



General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2013

Humanities

40701/PM

Unit 1 Humanities Core

Preliminary Material

Sources Booklet for Unit 1

To be opened and issued to candidates no sooner than Friday 1 February 2013

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

You have been given **one** copy of this Sources Booklet for use during your preparation for the examination. You may annotate this copy as you wish but you are **not** allowed to take it into the examination.

You will be provided with a clean copy of the Sources Booklet, along with the question paper, for use in the examination.

You are advised to study this Sources Booklet and the issues raised in it.

Your teacher is encouraged to teach lessons based on the Sources Booklet and to give assistance and advice as required.

Culture and Beliefs

Source A The Death Penalty

Capital punishment is to lawfully kill somebody as a punishment. This act is often called the death penalty. It has been used for a variety of crimes from very early times. It is still used in some countries such as the USA, where about two-thirds of the 50 States still practise capital punishment.

Less than 50 years ago in the UK, the death penalty was still used for murder. The method was hanging, which is generally quick. It takes around twenty seconds to kill the criminal. In the UK, the death penalty for murder has been stopped since 1965. However, a lot of people support the reinstatement of the death penalty. A petition showing such support will result in a debate in Parliament to look at the issue again. This is unlikely to change the law because most MPs are opposed to the death penalty. Religious views on the death penalty are not always clear. The world's major religions have different opinions on the death penalty, depending on the denomination, the individual believer and the time period.

In the USA, each individual State can decide whether the death penalty should be used. In recent years, every execution has caused argument over its justification. Lethal injection is the most widely used form of execution in the USA. Electrocuting, hanging, shooting and the gas chamber are also used to kill criminals, but these are less common. Sometimes, the murderer can choose their method of dying, which explains the one electrocution and the one shooting that took place in 2010. The southern States of the USA carry out most executions – about four-fifths of the total. Texas alone is responsible for a third of this total. Attitudes to the death penalty clearly differ in the USA as some States do not use it at all.

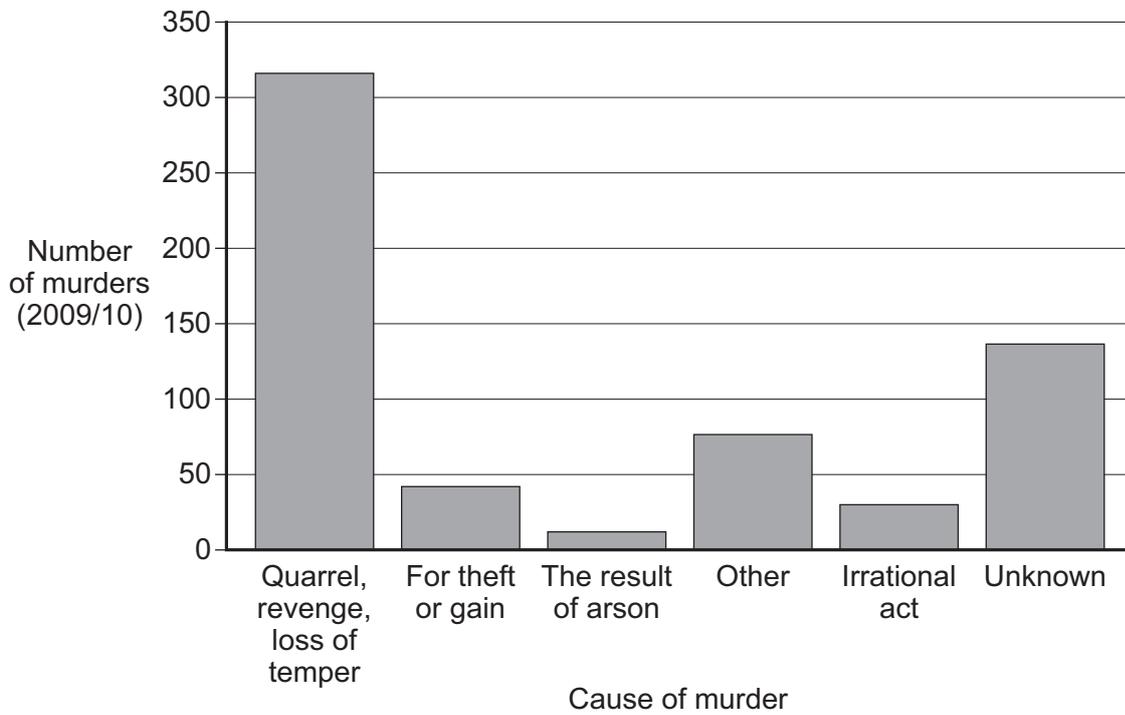
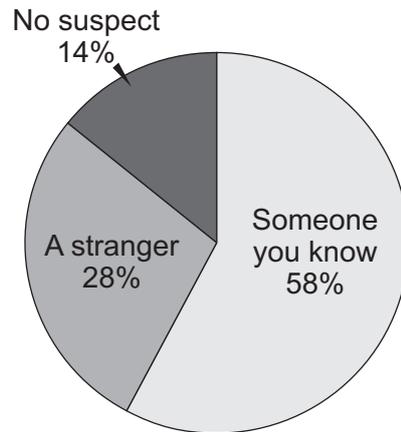
Figures show that, although homicides in the USA have fallen substantially in recent years, they are still four times as common as in England and Wales.

