



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
January 2012

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]



FRIDAY 27 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

TIME

1 hour 30 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided. Choose **either Option A: Political Power or Option B: Political Ideas.**

From your chosen option, study the source provided and answer questions **1, 2,** and either **3(a)** or **3(b).**

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 60.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions **2** and **3.**

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of the page indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question in allocating the available examination time.

You are advised to study the source before attempting to answer questions **1** and **2,** and to refer to the source in your answers to these questions.

Option A: Political Power

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Source

Many societies have moved away from oligarchy and become progressively more democratic. In some societies, such as the UK, this democratisation process was very gradual. In others, it has been much more rapid. One important step in the process is freedom to organise to promote a range of opinions. When this happens the outcome of the process is that political power belongs to the mass of the population rather than being enjoyed by just the few. The appeal of “people power” to ordinary citizens means that more and more political systems are moving in that direction.

- 1 Which theory of political power is put forward in the Source? With reference to the Source and other relevant material you have studied, explain **three** features of this theory. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how the theory of political power you identified in question 1 can be criticised. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that all political systems are patriarchal. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that a lack of political legitimacy is the main reason why states collapse. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Source

Good government is one led by responsible statesmen and women who regard their mission as creating order. The world is a hostile and dangerous place and the job of government is to protect the nation and its people from danger. This danger can come from enemies within: individuals who are intent upon causing havoc and chaos. It can also come from enemies without: those who want to destroy our entire way of life. The primary role of the state is to confront and defeat all threats to good order, as “good order is the foundation of all good things.”

- 1 Which ideological view is put forward in the Source? With reference to the Source and other relevant material you have studied, explain **three** features of this theory. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how ideological opponents of the view you identified in question 1 might criticise it. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate Marx and Engels’ view in the *Communist Manifesto* that capitalism should be and will be destroyed. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate Mill’s view in *On Liberty* that applying the “Harm Principle” would help to avoid the “tyranny of the majority”. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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