



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2017

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



AQ221

[AQ221]

MONDAY 12 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

Some political leaders and systems are openly authoritarian and power is clearly monopolised by a small minority. This is a feature of all political systems and always will be. It is also the case that those who hold power will always rule in their own interests, usually at the expense of the majority. In some systems, such as Saudi Arabia, this is openly the case while in others it is more concealed. Political leaders come and go but the domination of power by the few remains a constant.

- 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 power you identified in Question 1 may be criticised. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) “No state, in which a large section of the population experience major social and economic inequalities, can hope to last.” Evaluate this view. [35]

Or

 - (b) “Fair, open and democratic elections are the only way in which a state can achieve legitimacy.” Evaluate this view. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

One of the few functions that the state should have is to create the conditions in which all citizens have equality of opportunity. Inequalities in income and wealth that result will therefore be the consequence of differences in ability and effort and are, therefore, perfectly fair. The objective of the state should therefore be to liberate individuals by creating the conditions in which equality of opportunity flourishes. One form this could take would be providing an education system that is fair and in which all children have an equal chance to succeed.

- 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 might criticise it. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate Burke's view, as set out in *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, that the "swinish multitude" of the mass of the population must be tightly controlled and can never be trusted. [35]

Or

- (b) Evaluate Marx and Engels' view, as set out in *The Communist Manifesto*, that the proletariat in capitalist societies will be driven to revolution by their ever-greater exploitation and misery. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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