



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2013

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]

THURSDAY 23 MAY, 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 events of the last number of years have, once again, confirmed that the structures of power in western societies do not operate in the interests of the people but rather they exist to protect the wealthy few. The mass of the population have felt the full effects of the economic recession brought about by the greed and selfishness of the financial sector of banks and speculators. Yet at the same time this sector has continued to enjoy unimaginable wealth. Governments have done nothing to tackle this. Never before has it been so apparent that the state continues to protect the interests of the ruling class.

- 1 Which theory of political power 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 the theory of political power you identified in Question 1 can be criticised. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that states that rely on coercion are the most stable. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that the absence of free and democratic elections is the main reason why states lose legitimacy. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

The effects of the world economic crisis that began in 2007–2008 continue to affect nations around the globe. There is nothing new in this crisis – it has all happened before. Capitalism has been regularly plagued by periods where production collapsed and economies shrunk, leading to massive unemployment and increased social deprivation. Some of these periods of recession have been particularly acute, such as the Great Depression of the 1930s but all have been part of a history of “boom and bust” going back to the 18th century. This illustrates that capitalism is, by nature, an unstable system that promises much but fails to deliver for the vast majority. What is more, the crises will continue and become steadily worse as capitalism becomes increasingly global.

- 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 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) “Burke was a conservative who opposed all change.” Evaluate this view with reference to Burke’s ideas as set out in *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view, set out by Mill in *On Liberty*, that custom is a barrier to progress. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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