and left three million homeless in Honduras.

RAMPANT DISEASE

Although many of the effects of global warming will be felt by developing nations, rich countries will not escape. Acute heat episodes will become frequent and kill many. Heat will not be the only problem. The World Health Organisation fears that global warming, with its heavier rainfall, could lead to a major increase in insect-borne diseases in Britain and Europe such as malaria, Lyme disease and encephalitis.

DEVASTATED WILDLIFE

Polar bears may be the first spectacular casualties as the ice of the Arctic Ocean, on which they depend to hunt seals, is rapidly melting and will probably all be gone by mid-century. But Britain itself is already feeling the problem: we are losing to rising temperatures not only the cod in the seas around our coasts, but also the small fish such as sandeels on which seabirds depend to feed their young.

RISING SEA LEVELS

In the coming century, global sea levels are predicted to rise by up to three feet, threatening regions at or below sea level such as Pacific Islands, much of Bangladesh, the Nile Delta and the Netherlands. Storm surges are likely to be more frequent and catastrophic. The population density of Bangladesh will double as its land surface halves.

AGRICULTURAL TURMOIL

The hundreds and millions of people living in the world's marginal agricultural lands already face a daily struggle to grow food. All their energies are consumed in the effort to produce a harvest of a staple crop such as millet. As global temperatures rise, this struggle is likely to become impossible as more frequent and longer droughts make crop growing not viable.

Extracts from Michael McCarthy, *Climate change: time for action*, 3 December 2005 © The Independent

- 2 Identify and explain **one** cultural, **one** scientific, and **one** social measure that might be taken in order to deal with the potential consequences of global warming and climate change. Use the source and any of your own ideas and experiences to inform your answer. [50]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source 1 Extract from © Peter Beresford, *A question of priorities*, The Guardian, 28 June 2006, www.guardian.co.uk

Source 2 Extracts from Michael McCarthy, *Climate change: time for action*, 3 December 2005 © The Independent, www.independent.co.uk

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