



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
January 2013

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]

TUESDAY 29 JANUARY, AFTERNOON



AQ221

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 the page 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

Beginning in 2011, many states in North Africa and the Middle East experienced levels of political unrest not seen in a generation. In what became known as the “Arab Spring”, one ruler after another found their authority challenged by demonstrators who took to the streets. The demonstrators often had very different motives but one common reason for their action was to oppose political corruption, where those in power advanced their own interests at the expense of the nation. The standard response of leaders was to use the full might of the state to crush their opponents, leading to the death of many protesters. However, in a number of cases this failed and several long-standing dictators were swept from power.

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **three** factors that may lead citizens to reject the legitimacy of the state. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the problems faced by political opponents of authoritarian regimes. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that liberal democracy is the ideal form of political system. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that all political systems are really oligarchies. [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. Revolutions therefore sweep away all aspects of the old system. Such an approach is dangerous because it fails to recognise that institutions and practices 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 in to demands for the abolition of the British monarchy. Nations that have abandoned their traditions have, in time, come to realise what they have lost.

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

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view, set out in the *Communist Manifesto*, that capitalism contains the seeds of its own destruction. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate Mill's view, as set out in *On Liberty*, that "one very simple principle" is enough to safeguard individual liberty. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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