



ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
January 2010

Government and Politics
Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas
[AQ221]



AQ221

MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY, 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 the questions in your chosen option, answer **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.

For your chosen option, you should make reference to the Source in answering Questions **1** and **2.**

Option A: Political Power

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

Poverty and Instability

Many would see a direct link between the level of economic development in a society and the degree of stability of the political system. In this view the most affluent societies have a high degree of political stability which is marked by a very low level of internal conflict. By contrast, the history of poor countries is one of continuous internal conflict that takes the form of coups, revolutions and civil wars. The state enjoys only partial support from the people and this can evaporate very quickly. States are frequently overthrown and replaced by other, equally short lived states.

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain three factors that can undermine the stability of a state. [10]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain why more affluent societies tend to be more stable. [15]
- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that the concentration of political power is an inevitable feature of all political systems. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that coercive states can be stable and durable. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

Conservatism and Social Order

It is essential that the state should play a key role in the regulation of society and of individual behaviour. The state must provide a secure framework of strong law and order to ensure that wrongdoers are deterred and, if not deterred, then caught and punished.

A “Zero Tolerance” approach to crime has been proven to work in those societies that have had the good sense to adopt it. By contrast, those societies that have taken a liberal attitude towards crime have experienced a rising tide of lawlessness.

- 1 Explain three principles of the ideology referred to in the Source. [10]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how ideological opponents of the ideology in the Source might criticise it. [15]
- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate John Stuart Mill’s argument, expressed in *On Liberty*, that only free societies progress. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the argument expressed by Marx and Engels in the *Communist Manifesto*, that capitalism is fundamentally unequal and unfair to the vast majority of the population. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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