Teacher Resource Bank

GCE General Studies B

Resource List
RESOURCE LIST

There are two sets of materials that have been expressly written to support the new specification. These are:

1. AQA/Nelson Thornes online resources. These will consist of guides to answering specimen questions published by AQA. Students are directed to particular websites where they are encouraged to find for themselves examples to support the points that they might make in an essay response. Further details of these resources can be found at: www.nelsonthornes.com/aqagce or by telephoning 01242 267287.

2. AQA(B) Advanced General Studies, by Colin Swatridge, published by Philip Allan Updates, 2008. This is designed to be an all-sufficient coursebook that takes students through each of the units, supplying them with texts, questions of the sort that will be asked in examinations and guidance as to how to respond. Full responses are given in a separately published Teacher Guide. This is a photocopiable pack incorporating material on CD.

There are coursebooks and resource packs that were written to the previous specification by current AQA General Studies B senior examiners that may continue to have a usefulness:


4. AS/A2 General Studies Resource Packs 1-4 (2000-2004), and the Question and Answer Guide (2nd Edition, 2002), published by Philip Allan Updates are also generic resources but the texts and questions in them have always been of the sort that figure on AQA(B) examination papers.

There are coursebooks not written by AQA(B) General Studies examiners that may have useful material in them:


The following are websites that have something to offer to each of the ten topics in

**Unit 1: Conflict:**

**Human Aggression:** www.wiu.edu/users/smk102/psy452.html
Though a US, Western University Illinois, site it is user-friendly, colourful and authoritative about various forms and contexts of aggression.

**Controversy in Science and Technology:** http://www.cst.gov.uk/cst/news/
The Council for Science and Technology is a high-powered government advisory committee. Among its most recent reports has been one on nanotechnology.

**Tensions in Society:** www.jrf.org.uk/pressroom/releases/290507.asp
The Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s findings from reports published in 2007 about migrants in the UK, social cohesion, housing, age and gender tensions.

**Politics and the Public:** www.publicpolitics.net
Non-party-political site; political news; many links, for example, to BBC sites. The day’s latest political headlines, etc.

**The Arts as a Challenge:** http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/art/
Blogs that carry weight. A day’s screenload may include items on art galleries, architectural highlights, contemporary public art around Europe, etc.

**Media Bias:** www.cpbf.org.uk/
The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom website. Many stories from all over the world, but principally the UK, about media bias. All stories have a date attached, and are readable in full.

**The Market:** www.berr.gov.uk/files/file23663.pdf

**Business Big and Small:** www.startups.co.uk/
A site for and about small and medium-sized businesses; advice, news, accounts of successful business start-ups.

**The Individual and Society:** www.libertarian.co.uk/lapubs/philn/philn044.pdf

**Tolerance and Intolerance:** http://tandis.odihr.pl/index.php?p=ki-mu
It is in the nature of this specification that Units 2-4 are rather less knowledge-intensive than Unit 1. The following websites, suitable for use in connection with Units 2-4, therefore, are of a more generic nature than those above.

**Unit 2: Space**

www.bns.gov.uk/
The British National Space Centre site. Discovering space, our planet, missions, learning zone, industry, etc.

www.bbc.co.uk/climate/
A site specifically devoted to the climate change debate; with links to sites that answer all the most often asked questions. An accessible site that assumes no specialist knowledge.

www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/index.htm
Introduction to environmental protection, and an index of particular DEFRA concerns, e.g. Air quality, farming and the environment, soil and contamination of land, noise, recycling and waste, etc.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/
The main site of the National Trust. The ‘about us’ link is especially useful for a further link to current campaigns, and the history and future of the Trust.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/
This includes global warming impacts on the UK, flood warnings and risks, water quality, waste disposal. Many useful links, and the facility to look for local issues, by typing in a postcode.

www.greenparty.org.uk/news
News, policies, articles, Greening the economy, green people, etc.

http://lass.calumet.purdue.edu/cca/gmm/
A global media monitoring site published by Purdue University, Indiana, US. It is an academic site that keeps a watch on global communication and mass media.
Unit 3: Power

www.channel4.com/science/
Channel 4’s science in society site, giving leads to 'science and medicine', body and mind, science in engineering, science in war, etc.

www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm
A government website that leads to relevant material on: employment, home and community, rights and responsibilities, crime, justice and the law.

http://democracy.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/democracy/power_and_influence
Democracy and civil society: a Carnegie UK Trust initiative to investigate 'power and influence'.

www.britishcouncil.org/arts
The British Council home-page – the body responsible for promoting Britain and its culture around the world. ‘Read on to learn about what we do, find out more about the UK arts scene and the artists that we engage with, and explore examples of our work across many different art-forms.’

www.ethicalcorp.com/
A guide to the extent to which corporations pursue ethical policies. Many relevant articles are retrievable.

www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/
Latest news and an index of campaign issues: torture, terrorism, the Human Rights Act, free speech, privacy, protest, equality, etc.
Unit 4: Change

http://royalsociety.org/landing.asp?id=6
'Topical issues on which the Royal Society has conducted a study, issued a science brief, held a meeting, issued a press release…'

www.intute.ac.uk/
'Free online service providing you with access to the very best web resources for education and research.'

http://fabians.org.uk/
The home-page of The Fabian Society, a left-leaning political reform group.

www.guardian.co.uk/media
This is probably the best single website that handles new media, developments and trends in ‘old’ media, news in the media, and media in the news.

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vnlk=242
A government site that charts consumer trends.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/
The home-page of English Heritage which ‘exists to protect and promote England’s spectacular historic environment…'

www.vexen.co.uk/UK/religion.html
Though not an institutional site, this is a responsible, well-supported paper on trends in religious belief in the UK, by Vexen Crabtree, in July 2007. It contains many useful tables and charts.

A very comprehensive overview of trends in norms and values in the UK. The whole web address is required to download the site.