



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2013

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA3

Unit 3 A2 Culture and Society

Friday 7 June 2013 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is GENA3.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A, **one** question from Section B and **one** question from Section C.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 (20 for Section A, 25 for Section B and 25 for Section C).
- This paper consists of **three** sections.
 - Section A** contains two compulsory questions based on source material.
 - Section B** contains four alternative essay questions based on aspects of culture.
 - Section C** contains four alternative essay questions based on aspects of society.
- Write your answers in continuous prose as if you are addressing the intelligent general reader. You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

Section A

Study **Sources A** and **B** on **Scottish Independence** and then answer **Questions 01** and **02**.

Use your own words, rather than simply repeating those used in the sources, to show your understanding of the points being made.

Source A

Scottish independence: is it ta-tartan to the Union?

It's no surprise that some Scots want to get the hell out of the UK, seeing the way the country is right now.

And there will always be chippy Little Englanders south of the border complaining that we English bung the Scots enormous wedges of dosh every year so they can feast on their deep-fried sheep pies.

But Scotland has brought a lot of money into the UK through North Sea oil revenues – more than enough to cover the pie subsidy.

The real point, though, is we are the same people, the English and the Scots. I bet every one of you reading this has a Scottish auntie or great grandmother.

And everyone north of the border has Sassenach blood in their veins, even if it's diluted with whisky and Irn-Bru. We've intermingled for too long to be anything other than the same people – and the majority of Scots know this.

That's why if there was a referendum tomorrow the vote would be against separation from the UK.

The Scottish National Party knows this only too well, which is why they want a referendum later – hoping something might turn up to swing the vote.

A few years ago the trend was for countries to break up and the constituent parts to go it alone.

The Scots looked across the water and saw how well the Irish were doing and thought, 'We'll have some of that.'

But the credit crunch put a stop to that: the small countries are now terribly vulnerable.

Anyway, do you want to have to change your Pound sterling for bags of oats every time you cross the border? It's a ludicrous idea.

The truth is that the biggest cultural gap in Britain is between London and the rest of the country, not between England and Scotland.

Together, we're stronger and happier, no matter how, from time to time, it might seem as if they hate us.

Source: adapted from ROD LIDDLE, 'Scottish independence: is it ta-tartan to the Union?',
The Sun, 10 January 2012

Source B**Scottish independence: a chance to build a modern, confident state**

In dealing with matters of national sensitivity, it is advisable for politicians to tread carefully or reap consequences that may mark them down in history in ways they would not wish. In the seven days since David Cameron called on Alex Salmond, Scotland's first minister and leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), to hold a quick and clean referendum on home rule for Scotland, he appears to have fuelled rather than neutralised the desire for greater freedom on the part of a growing number of Scots. Where this ends may yet mean that David Cameron, 'passionate' about the 300-year-old Union, is nevertheless the prime minister on whose watch it begins to break up.

What the polls indicate is that a majority of Scots would prefer a second option, known as 'devo max'. So far, it is ruled out by the coalition and Labour. Devo max would give Scotland fiscal autonomy. Holyrood would set, raise and keep all taxes, remitting to London Scotland's share of common costs on foreign affairs and defence.

Scotland is a relatively small country of 5.2 million. Under the Barnett Formula, devised in the 1970s, public spending is allocated to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland according to population size rather than need. It has served Scotland well. According to research by the University of Stirling, England 'loses' £4.5bn of public money to Scotland annually. In counterbalance, in 2011–12, Scotland's oil and gas revenue will amount to £11bn (halved since 1999), 0.7% of UK national income and is eventually due to run out.

The SNP has invested in transport infrastructure and early years development. Council tax is frozen, the NHS budget is protected in 'real terms', universities are free as is social care for older people. But there are rocks ahead. Greater fiscal independence will also require less popular accounting decisions. Scotland, for instance, has a higher proportion of older people. As Paul Johnson of the Institute of Fiscal Studies points out, should separation come: "Even if you have a happy year one, year 10 may look more difficult."

Now, a Westminster-based tartan posse including Alistair Darling and Charles Kennedy, is intent on persuading would-be separatists that the status quo is best. They will warn that Scottish independence demands a radical reconfiguration of the UK constitution. So, the sooner a grown-up debate commences, home truths are heard and the name-calling ceases, the better. What is also welcome is the opportunity this might offer to consider the possible continuing evolution of the United Kingdom. Could it become a loose federation in which, for instance, Scotland has 'secure autonomy', independent in all but name and minus the shadow of assumed English superiority?

Scotland is about to participate in the greatest democratic exercise in its history. It is important that others in the United Kingdom are active participants and their voices are heard too. If this happens, we may yet forge a stronger set of institutions from which a modernised version of the UK can be built of which we are all proud to be called citizens.

Source: adapted from EDITORIAL, *The Observer*, 15 January 2012

Turn over for Section A questions

Turn over ►

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Compare the views expressed and the styles of writing in Sources A and B about Scottish independence. *(10 marks)*

0	2
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How far do you support the view that the United Kingdom should be broken up? *(10 marks)*

END OF SECTION A

Section B

Answer **one** question from **03** to **06**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER**0 3**

'It has long been suggested that the aim of the visual arts is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inner significance.'

Examine this view and say how far you believe it to be true.

OR**0 4**

Broadcaster John Humphrys described reality shows as: "Sheer vulgarity. This is not just bad television in the sense that it's mediocre, pointless, puerile even. It's bad because it is damaging."

Discuss how far you believe his assessment to be justified.

OR**0 5**

'There is no heaven or afterlife...that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.'

Discuss how far you agree or disagree with Professor Stephen Hawking's assertion.

OR**0 6**

'The future of the cinema lies in Computer Generated Images and 3D movies.'

Examine this statement and say how far you believe it to be true.

END OF SECTION B

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C

Answer **one** question from **07** to **10**.

There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

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'At their best, human beings can be the noblest of all animals, but separated from law and justice they can be the worst.'

Discuss this view of humanity and say how far you believe it to be true.

OR

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'Gambling, whether at the level of buying lottery tickets or high finance, is a major evil of our times.'

Discuss the benefits and dangers to our society of gambling and other forms of financial speculation.

OR

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Discuss how far you believe that there are circumstances in which journalists may be justified in intercepting phone conversations, messages, emails and private papers of public figures and private individuals.

OR

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'With widening inequalities between the rich and the poor, the UK is on the verge of a class war.'

Examine this view and say how far you believe it to be true in 2013.

END OF QUESTIONS

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