

0580/403

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2007

TUESDAY, 8 MAY
1.00 PM – 2.45 PM

CONTEMPORARY
SOCIAL STUDIES
STANDARD GRADE
Credit Level

Instructions to Candidates

- 1 Question 1 is on fold-out Pages 2, 3 and 4.
- 2 Question 2 is on fold-out Pages 5, 6 and 7.
- 3 Question 3 is on Pages 8 and 9.
- 4 All three questions should be attempted.
- 5 Read each question carefully before you attempt to answer it.
- 6 Write your answers in the answer book provided.



1. Look at the sources below. They give information about electricity generation in the UK.

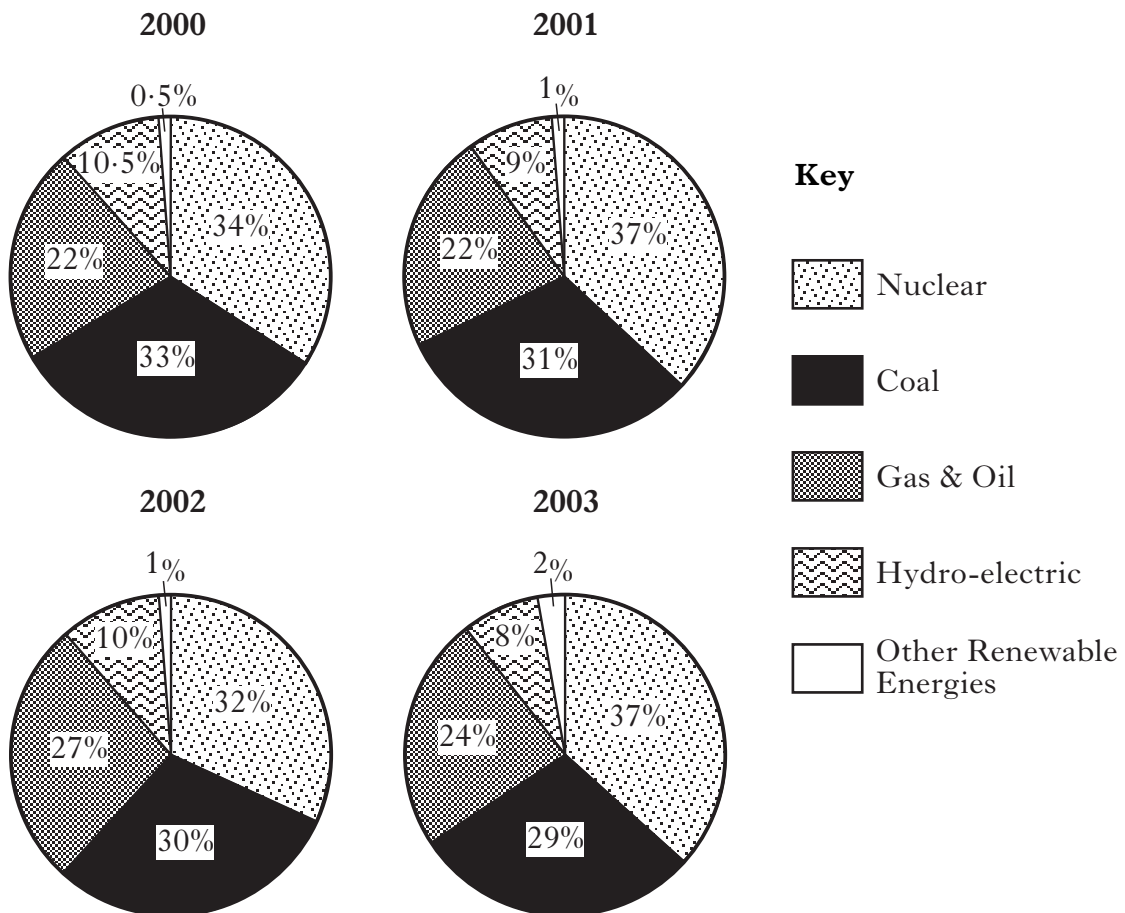
Source A

The UK has agreed to cut greenhouse gases by 12%. The Scottish Executive wants to produce 40% of Scotland's electricity from renewable resources by 2020. They hope that much of this will come from increased numbers of wind farms. Opponents of wind farms say that they spoil the landscape and threaten tourism.

Many energy experts believe that nuclear power is the only way to meet the growing demand for energy. The government is considering building six new nuclear power stations, one of which could be in Scotland. These will replace the existing nuclear power stations. Government advisors want to increase the proportion of the UK's nuclear-generated energy from 25% up to 35%. If no new nuclear power stations are built, only 4% of the UK's energy will be nuclear-generated by 2020. Opponents of nuclear power have raised concerns about building new power stations.

