

**GCE AS**

**Government  
and Politics**

**January 2010**

**Mark Scheme**

Issued: April 2010



MARK SCHEMES (2010)

Foreword

*Introduction*

Mark Schemes are published to assist teachers and students in their preparation for examinations. Through the mark schemes teachers and students will be able to see what examiners are looking for in response to questions and exactly where the marks have been awarded. The publishing of the mark schemes may help to show that examiners are not concerned about finding out what a student does not know but rather with rewarding students for what they do know.

*The Purpose of Mark Schemes*

Examination papers are set and revised by teams of examiners and revisers appointed by the Council. The teams of examiners and revisers include experienced teachers who are familiar with the level and standards expected of 16- and 18-year-old students in schools and colleges. The job of the examiners is to set the questions and the mark schemes; and the job of the revisers is to review the questions and mark schemes commenting on a large range of issues about which they must be satisfied before the question papers and mark schemes are finalised.

The questions and the mark schemes are developed in association with each other so that the issues of differentiation and positive achievement can be addressed right from the start. Mark schemes therefore are regarded as a part of an integral process which begins with the setting of questions and ends with the marking of the examination.

The main purpose of the mark scheme is to provide a uniform basis for the marking process so that all the markers are following exactly the same instructions and making the same judgements in so far as this is possible. Before marking begins a standardising meeting is held where all the markers are briefed using the mark scheme and samples of the students' work in the form of scripts. Consideration is also given at this stage to any comments on the operational papers received from teachers and their organisations. During this meeting, and up to and including the end of the marking, there is provision for amendments to be made to the mark scheme. What is published represents this final form of the mark scheme.

It is important to recognise that in some cases there may well be other correct responses which are equally acceptable to those published: the mark scheme can only cover those responses which emerged in the examination. There may also be instances where certain judgements may have to be left to the experience of the examiner, for example, where there is no absolute correct response – all teachers will be familiar with making such judgements.

The Council hopes that the mark schemes will be viewed and used in a constructive way as a further support to the teaching and learning processes.



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*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED**

**General Certificate of Education**

**January 2010**

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## **Government and Politics**

### **Assessment Unit A2 1**

*assessing*

**Module 4: The Government and  
Politics of the USA**

**Module 5: The Government and  
Politics of the Republic of Ireland**

**[A2Q11]**

**FRIDAY 22 JANUARY, MORNING**

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# **MARK SCHEME**

**Section A****Module 4: The Government and Politics of the USA****1 (a) Background**

[1] will be given for each correct identification and up to [4] for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. One of the principal aims of those who created the Constitution and who later added the Bill of Rights was the protection of individual liberty. Candidates may refer to the Bill of Rights or to the many other changes to the Constitution that were intended to protect individual freedom in areas such as abortion, religious freedom, the rights of the accused.

Weaker candidates may fail to identify more than one relevant means or fail to provide adequate examples or explanation. Stronger answers will provide full explanations.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the how the Constitution seeks to protect individual freedom but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([3]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution seeks to protect individual freedom. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([5]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution seeks to protect individual freedom. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([7]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution seeks to protect individual freedom. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).



**Level 5 ([9]–[10])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of how the Constitution seeks to protect individual freedom. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

**(b) Background**

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Supporters of the Constitution claim that it has stood the test of time and as a result of its in-built capacity for renewal through both formal and informal amendments can provide a flexible basis for government. Detractors claim that it is outdated and has often been a hindrance to effective government and would cite such examples as gridlock between the legislature and executive and the difficulty in reforming gun laws due to the right to bear arms.

Weaker candidates will tend to produce a one-sided argument or one which lacks evidence. Stronger answers will be both balanced and well supported with evidence.

**Level 1 ([1]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the Constitution needs to be fundamentally reformed but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([5]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the Constitution needs to be fundamentally reformed. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([9]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the Constitution needs to be fundamentally reformed. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1).

