



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2018

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



AQ221

[AQ221]

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, 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

It has been assumed that the best way to achieve state legitimacy was to establish democratic elections. If the people had a genuine choice between candidates and could replace those in power through democratic means then they would be more likely to accept the political structures as legitimate. This was partly the thinking behind western intervention in Iraq and later Libya: overthrowing a dictator and creating democratic institutions would lead to peaceful and legitimate states. It is now clear that this was, at best, wishful thinking. Democracy might merely highlight social divisions and lead to conflict and instability. This highlights the point that legitimacy is complex and cannot simply be created.

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **three** ways in which liberal democratic features can contribute to state legitimacy. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain which factors, other than democracy, can contribute to legitimacy. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that political power is male dominated. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that, without greater social and economic equality, political power will continue to be dominated by the wealthy. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

The danger with revolutionaries is that they want to tear down everything and start again. They regard all traditional institutions and practices as corrupt and an obstacle to progress. This leads to revolutions that sweep away all aspects of the old system. Such an approach is dangerous because it fails to recognise that institutions have evolved over time to meet the needs of the nation. Scrapping them risks losing the positive influence they have on society. For example, it would be wrong to give into demands for the abolition of the British monarchy or the House of Lords. Nations that have abandoned their traditions and history are often destined to pay a heavy price. Those who do not remember the past are likely to repeat it.

- 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 theory you identified in Question 1 might criticise it. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view, set out in *The Communist Manifesto*, that capitalism creates its own “gravediggers”. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that Mill’s ideas, as set out in *On Liberty*, are based upon an overly optimistic view of human nature. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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