Source B

Electricity generated in Scotland by types of energy, 2000 to 2003



1. (continued)

Source C

Scotland has huge potential for renewable energy:

- Scotland has 25% of Europe's tidal resources
- Scotland has 10% of Europe's wave resources
- Scotland has 25% of Europe's wind resources

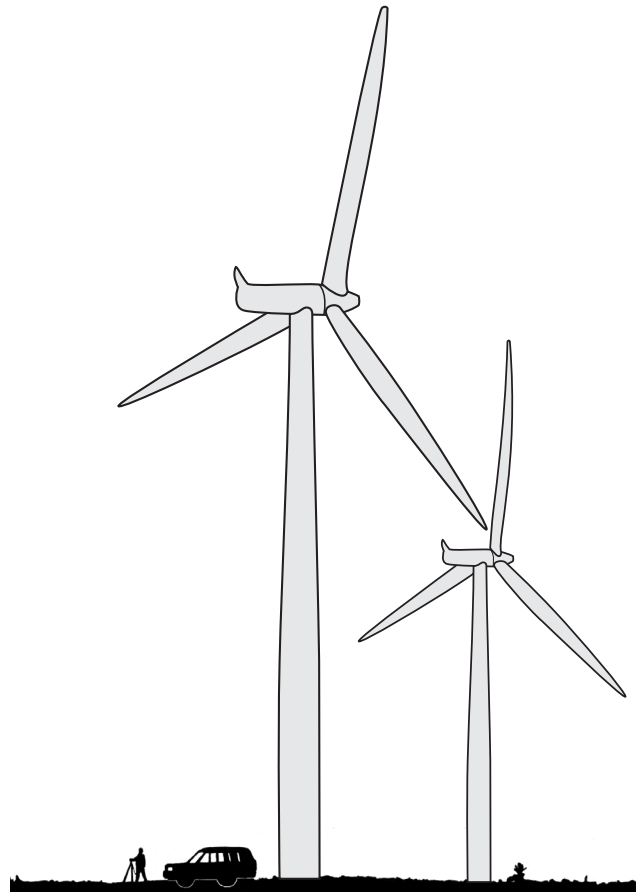
One wind turbine:

- supplies enough electricity for 1250 households for one year
- will last from 20 to 25 years
- will not work all the time, due to too much or too little wind, so nuclear or coal-fired power stations are still required.

All traces of the turbine are removed at the end of its useful life.

Source D

Scotland leads the world in wave energy research. The Scottish Executive has invested £2 million in a marine energy centre in Orkney. A company in Leith has developed machinery which converts wave energy into electricity. Environmentalists believe that wave power has many advantages. Unlike wind turbines, it does not harm or frighten birds and livestock. Unlike hydro developments, it does not flood good quality farmland. Severe storms at sea, however, may damage the wave machinery.



1. (continued)

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QUESTIONS

- (a) From the sources, describe and explain the changes which are taking place in the ways in which electricity is generated in Scotland. **6**
- (b) From the sources, describe the advantages and disadvantages of generating electricity by wind power in Scotland. **4**
- (c) “The government is considering building six new nuclear power stations . . .” (Source A)
From your own knowledge, give the economic and environmental advantages and disadvantages of developing nuclear power. **6**
- (d) “Opponents of wind farms say that they spoil the landscape . . .” (Source A)
From your own knowledge, describe the ways in which objectors to wind farms could try to prevent such developments going ahead. **4**

[Turn over for Question 2 on *Pages five, six and seven*

2. Look at the sources below. They give information about changes in Scottish industry.

Source A

Scottish insurance giant cuts Scottish jobs in favour of India

A large Scottish company recently announced that it would cut 125 jobs in Scotland and take on insurance workers in India. The cuts will affect office workers. The company said, "There will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of this".

A trade union leader described the decision as "short-sighted cost-cutting and of no benefit to the UK economy". She also said that the latest transfer of jobs from the UK to abroad (known as "off-shoring") was very worrying. She continued, "So far, there have been over 18,000 jobs off-shored from the UK. There is a risk that Scotland will lose highly educated and experienced staff. Where will the well-paid jobs for future graduates be? What sort of promotion prospects will these people have?"

Source B

Comparison of manufacturing costs in Scotland and China

(All figures are a percentage of the total costs of producing something in Scotland.)

	Scotland	China
Raw materials	40	35
Energy	10	8
Labour	25	4
Other costs	25	16
Total	100	63

Comparison of taxes paid by companies in Scotland and Singapore

(Figures are percentage (%) of gross profit)

Country	Scotland	Singapore
Rate of tax paid	30	5

2. (continued)

Source C

Off-shoring – good for Scotland?

Since 1970, manufacturing jobs in Scotland have been lost as employers have moved their production abroad in search of greater profit. Now service sector jobs are going. More than 20,000 call centre jobs have been transferred overseas, mainly to India, where most educated workers speak English. However, there have been complaints from customers, who say they have difficulty in understanding foreign workers and that they have received bad advice. As a result, many large call centre firms have brought their operations back to Britain.

Off-shoring also affects general office work in the finance industry. One Scottish company director said, “The potential for savings from off-shoring could be the best thing that ever happened to businesses in Scotland”.