An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([13]–[16])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the Constitution needs to be fundamentally reformed. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([17]–[20])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the Constitution needs to be fundamentally reformed. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [20]

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**2 (a) Background**

[1] will be given for each correct identification and up to [4] for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. The criticisms of the Supreme Court result from its capacity to influence policy but its unelected, unaccountable and unrepresentative nature. Candidates may also refer to the power of the Court to make decisions that, arguably, are not in line with the views of most US citizens. The power of the Court to check the actions of the democratically elected parts of the system is another possible criticism.

Weaker candidates may fail to identify two clear criticisms or may fail to fully explain, with suitable examples, those they have identified. Stronger answers will clearly identify two criticisms of Supreme Court powers.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the criticisms made of the powers of the Supreme Court but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([3]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the criticisms made of the powers of the Supreme Court. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([5]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the criticisms made of the powers of the Supreme Court. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([7]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the criticisms made of the powers of the Supreme Court. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([9]–[10])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the criticisms made of the powers of the Supreme Court. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference

to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

**(b) Background**

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Candidates should identify those areas where Court decisions have shaped the US political system and society. It is clear that the Supreme Court has played a vital role with landmark rulings in the areas of civil rights, women's rights and the rights of the accused. Candidates must also consider the limitations on the power of the Supreme Court, such as the inability to initiate cases; the inability to enforce decisions; limitations on case load due to time; and financial restrictions. It should be explained how these have hampered the Court's capacity to act. It is expected that candidates will demonstrate a solid understanding of why this situation arises and of the importance of the support of public opinion for the Supreme Court if their rulings are to be adhered to.

Weaker candidates may tend to produce a one-sided argument or one which is lacking in supporting evidence. Stronger answers will have a firm understanding of the point of the question and be balanced.

**Level 1 ([1]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the role of the Supreme Court in US politics but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([5]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the significance of the Supreme Court. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([9]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the significance of the Supreme Court. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political

vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([13]–[16])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the significance of the Supreme Court. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([17]–[20])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the significance of the Supreme Court. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

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**3 (a) Background**

[1] will be given for each correct identification and up to [4] for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. In spite of the assertion that parties do not matter in the US there are clearly a number of essential roles that they play. The parties clearly play a crucial role in elections in the US at all levels. The parties are also very significant inside Congress with regard to both legislation and scrutiny.

Weaker candidates may fail to make two clear roles or will produce a response which is lacking in evidence or has a poor quality of explanation for the points made. Stronger answers will fully understand the roles of US parties.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the roles played by US political parties but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([3]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the roles played by US political parties. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([5]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the roles played by US political parties. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([7]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the roles played by US political parties. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([9]–[10])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the roles played by US political parties. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The

candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

**(b) Background**

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. There are those who argue that ideological convergence and regional differences within the parties have resulted in the elimination of any substantive differences between the Republicans and Democrats. The alternative view is that important differences still do exist over the fundamental issues affecting American society. Candidates will be expected to assess these positions and come to a firm conclusion, using evidence, in order to answer the question.

Weaker candidates may tend to produce one sided responses or fail to provide adequate evidence to support their argument. Stronger answers will display clear understanding of the point of the question.

**Level 1 ([1]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the policies of US political parties but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([5]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the policies of US political parties. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([9]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the policies of US political parties. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([13]–[16])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the policies of US political parties. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([17]–[20])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the policies of US political parties. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

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**Section A**

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## Section B

### Module 5: The Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland

#### 1 (a) Background

[1] will be given for each correct identification and up to [4] for the quality of explanation. Examples will be expected. Candidates have enormous scope to choose from as so many changes to the constitution have related to personal freedom. It is expected that abortion, divorce, contraception and gay rights will dominate answers. Weaker answers will tend to identify relevant changes but not discuss them in any detail. Stronger answers will correctly identify and discuss, with examples, two relevant changes.

#### Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the changes to BNE related to individual freedom but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the changes to BNE related to individual freedom. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the changes to BNE related to individual freedom. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the changes to BNE related to individual freedom. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding changes to BNE related to individual freedom. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of

appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

**(b) Background**

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Bunreacht na hEireann provides the basic framework for politics in the Irish Republic and was largely the creation of Eamonn de Valera who not only wrote most of the document but also piloted it through the Dail and presented it to the Irish people. While de Valera included mechanisms for constitutional change, such change was very rare in the three decades immediately after the enactment of Bunreacht na hEireann. The Irish Republic has experienced considerable change in the years since Bunreacht na hEireann was enacted. Urbanisation, economic development, secularisation, immigration and greater integration with Europe have all helped transform Irish society. This has led some commentators to suggest that the constitution is no longer relevant to the needs of modern Ireland and should be replaced by a new document. Others have argued that constitutional amendments and, in particular, Judicial Review have allowed the constitution to adapt to the recent changes.

Weaker answers will tend to identify how changes to Bunreacht na hEireann negate the need for a new constitution without directly addressing the question and/or focus on only one side of the argument. Stronger answers will tend to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of how Ireland has changed since 1937 and will assess the extent to which changes to the constitution justify its retention.

**Level 1 ([1]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the constitution needs to be reformed but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([5]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the constitution needs to be reformed. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([9]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the constitution needs to be reformed. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([13]–[16])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the constitution needs to be reformed. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([17]–[20])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about whether the constitution needs to be reformed. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [20]

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## 2 (a) Background

[1] will be given for each correct identification and up to [4] for the quality of explanation, examples will be expected. Although very weak compared to most other European countries, local councillors do have some important powers including the control over some essential services.

Weaker answers will tend to identify relevant powers but not discuss them in any detail. Stronger answers will correctly identify and discuss, with examples, two powers.

### Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the powers of local government but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the powers of local government. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the powers of local government. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the powers of local government. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### Level 5 ([9]–[10])

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the powers of local government. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

**(b) Background**

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Irish local government enjoys relatively few powers, has little control of its own finance, and has been dismissed by some critics as irrelevant to modern Irish political life. Despite this the strength of parochialism ensures that local government remains vitally important. The recent decision to give constitutional recognition to local government has helped ensure that local government has an identity separate from that of central government. There has also been an increase in the political importance of local issues, most notably waste charges.

Weaker answers will tend to consider only one side of the argument and/or provide a list of the problems facing local government. Stronger answers will present a balanced answer that is supported by relevant evidence.

**Level 1 ([1]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of Irish local government but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([5]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([9]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([13]–[16])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced

(AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([17]–[20])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Irish local government. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [20]

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### 3 (a) Background

[1] will be given for each correct identification and up to [4] for the quality of explanation, examples will be expected. Among reasons given for the dominance of Fianna Fail are the party's populism; its capacity to reinvent itself ideologically; its ability to form alliances; the weakness of its party rivals; its capacity to absorb new rivals.

Weaker answers will tend to identify relevant reasons but not discuss them in any detail. Stronger answers will correctly identify and discuss, with examples, two reasons.

#### Level 1 ([1]–[2])

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the reasons for Fianna Fail's dominance but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 2 ([3]–[4])

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the reasons for Fianna Fail's dominance. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 3 ([5]–[6])

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the reasons for Fianna Fail's dominance. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

#### Level 4 ([7]–[8])

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the reasons for Fianna Fail's dominance. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([9]–[10])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the reasons for Fianna Fail's dominance. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [10]

**(b) Background**

In this response candidates are expected to produce a balanced argument and therefore in order to attain a grade in the top two levels it is expected that a balanced argument will be constructed with reference to a range of evidence for both sides of the argument. Those who support the argument that there are few policy differences between Irish political parties would point to an apparent ideological convergence. This argument suggests that the popularity of the Celtic Tiger economy means that parties compete over which can best manage and sustain this economy. The alternative view is that there are significant differences, including over economic policy, and that these continue to matter.

Weaker answers will tend to be one sided or to lack analysis. Stronger answers will offer a balanced and detailed account of policy positions of the major parties.

**Level 1 ([1]–[4])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the policy positions of Irish political parties but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([5]–[8])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the policy positions of Irish political parties. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).



