



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2011

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]

TUESDAY 7 JUNE, MORNING



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 pages 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

The study of legitimacy is notoriously difficult. The sources of legitimacy differ from one political system to another. What can be a major factor in legitimising one state can have little relevance in another. In some systems religion plays a huge part in helping to legitimise the political institutions while in others it is insignificant.

Legitimacy is not constant but tends to change over time depending on a variety of factors. While most in society may regard the state as legitimate, another group or groups may not, most frequently because they believe themselves to be discriminated against. For these reasons, the study of legitimacy is a complicated process.

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **three** factors that can help to legitimise a state. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain why some groups in society may not regard the state as legitimate. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view of those who believe that western liberal democracy is a truly democratic type of political system. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the similarities and differences between the Marxist and Elite Theories of the nature and distribution of political power. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

The idea that human beings are self-seeking creatures motivated by personal advantage is widely held. In this view, politics is about regulating this human instinct and preventing it taking anti-social forms. But this view is a false one. Human beings are not, by nature, only concerned with their own selfish interests. On the contrary, the natural instinct of human beings is to work with and co-operate with others. Individuals are concerned for the common good and are willing to put personal interests aside. This attitude can be seen in the UK in the continuing high levels of popular support for the Welfare State and the National Health Service. If individuals act in a greedy and self-interested way it is because of the competitive and ruthless capitalist system that they are forced to live in.

- 1 Which ideological view is put forward in the Source? With reference to the Source and any 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 would criticise it. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view, expressed by John Stuart Mill in *On Liberty*, that “one very simple principle” is sufficient to guarantee individual liberty. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view, expressed by Edmund Burke in *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, that the application by the Revolutionaries of the principles of natural rights and human reason was certain to end in disaster. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgement in future if notified.