Homicide in England and Wales

In England and Wales, the National Crime Statistics report annually on the number of homicides. Homicide covers the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Since the 1960s, the number of homicides per million of the population has more than doubled. In 2009/10, 619 deaths were recorded as homicide. The age group most at risk of being victims were males aged 16 to 20. The rising trend is unevenly distributed. Those living in the poorest neighbourhoods have seen their risk of being a victim of homicide rise dramatically. There is growing evidence of a strong link between rising levels of poverty and increased rates of homicide. Over the past ten years, 30 killers who were released from jail in England and Wales have gone on to kill again.

Who murders and why? – 2009/10



Turn over ►

Source B Arguments for and against the Death Penalty**For**

- The death penalty protects people from the most dangerous criminals in society. This makes life safer for ordinary citizens.
- It is cheaper to kill a murderer than to lock them up for a long time.
- The 'eye for an eye' argument: the criminal suffers in the same way as the victim.
- Executing criminals deters other people from committing murder.
- Retribution – people should suffer for their crime.
- The death penalty is more humane than locking a murderer up for life.
- The death penalty gives the criminal a chance to accept their responsibility before dying.
- It provides closure for the victim's family.
- Recent opinion polls show that there is widespread support for the death penalty in the UK.

Against

- Innocent people may die: there have been famous miscarriages of justice.
- Execution causes suffering to the murderer, particularly with some forms of the death penalty.
- Execution causes suffering to the murderer's family.
- The death penalty reflects a more brutal society.
- The death penalty removes any chance that the murderer may be rehabilitated.
- The death penalty reduces the value of human life: everyone has the right to live.
- It is very expensive to carry out the death penalty.
- The death penalty is seen as a "cruel and unusual" punishment.
- Many religions believe it is wrong to take human life.

Source C Two views on the Death Penalty**Mother calls for death penalty for her daughter's killer**

The mother of schoolgirl Janet X, who was murdered by her former boyfriend, said the killer ought to face the death penalty.

Antony Y, 16, was jailed for life for battering 15-year-old Janet to death with a rock and was told he would spend at least 14 years behind bars before being eligible for parole.

But outside court, Janet's mother, Barbara, said the sentence had not brought any relief to the family.

She said: "The evil-doer Antony Y robbed us of watching our precious and perfect little girl flourish into a successful young woman.

"We will never forgive him for tearing our world apart so brutally and I would welcome the return of capital punishment for the likes of Antony Y, who forfeited his human rights when he chose to take my daughter's life."

Barbara said Janet had been aiming to become a doctor and had even started planning her own wedding.

"Antony Y snuffed all that out," she said. "There is no doubt in my mind that Janet was destined for great things." She said it was all the harder to bear because Janet had "trusted and loved" her killer.

What Amnesty says about the death penalty

The death penalty is the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights. By working towards the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, Amnesty International aims to end the cycle of violence created by a system full of economic bias, racial bias and human error.

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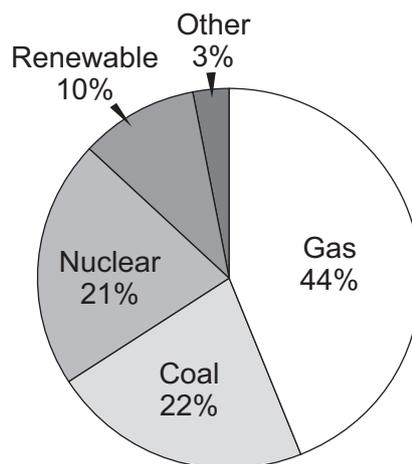
Environmental Issues

Source D The UK Energy Problem

The energy 'problem' facing the UK is urgent. There is an increasing demand for energy. At the same time as nuclear power plants are being decommissioned due to old age, there is declining gas production in the North Sea, which means that more gas is having to be imported at a higher cost. Coal is in decline because it is environmentally unfriendly and oil is expensive to import and there is no security of supply from oil rich countries. As yet, there is no agreement on building new nuclear power stations.

However, the government is committed to doubling the production of energy generated by renewable technologies by 2020. It is hoped that this will meet 20% of the country's energy needs by this date, but some believe that it will meet only 5% of demand.