**Level 3 ([9]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the policy positions of Irish political parties. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([13]–[16])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the policy positions of Irish political parties. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([17]–[20])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the policy positions of Irish political parties. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

[20]

30

**Section B**

**30**

**Total**

**30**





*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED**

**General Certificate of Education**

**January 2010**

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## **Government and Politics**

### **Assessment Unit A2 2**

*assessing*

Module 6: The Government and Politics of the  
United Kingdom and the USA (Comparative)

Module 7: The Government and Politics of the United  
Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (Comparative)

**[A2Q21]**

**MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY, MORNING**

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# **MARK SCHEME**

## Section A

### Module 6: The Government and Politics of the UK and USA (Comparative)

1 [1] for identification plus [1]–[2] for explanation of any **two** functions of Congressional committees. (AO1) [6] 6

2 **Background**

Source A refers to the fact that Cabinet Ministers owe their position to the patronage of the Prime Minister. The patronage powers of the PM include a wide range of powers, largely to do with appointment. The PM not only appoints Cabinet Ministers but also middle rank and junior ministers. Not only can the PM appoint but also reshuffle and sack ministers. Being also able to appoint senior civil servants and policy advisers, the PM's patronage powers determine the complexion of the Executive. The PM's patronage powers extend to other appointments such as peers, ambassadors and the conferring of knighthoods and other honours. [7] 7

3 **Background**

Source B suggests that there is a well-established network of committees in Congress that act as scrutinisers of the Executive. Source D goes further and makes a strong case for Departmental Select Committees as watchdogs over the Executive. Many observers are of the view that the separation of powers that operates in the US results in Congress being a more effective scrutiny body than Parliament. The lower level of party discipline in the US features strongly in this argument. The counter argument is that Select Committees and other scrutiny devices do matter in the UK. It could also be argued that US presidents are, at times, able to avoid Congressional scrutiny.

Weaker answers will tend to be descriptive accounts of the scrutiny functions of Congress and Parliament. Stronger answers will be balanced and informed.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny role of Parliament and Congress but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([3]–[5])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny role of Parliament and Congress. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([6]–[7])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny role of Parliament and Congress. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([8]–[10])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny role of Parliament and Congress. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([11]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the scrutiny role of Parliament and Congress. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [12]

12

**4 Background**

The two Sources express what is a widely held view of the significance of the Cabinet in the US and UK. This view states that the US Cabinet is of no great significance and that the president exercises individual power. By contrast, the British system is one of collective government of which the Cabinet is a very significant part that no Prime Minister can afford to ignore. There is much to support such a conclusion and candidates certainly need to present this analysis. Better answers will go further and consider the extent to which the PM is increasingly “presidential”. The inability of presidents to manage the US Executive single-handedly can also form part of this more balanced approach.

Weaker answers will tend to rely heavily on the Sources and will present a limited account of the two executives. Stronger answers will take a more critical approach and offer a more accurate picture.

**Level 1 ([1]–[3])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of relations within the two Executives but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate’s level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([4]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of relations within the two Executives. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([7]–[9])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of relations within the two Executives. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([10]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of relations within the two Executives. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([13]–[15])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of relations within the two Executives. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

[15]

15

**Section A**

40

## Section B

BLE

### Module 7: The Government and Politics of the UK and Republic of Ireland (Comparative)

- 1 [1] mark for identification plus [1]–[2] marks for explanation of two powers of Select Committees. The Source refers to the power of committees to call ministers and civil servants before them. In addition, they can carry out independent research, summon other witnesses, publish reports. The committees can carry out their own investigations and publish reports. When a committee chair goes public in directly criticising the government, it is deeply embarrassing to the Executive.

[6]

6

2 **Background**

Source B refers to the belief of Tony Benn that power has become increasingly centralised in the hands of the Prime Minister with a corresponding decline in the power of the Cabinet. A presidential style of government involves a single individual dominating the Executive rather than a collective approach to policy-making. All other members of the executive are subservient to the leader. The popularity of the Executive is dependent upon the popularity of the leader.

