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**ADVANCED**  
General Certificate of Education  
2019

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# Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1  
Comparative Government



\* AGP11\*

[AGP11]

**THURSDAY 6 JUNE, MORNING**

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## TIME

2 hours 15 minutes.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided. Choose **either Option A**: The United States of America and the United Kingdom **or Option B**: The Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

From your chosen option answer **all six** questions, the **four** in Section A and the **two** in Section B.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100 marks.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in Questions **3, 4, 6(a)** and **6(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 part question in allocating the available examination time. Study the Source before attempting to answer Questions 2 and 4 and refer to the Source in your answers.

## Option A: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK)

Answer **all six** questions, the **four** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

### Section A: The Government and Politics of the USA

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 4.

#### Source

The Executive Office of the President (EXOP) incorporates a number of separate bodies. The best known of these are the Cabinet, the White House Office and the Office of Management and Budget. The EXOP has been an invaluable help to Presidents by preparing legislative proposals and developing strategies to enable them to achieve their goals. However, the President still faces congressional obstacles such as the “power of the purse” held by the Senate Appropriations Committee. President Trump’s proposal to cut the education budget by \$9.2 billion was rejected by the Senate and, instead, was raised by \$29 million. This in spite of both Houses having a Republican majority.

- 1 What is meant by the term “executive order”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, identify and explain **two** ways the US Senate can limit the power of the President. (Source, Lines 7/8) [10]
- 3 Explain why members of the House of Representatives focus so much on their representative role. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that power in the United States is increasingly concentrated in the hands of the President. [30]

**Section B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the USA and UK**

**5** Identify and explain **two** differences in the legislative powers of the Senate and the House of Lords. [10]

**6 Either**

**(a)** Assess the view that the US Cabinet is considerably weaker than its UK counterpart. [30]

**Or**

**(b)** Assess the view that the US Congress is a more effective scrutiny body than the UK Parliament. [30]

## Option B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK)

Answer **all six** questions, the **four** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

### Section A: The Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 4.

#### Source

Although Prime Ministers are used to negotiating and cutting deals, having to do so with Independent members of parliament is almost unique to Ireland. One consequence of the election of 23 Independents in 2016 will be that TDs will continue to prioritise local issues over national issues and to engage in brokerage. However, Independents have blackmail potential: they have the power to veto the formation of a government and, by implication, to dismiss it. In addition, TDs have many opportunities to challenge government policies and actions, for example, through questions to the Taoiseach and Ministers.

*Adapted from: The Irish Times. 10 June 2017*

- 1 What is meant by the term “hung Dáil”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
  
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, identify and explain **two** ways in which localism and brokerage influence the actions of TDs. (Source, Line 4) [10]
  
- 3 Explain the factors influencing a Taoiseach in choosing a cabinet. [15]
  
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that the Dáil is able to effectively scrutinise the executive. [30]

**Section B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland and the UK**

**5** Identify and explain **two** differences between the membership of the Seanad and the Lords. [10]

**6 Either**

**(a)** Assess the view that UK Prime Ministers control their cabinet but Irish Taoisigh are controlled by theirs. [30]

**Or**

**(b)** Assess the view that MPs have a much greater legislative role than TDs. [30]

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**THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

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**Sources**

**Option B:** © "Varadkar's deal with Independent TDs will be good for democracy", Liam Weeks, The Irish Times, 10/06/17

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