

General Studies

Exam Board: OCR

Summary of course content

At AS the course covers 2 key areas:

- Unit 1: The social and cultural domains:
Political systems, processes and goals,
Social and economic trends and constraints,
Explanation and evaluation of human behaviour,
Beliefs, values and moral reasoning,
Media and communications,
Creativity and innovation.
- Unit 2: The Scientific Domain
Characteristics of the sciences (physical, life and earth),
Understanding of scientific methods, principles, criteria and their application,
Mathematical reasoning and its application.

Summary of assessment scheme

AS	Unit 1: The social and cultural domains (70%) 120 marks. 2 hour exam.	This paper has four sections: Section A: Candidates focus on the Cultural Domain and are provided with focused resource material on which they answer a series of short, structured questions. Section B: Candidates focus on the Cultural Domain and are required to write at greater length on one of three topics. Section C: Candidates focus on the Social Domain and are provided with focused resource material on which they answer a series of short, structured questions. Section D: Candidates focus on the Social Domain and are required to write at greater length on one of three topics. Candidates answer all of Sections A and C, and one question in Sections B and D as indicated.
	Unit 2: The Scientific Domain (30%) 60 marks. 1 hour exam.	This paper has two sections: Section A: Candidates focus on the Scientific Domain and are provided with focused resource material on which they answer a series of short, structured questions.

		<p>Section B: Candidates focus on the Scientific Domain and are required to write at greater length on one of three topics.</p> <p>Candidates answer all the questions in Section A and one question in Section B as indicated.</p>
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Why you should study General Studies in the Sixth form:

With AS level based on individual subject choice (from a range of options), General Studies allows students to broaden and complement their other studies. It allows you to consider alternative issues from beyond the confines of your subject specialisms and gain a wider perspective on the world which is appreciated by employers and universities alike. General Studies enhances and draws together skills which are used in a range of subjects and improves logical, thinking and analytical skills. Most of all, the subject covers a wider range of very interesting topics, gives you a better insight into the way society works and the issues that will have a very real impact on your lives in the future.

Comments from students who have studied this subject in the past

- “It gets you talking about issues you might not discuss in other subjects”
- “It teaches you about the world that we live in.”
- “You get to explore different aspects of interesting topics.”

Frequently asked Questions

Do I have to study General Studies?

General Studies is one of a series of Enrichment options for Year 12 students. One of these options must be chosen.

How much work is involved?

One hour per week is allocated for General Studies. Certain homeworks – in order to prepare for classroom discussion / activities – will be set.

How can I do well at General Studies?

By keeping an open mind and being aware of current issues. Watching the news regularly and reading a national paper is an excellent way of preparing yourself and keeping up to date with topics throughout the course.

E. Payne, General Studies