

M12/3/POLTH/SP2/ENG/TZ0/XX



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**POLITICAL THOUGHT
STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

SCHOOL BASED SYLLABUS

Monday 30 April 2012 (morning)

1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer the question.
- Section B: answer one question.
- The maximum mark for this paper is *[40 marks]*.

SECTION A

Read the extracts and then answer the question that follows:

EXTRACT A

There is one conception of democratically elected representatives that understands them to be mandated [instructed] to vote this way or that, another which sees them as left to decide for themselves which way they ought to vote. Merely drawing the distinction itself does not show which conception is to be preferred, but there is good reason to prefer the latter to the former. It is not good enough for the representative simply to pursue what his or her constituents want. That way, debate becomes nothing better than barter. At the time of choosing their representatives the electors cannot know, and hence cannot know about, all the issues that might be up for decision. And there is this further point: representatives must represent those who did *not* vote for them as well as those who *did*, even though, obviously, they have not been mandated or instructed by them. The delegate conception pursued to its logical conclusion would effectively disenfranchise all those who found themselves on the losing side.

[Source: adapted from *The case against democracy* by G Graham]

EXTRACT B

The education and character development of the citizen is encouraged by participation in the political system. It improves the whole of society. Such a citizen democracy assumes greater involvement than merely voting, with citizens taking an active part in the political system. “Direct democracy” is the means by which this can come about and the time for direct democracy may have come. People are better educated and have greater access to information, and have more wealth and leisure time than ever before. Representative systems of democracy belong to a less democratic, less educated and less affluent age. Their constitutional systems are increasingly viewed as museum pieces by their electorates, who become frustrated by the lack of accountability of the government to the people. Their elected representatives, to put it politely, do not seem to demonstrate a greater level of political judgment than the people they represent.

[Source: adapted from *Understanding Political Ideas and Movements* by K Harrison and T Boyd]

1. Using information in extracts A and B and your own knowledge, examine critically the view that “democratically elected representatives” should be “left to decide for themselves which way they ought to vote”.

[20 marks]

SECTION B

Answer **one** question, making reference to the ideas of political thinkers where appropriate.

2. Assess the view that the freedom of individuals depends upon their ability to choose between different alternatives. *[20 marks]*

 3. To what extent do individuals have a right to protest against laws with which they disagree? *[20 marks]*

 4. “The idea of a society in which everyone is equal is unnatural and would result in terrible uniformity.” How far would you agree, or disagree, with this view and why? *[20 marks]*
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