



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2012

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]

MONDAY 21 MAY, 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 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

One of the things that defines a state is that it claims to be the sole body that can legitimately use force. This means that no one else can use force unless authorised to do so by the state. All states have the power to coerce. Legitimate states tend to operate with a limited degree of force because the political institutions have the willing support of the people.

Illegitimate states tend to rely upon a high level of coercion to maintain control. For example, in February 2011 the Libyan authorities opened fire upon peaceful demonstrators in an attempt to prop up the regime. One of the many problems of relying on coercion is that it is a very expensive way of holding onto power.

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, identify and explain three forms of coercive power that states may employ. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the limitations of using force as the main way of holding onto power. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that democracy can never work due to the presence of elites in all political systems. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that wealth is the basis of power in all political systems. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

It is sometimes suggested that state constitutions “grant” rights to the members of society. This is incorrect because the word “grant” implies that rights are under the control of the state or political leaders to give or withhold. Constitutions do not grant rights but recognise natural rights that belong to individuals because they are human beings. Human rights are absolute and belong to all men and women whether the state recognises this or not.

The tragedy is that in so many political systems the state abuses the rights of its citizens. Though individuals are prevented from exercising these rights this does not mean they do not have them. However, others might argue that individual rights are now being emphasised at the expense of society.

- 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 view. [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) With reference to *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, evaluate Burke’s claim that respect for custom and tradition are essential in any political system. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate Marx and Engels’ claim in the *Communist Manifesto* that capitalism is fundamentally unstable. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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