UK energy production (2nd quarter 2011)



Source E Renewable Energy Production

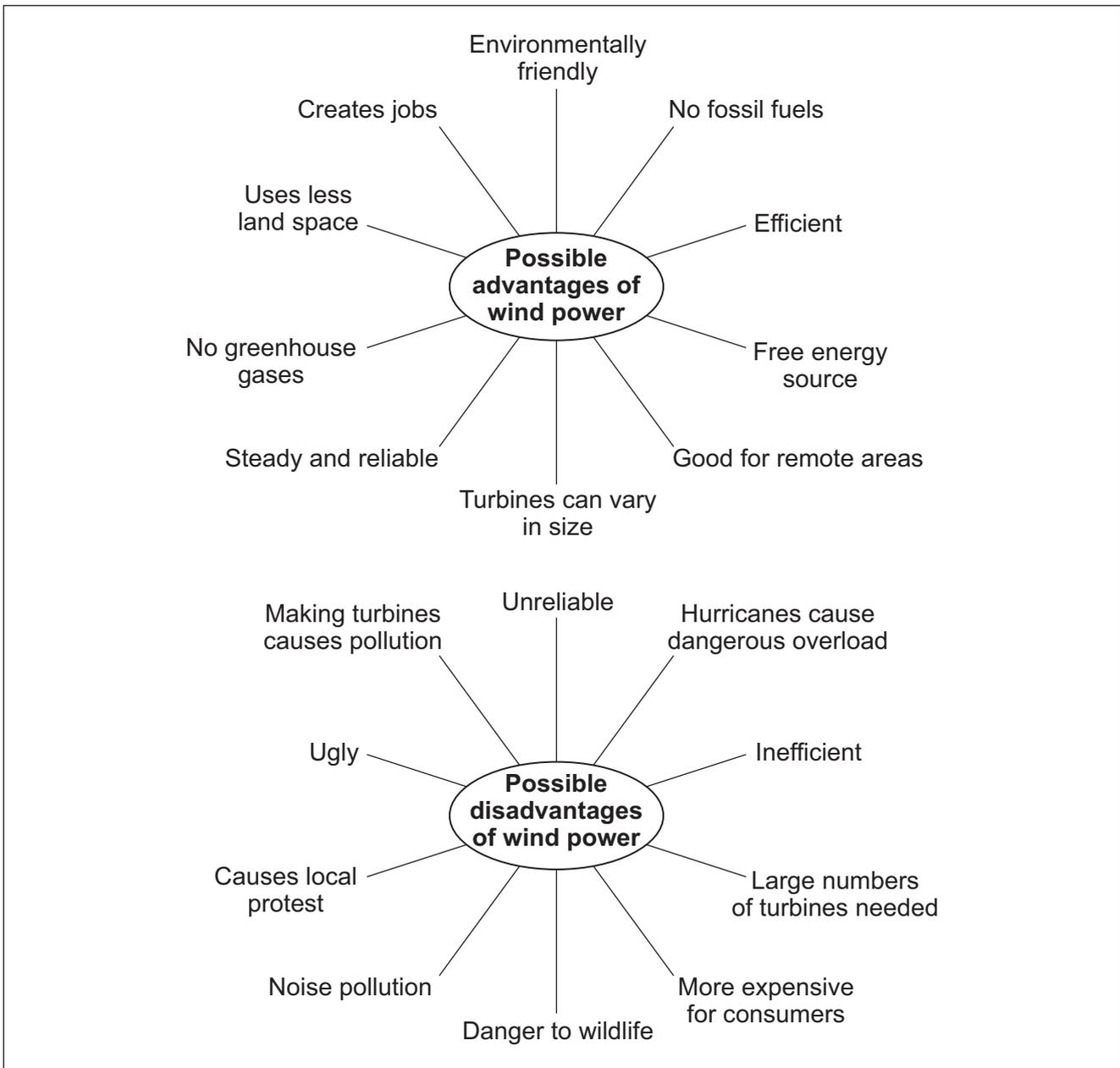
Renewable energy consists of geothermal, solar, wind, tidal and biomass. These are sometimes called green energy sources and currently make up about ten per cent of the UK's total energy output.

