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General Certificate of Education

2018

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



AGP21

[AGP21]

THURSDAY 14 JUNE, 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 answer **all five** questions, the **three** in Section A and the **two** in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 75.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in Questions **3, 5(a)** and **5(b)**.

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. Study the Source before attempting to answer Questions **2** and **3** and refer to the Source in your answers.

Option A: Political Power

Answer **all five** questions, the **three** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

Section A: The factors involved in the exercise of political power

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 3.

Source

All states claim a monopoly on the legitimate use of coercive power within their society. In democracies there is limited use of coercion, in the form of the police and prisons, to preserve public order. In authoritarian systems, coercive power is used widely and routinely to keep the citizens obedient but this is expensive. Authoritarian systems will spend a significant part of their budget on coercion because, in the absence of legitimate authority, they have no choice but to use force and fear to subdue the population. However, critics of liberal democracies argue that in democratic systems, ideological control is used to deceive and dupe the masses.

- 1 What is meant by the term “ideological control”? (Source, Line 7.) Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** limitations of the use of coercive power. [10]
- 3 Using material from the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain why democracies involve only the “limited use of coercion”. (Source, Line 2.) [20]

Section B: Theories of Power

4 What is meant by the term “circulation of elites”? [5]

Either

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

Or

(b) “Liberal democracy is not perfect but it is the best political system there is.” Evaluate this view. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Answer **all five** questions, the **three** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

Section A: Texts

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 3.

Source

The various interests and conditions of life within the ranks of the proletariat are more and more equalised, in proportion as machinery obliterates all distinctions of labour, and nearly everywhere reduces wages to the same low level.

The proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class. The other classes decay and finally disappear in the face of Modern Industry; the proletariat is its special and essential product.

In depicting the most general phases of the development of the proletariat, we traced the more or less veiled civil war, raging within existing society, up to the point where that war breaks out into open revolution, and where the violent overthrow of the bourgeoisie lays the foundation for the sway of the proletariat.

Adapted from: Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto, 1848

- 1 What did Marx and Engels mean by the “conditions of life within the ranks of the proletariat are more and more equalised”? (Source, Lines 1, 2.) [5]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the Communist Manifesto’s argument that a proletarian revolution was inevitable. [10]

- 3 Using material from the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how the idea of an inevitable proletarian revolution has been criticised. [20]

Section B: Ideologies

4 What is meant by the term “natural rights”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]

Either

5 (a) Evaluate the Conservative view that human beings are weak and irrational creatures whose behaviour needs to be controlled. [35]

Or

(b) Evaluate the Liberal view that the state poses the greatest threat to individual liberty and therefore state power must be strictly limited. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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