[7]

7

3 **Background**

In addition to their representative, recruitment and legislative functions, both Parliament and the Dail are meant to perform the role of checking the Executive to prevent the abuse of power. As both the British and Irish systems are based upon the Westminster Model of Parliamentary democracy there are many similarities between them when it comes to the legislature scrutinising the Executive. There are some significant differences. The existence of coalition governments in the Republic; the greater degree of localism in Irish politics; the weakness of the Seanad compared with the Lords.

Weaker answers will tend to rely heavily on the sources. Stronger answers will refer to the sources but will assess the relative importance of the legislature in Britain and the Republic of Ireland.

**Level 1 ([1]–[2])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of how effective Parliament and the Dail are in checking the Executive but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([3]–[5])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of how effective Parliament and the Dail are in checking the Executive. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains

relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([6]–[7])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of how effective Parliament and the Dail are in checking the Executive. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### **Level 4 ([8]–[10])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of how effective Parliament and the Dail are in checking the Executive. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

### **Level 5 ([11]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of how effective Parliament and the Dail are in checking the Executive. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

[12]

12

## **4 Background**

Sources B and C seem to support the view that Prime Minister and Taoiseach are dominant within their respective political systems. Both, for example, enjoy wide ranging powers of appointment that give them considerable control over the Executive. Both have, in recent years, made extensive use of their powers to appoint personal advisers to enhance their control over the political system. There are differences, however, of which the most significant is that all recent Irish governments have been coalitions. But other factors may offset this such as the greater freedom enjoyed by the Taoiseach because Traditional Democrats are preoccupied with constituency work. The backbench rebellions so frequent in the UK in recent years are no where near as common in the Republic.

Weaker answers will tend to rely heavily on the sources. Stronger answers will refer to the sources but also make a direct comparison of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach, with reference to relevant evidence.

### **Level 1 ([1]–[3])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach but there are some gaps in this



knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([4]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([7]–[9])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([10]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([13]–[15])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the powers of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

[15]

15

**Section B**

**40**

**Total**

**40**





*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED**  
**General Certificate of Education**  
**January 2010**

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## **Government and Politics**

**Assessment Unit A2 3**

*assessing*

**Module 8: Political Power**

**Module 9: The Contemporary Relevance  
of Political Ideologies**

**[A2Q31]**

**MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY, MORNING**

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**MARK  
SCHEME**

**Module 8: Political Power****1 Background**

It is widely believed that only states that manage to convert “might” into “right” and “obedience” into “duty” will survive long term. Such states manage to legitimise themselves in the eyes of their population and so win the support without which the state cannot endure. History is littered with examples of states that failed to achieve this and were overthrown and replaced through revolution and civil war. From this perspective, states that rely upon a high level of coercion cannot hope to win the support of the population and so have only a limited lifespan. The alternative view is that many states that lack legitimacy can last a long time: the Soviet Union is one example that some would refer to. The People’s Republic of China is another. It could also be argued that legitimate states can and do fail.

Weaker answers will tend to offer a list of states that have or have not survived or will present a list of factors that contribute to legitimacy. Strong answers will be balanced and present more detailed evidence.

**Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about state legitimacy and durability but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate’s level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the debate about state legitimacy and durability. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about state legitimacy and durability. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the debate about state legitimacy and durability. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about state legitimacy and durability. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [30]

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**2 Background**

Pluralists believe that liberal democratic systems are based upon a range of mechanisms that ensure that there is diffusion of political power. The existence of structures that guarantee popular sovereignty, the capacity of interest groups to operate freely, effective checks upon the exercise of executive power and a free media all feature in the Pluralist analysis. Those critical of Pluralism, often writing from a Marxist or Elite Theory perspective, challenge the view that democracy exists in the so-called liberal democracies. Marxists believe that rule by the people can be achieved with the destruction of the capitalist system, but Elite Theorists take a much more pessimistic view. Weaker candidates will tend to present a prepared account of theories of power or lack concrete examples. Stronger answers will tackle the question directly and with supporting evidence.

**Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about the feasibility of democracy but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of the debate about the feasibility of democracy. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about the feasibility of democracy. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of the debate about the feasibility of democracy. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about the feasibility of democracy. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [30]

**Section A**

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**30**

**Module 9: The Contemporary Relevance of Political Ideologies****1 Background**

Central to the Communist Manifesto is the belief that the capitalist era was similar to nearly all previous periods in human history. The vast majority of the population were exploited and oppressed by the wealthy and powerful minority. What was unique to capitalism was the degree of this exploitation. The nature of the capitalist system would result in the ruling class having to increase their exploitation of the proletariat. There would be a process of increasing “immiseration” of the proletariat because of this ever increasing exploitation. Marx and Engels believed that the misery of the proletariat would affect all aspects of their life and would in the end give the workers no choice but to rise up and overthrow the system that oppressed them. Capitalism, in the words of the Manifesto, contained the seeds of its own destruction.

Critics of the Manifesto argue that this analysis of capitalism is incorrect. The misery of the proletariat has not increased, in fact, the reverse has occurred. The revolution that the Manifesto predicted has not appeared. Supporters of Marx and Engels argue that the picture of human misery caused by capitalism remains fundamentally accurate. Weaker answers will display little knowledge of the analysis of capitalism put forward in the Manifesto. Stronger answers will have detailed knowledge of this.

**Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of Marx and Engels’ analysis of capitalism but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate’s level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of Marx and Engels’ analysis of capitalism. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of the material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of Marx and Engels’ analysis of capitalism. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of Marx and Engels' analysis of capitalism. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Marx and Engels' analysis of capitalism. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [30]

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**2 Background**

Being very much in the classical liberal tradition, John Stuart Mill was deeply suspicious of the state. He therefore believed that safeguarding individual liberty required the state's powers to be regulated and limited. But Mill went further in that he believed that the majority opinion was also a major threat to individual liberty because it could give rise to the "tyranny of the majority". Mill thought it necessary that the despotism of custom be prevented as much as the despotism of the state. On Liberty not only involves Mill's view of the danger but also his remedies.

Critics of Mill would argue that his view of the minimal state leading to human freedom is flawed. Conservative critics would argue that a strong and interventionist state is need to control human behaviour. Socialist critics would take the view that the state's intervention at the economic and social levels is essential to liberate the masses from poverty.

Weaker answers will tend to accept the proposition in the question. Stronger answers will demonstrate a broader understanding of Mill's work.

**Level 1 ([1]–[6])**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of Mill's analysis of the dangers to individual liberty but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the point of the question and contains relevant material along with more general material. Limited relevant evidence is presented (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes limited reference to relevant arguments, may partly address the question and may have some balance (AO2). The candidate's level of communication and use of appropriate political vocabulary are both limited. The standard of QWC is limited as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).



**Level 2 ([7]–[12])**

The candidate demonstrates general knowledge and understanding of Mill’s analysis of the dangers to individual liberty. The response demonstrates understanding of the point of the question and the majority of material presented is relevant and addresses the question. The answer contains relevant evidence (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes partial reference to relevant arguments, addresses the question at times and contains some balance (AO2). Communication is clear with use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is fair as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 3 ([13]–[18])**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of Mill’s analysis of the dangers to individual liberty. The response demonstrates clear understanding of the point of the question. A range of relevant evidence is presented and the question is addressed (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to relevant arguments and is balanced (AO2). Communication is good and there is frequent use of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is good as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 4 ([19]–[24])**

The candidate demonstrates specific knowledge and understanding of Mill’s analysis of the dangers to individual liberty. The answer demonstrates detailed understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and consistently addresses the question (AO1). An answer is constructed which makes reference to a range of relevant arguments and is well balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates effectively and makes use of a range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is very good, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3).

**Level 5 ([25]–[30])**

The candidate demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Mill’s analysis of the dangers to individual liberty. The answer demonstrates full understanding of the point of the question, makes reference to a wide range of relevant evidence and addresses the question thoroughly (AO1). An answer is constructed that makes detailed reference to a range of relevant arguments and is fully balanced (AO2). The candidate communicates very effectively and makes use of a wide range of appropriate political vocabulary. The standard of QWC is excellent, as is the structure and presentation of ideas (AO3). [30]

**Section B**

**Total**

30

30

30