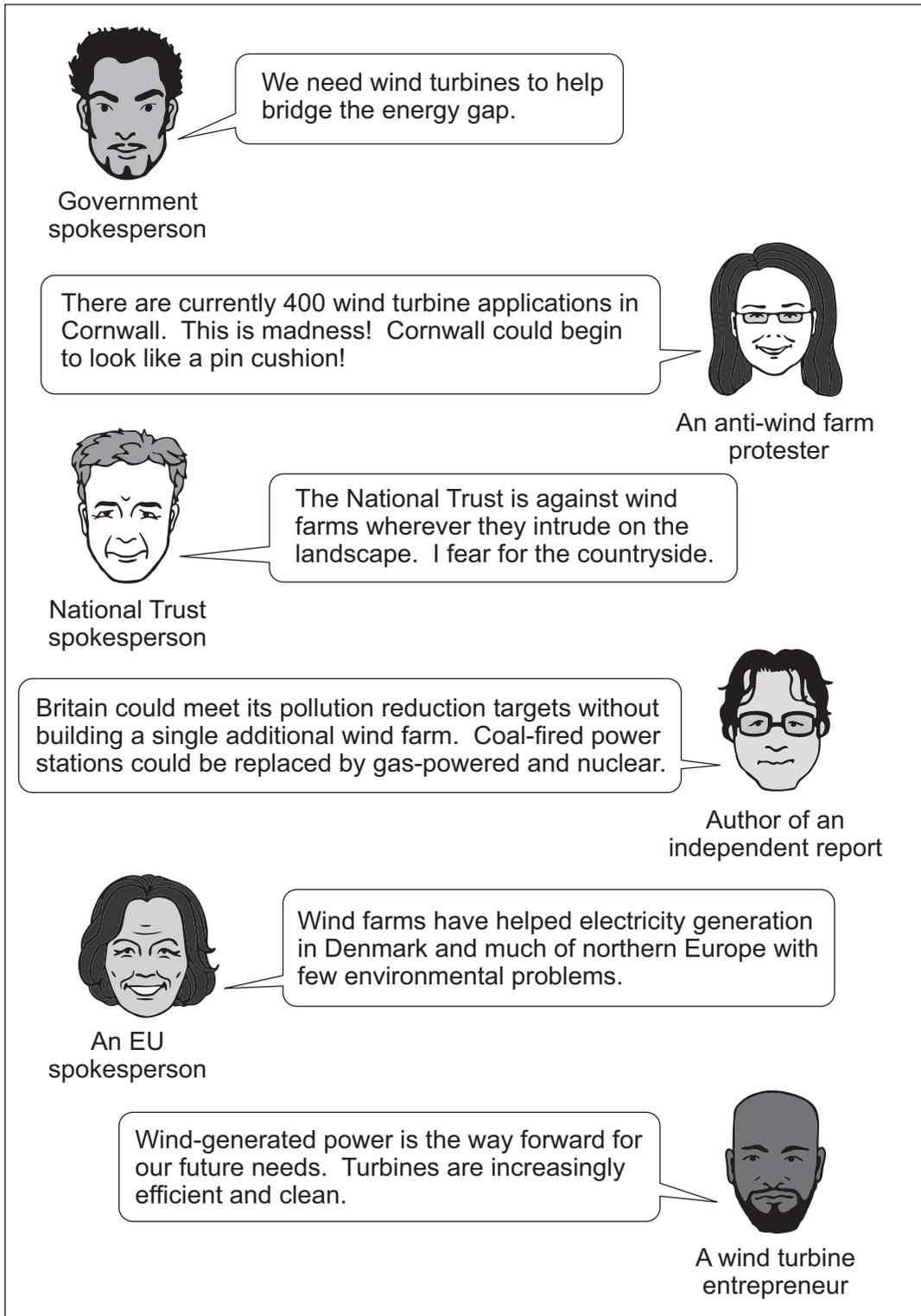
There is a great push for this share to increase and for the government to provide a series of incentives to increase the amount of renewables, such as tax incentives, speeding up of planning permission and providing sites for development. For example, a company that produces renewable energy could pay less tax on its profits. This could make renewable energy easier to develop and less expensive.

Professor David Mackay, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, has stated that, even if ten per cent of the country were covered with wind turbines, it would generate only one-sixth of the nation's energy needs. A one gigawatt power station creates as much energy as 1400 onshore wind turbines.

Turn over for the next Source

Turn over ►

Source F The possible effects of Wind Power

Source G Wind Power

 We need wind turbines to help bridge the energy gap.

Government spokesperson

 There are currently 400 wind turbine applications in Cornwall. This is madness! Cornwall could begin to look like a pin cushion!

An anti-wind farm protester

 The National Trust is against wind farms wherever they intrude on the landscape. I fear for the countryside.

National Trust spokesperson

 Britain could meet its pollution reduction targets without building a single additional wind farm. Coal-fired power stations could be replaced by gas-powered and nuclear.

Author of an independent report

 Wind farms have helped electricity generation in Denmark and much of northern Europe with few environmental problems.

An EU spokesperson

 Wind-generated power is the way forward for our future needs. Turbines are increasingly efficient and clean.

A wind turbine entrepreneur

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