

General Studies (Specification A)

GENA4

Unit 4 A2 Science and Society

Wednesday 12 June 2013 9.00 am to 11.00 am

For this paper you must have:

- a copy of the Pre-release Case Study Source Material (enclosed)
- 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 GENA4.
- Answer all questions in Section A and one question from Section B.
- Use your own words, rather than simply repeating those used in the sources, to show your understanding of the points being made.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70 (45 for Section A and 25 for Section B).
- This paper consists of two sections.
 - **Section A** contains four compulsory questions based on the pre-release Case Study Source Material provided earlier and the new source provided in this examination paper (a new copy of the pre-release material is provided as an insert to this question paper).
 - **Section B** contains four alternative essay questions based on Science and 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, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

Section A

Answer Questions 1 to 4 using pre-release Sources A to E and new Source F provided below.

There is a total of 45 marks for this section.

Source F

Green taxes make up 20% of household energy bills, campaigners warn



Image: EAEM, www.eaem.co.uk

Families are being forced to pay an average £200 a year in taxes on their energy bills to fund Britain's investment in wind and solar power. Campaigners last night demanded greater transparency from energy companies over the levies, and accused the government of hiding behind suppliers to raise revenues by the back door.

The call comes amid mounting pressure on energy companies for a fresh inquiry into price rises after the latest round of price increases led to accusations of profiteering. Dr Benny Peiser, director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, said the rising price of fuel was partly caused by Britain's "stubborn but wrong-headed commitment to renewable energy".

He said: "So-called green stealth taxes are already adding 15–20% to the average domestic power bill and even more to business users." According to Dr Peiser, British households spend £608 a year on gas and another £424 on electricity on average. Green taxes make up between £154 and £206 of that bill.

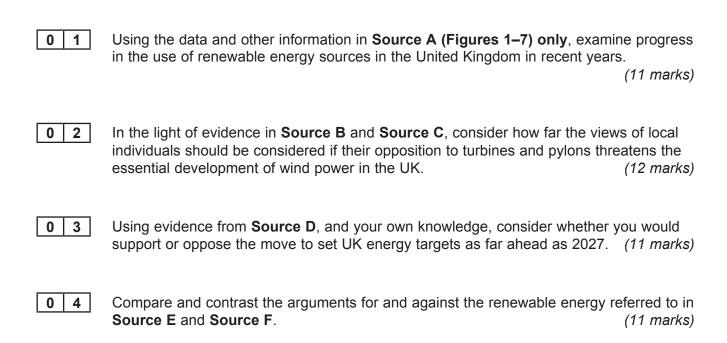
"That, of course, suits the Government down to the ground. If it raised the huge sums required to encourage renewable energy and limit carbon emissions through general taxation, it would make the Government very unpopular. But by doing it through electricity and gas bills, the Government has cleverly ensured that it's the power companies that take the blame," said Peiser.

Under the Climate Change Act, the Government is legally bound to cut Britain's CO_2 emissions by 34% by 2020 and 50% by 2025. To meet its targets the government is encouraging the building of 10 000 wind turbines. It also wants power companies to spend £7 billion to install smart meters in homes.

Politicians yesterday called on the Government to force energy companies to declare the prices they pay for gas and electricity, so that customers can then compare these with what they are being charged. They also called for the industry to be referred to the Competition Commission.

Tim Yeo, Conservative MP and Chair of the Commons' Energy and Climate Change Committee, said: "If energy companies want to win back trust, they should make it clear what they have paid. Until we have that transparency, the public will remain suspicious that prices go up rather quickly and come down rather slowly."

Source: Adapted from Murray Wardrop, 'Green taxes make up 20% of household bills, campaigners warn', The Telegraph, 9 June 2011



Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

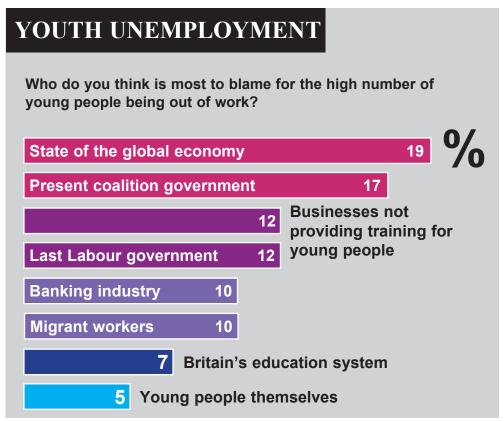
There are 25 marks for each question.

Where appropriate, use examples to illustrate your answer.

EITHER

0 5 Examine the following information about youth unemployment.

Three- month period	Unemployed 16–24 year olds	Youth unemployment rate for 16–24 year olds
May-July 2004	580 000	12.2%
May-July 2011	933 000	20.8%
July-Sept 2011	1020000	21.9%



Source: Adapted from Toby Helm, 'Why we're proud to be British', *The Observer*, 8 January 2012, Guardian News & Media Limited 2012 Graphic: British Future report

To what extent do the poll results shown above reflect your own views on the main causes of youth unemployment?

Discuss what measures could be taken to reduce the high level of youth unemployment in the United Kingdom.

OR

o 6 'It is important that as many sports as possible make full use of available technology to settle disputes about decisions made while events take place.'

Examine the extent to which different sports currently use technology in an effort to settle disputes about decisions made by referees and umpires.

Discuss the factors that might make some sports authorities cautious about the use and spread of technology to settle disputes about decisions.

OR

0 7 'Science and religion cannot co-exist easily or even at all.'

Examine the practices and beliefs on which science and religion are based.

Discuss the arguments for and against the assertion that 'science and religion cannot co-exist easily or even at all'.

OR

o 8 'The £16bn High Speed 2 rail project linking London and Birmingham, and eventually extending to northern England, will bring many advantages and is crucial to further development of both the rail network and the British economy.'

Examine the advantages of the High Speed 2 development, which is Britain's biggest public project in peacetime.

Discuss the case made by critics of the project.

END OF QUESTIONS

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