Source D

Scottish firms hope to gain from China

The Chinese economy is the fastest-growing in the world. China produces 15% of the world’s manufactured goods. Scottish companies, such as the Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Life, are already doing good business in China, competing with other companies who are already there. A whisky distiller opened an office in Shanghai because the demand for malt whisky has grown by 23%. A company manager said, “We must have a local presence in a country with such huge potential”.

2. (continued)

QUESTIONS

- (a) From the sources, give reasons why a Scottish company might move much of its work overseas. **6**

- (b) “. . . off-shoring could be the best thing that ever happened to businesses in Scotland.” (Source C)
Using evidence from the sources, give reasons to **oppose** this point of view. **4**

- (c) “Since 1970, manufacturing jobs in Scotland have been lost as employers have moved their production abroad . . .” (Source C)
From your own knowledge, describe the economic and social consequences in an area when a major employer moves away. **6**

- (d) From your own knowledge, describe what a trade union could do to resolve disputes with a company. **4**

[Turn over

<i>Marks</i>	
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	6
	4
	6
	4

3. Look at the sources below. They give information about land ownership in Scotland.

Source A

Large areas of Scotland's countryside are owned by individuals who do not live in the area. These people are often known as "absentee landlords". Some people say that absentee landlords do not encourage rural development as they are just interested in fishing and shooting and that they often discourage other people from creating other kinds of employment.

As a result, large areas of rural Scotland have a declining population, few jobs and a shortage of housing which younger local people can afford to buy. To help with these problems, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives groups of people the "right to buy" the land on which they live and work. The reason for this is to encourage people to invest time and money in improving the land they own. One place whose example helped to encourage this change in the law is the Isle of Gigha. The people of Gigha bought their island in 2002.

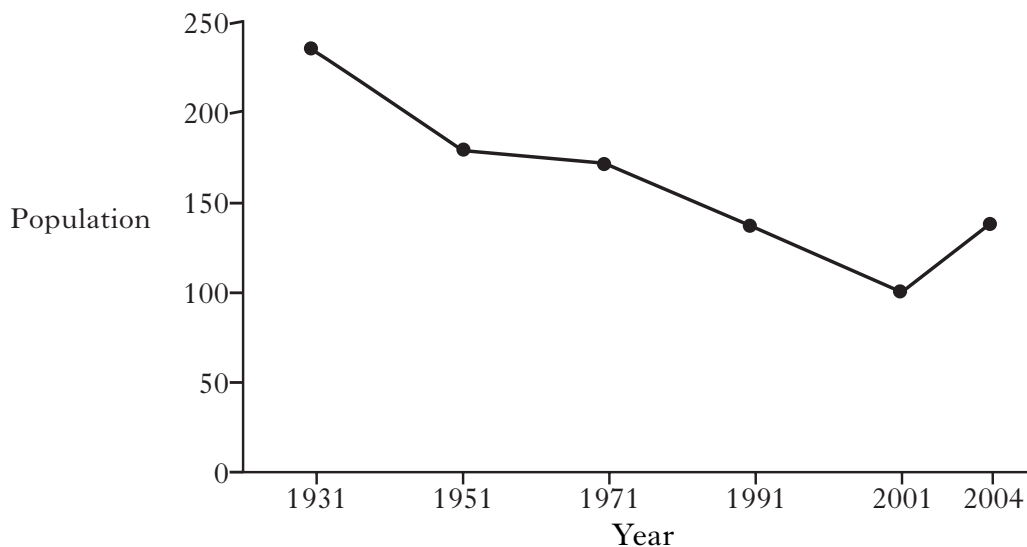
Source B

Isle of Gigha – Location Map



Source C

Population of the Isle of Gigha



3. (continued)

Source D

Some of the changes since the islanders bought Gigha

1. A heritage trust has been set up to look after the island.
2. A trading company has been set up to run Gigha hotel and holiday cottages in the hotel grounds.
3. A committee is working to build a play park for the island’s children.
4. A network of footpaths has been set up on the island for visiting walkers.
5. Computer classes have been started so that islanders can develop skills which they can use for their jobs or for entertainment.
6. Other initiatives include a housing improvement programme, new businesses, and the restructuring of farmland.
7. A community-owned wind farm has been built to supply electricity for the islanders. Surplus energy is sold to the national grid, bringing income to Gigha.
8. Some land is being used to build new houses to rent and a further five families are building their own houses.
9. The number of primary school children has risen from 7 to 15 since 2001. The school is no longer in danger of closing.

QUESTIONS

- (a) Using Source D, describe how life for **young** people on Gigha has improved since the island was bought by the locals. 6
- (b) “. . . large areas of rural Scotland have a declining population . . .” (Source A)
From your own knowledge, suggest **other** reasons for the decline in population in rural Scotland throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. 4
- (c) Using the Sources, describe ways in which **local farmers** might be affected by changes on the island. 4
- (d) Rural areas are not the only places in Scotland which have problems.
From your own knowledge,
- (i) describe some of the problems faced by **inner city** areas;
 - and
 - (ii) describe some solutions which have been tried or suggested.
- (You could write about problems such as housing, traffic or health, amongst others.) 6

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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