



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
January 2013

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1

Comparative Government

[AQ211]

WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY, AFTERNOON



AQ211

TIME

2 hours 15 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided. Choose **either Option A**: The United Kingdom and the United States of America **or Option B**: The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

From your chosen option, study the source provided and answer questions **1** to **4** and either **5(a)** or **5(b)**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions **1**, **3**, **4** and **5**.

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 spend approximately **40 minutes** in answering question **1** in Section A.

You are advised to study the source before attempting to answer this question and refer to the source in your answer.

Option A: The United Kingdom and the United States of America

Section A: The US Constitution

Study the source below and answer the question that follows.

Source

The overriding purpose of the Constitution of the USA is to provide those in government with just enough power to meet the needs of society, while denying them any opportunity to infringe fundamental individual rights. The Constitution, in effect, says that it is prepared to accept that the effectiveness of government may be limited by the high priority placed on rights. For those who approve of this balance between rights and effective government, the codified constitution of the USA has a number of advantages.

Adapted from: William Storey, US Government and Politics, 2007 p 22

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant information you have studied, assess the extent to which the US Constitution continues to protect the rights of the individual.

[30]

Section B: Government in the UK and the USA

Answer all four questions.

- 2 What is meant by the term “Executive Office of the President”? Support your answer with a relevant example.
- 3 Explain the ways in which the Senate can check presidential power. [10]
- 4 Compare and contrast the factors influencing the Prime Minister and President in their choice of cabinet members. [25]
- 5 **Either**
- (a) “For members of the House of Representatives, their party is important; for MPs, it’s absolutely vital.” Evaluate this view. [30]
- Or**
- (b) “Congress and Parliament have demonstrated a remarkable ability to resist executive control.” Evaluate this view. [30]

Option B: The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

Section A: The Irish Constitution

Study the source below and answer the question that follows.

Source

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- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, discuss the view that the constitution has served Ireland well and does not need to be fundamentally reformed. [30]

Section B: Government in the UK and the Republic of Ireland

Answer all four questions.

- 2 What is meant by the term “brokerage”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [10]
- 3 Explain the criticisms made of the Seanad. [10]
- 4 Compare and contrast the degree of control that the Prime Minister and Taoiseach have over their cabinets. [25]
- 5 **Either**
- (a) “Scrutiny in the Dáil has always been much less effective than scrutiny in the Commons.” Evaluate this view. [30]
- Or**
- (b) “The British Prime Minister enjoys much greater legislative freedom than the Irish Taoiseach.” Evaluate this view. [30]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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