



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2015

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



AQ221

[AQ221]

MONDAY 1 JUNE, MORNING

TIME

1 hour 30 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Choose **either Option A: Political Power or Option B: Political Ideas.**

From your chosen option, study the source provided and answer questions **1, 2,** and either **3(a)** or **3(b).**

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 60.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in questions **2** and **3.**

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each question in allocating the available examination time.

You are advised to study the source before attempting to answer questions **1** and **2,** and to refer to the source in your answers to these questions.

Option A: Political Power

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

The decline in political party membership taking place in most democracies is not a particular cause for concern. This is because, as party membership has decreased, the number of people who are involved in pressure and interest groups has grown enormously. These groups are an essential component of any democratic society because they enable ordinary citizens to express their views and opinions to political leaders. For example, in recent years there has been a growth in the number of “green” pressure groups, reflecting increased popular concern with environmental issues. The significance of pressure and interest groups is confirmed by the fact that, in authoritarian systems such groups are suppressed or banned outright.

- 1 Which theory of political power 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 the theory of political power you identified in Question 1 can be criticised. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that a state that continues to use a high level of coercion will inevitably collapse. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that wealthy countries are stable while poor countries experience one crisis of legitimacy after another. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

The problem with utopian views of society is that they are based upon a totally false view of human beings. Utopians see humans in a far too positive light, believing them to be capable of rational actions. In reality, humans often act in the most irrational, anti-social and violent ways. For this reason, all attempts at creating utopias have failed. This was the case with the French Revolution in the 18th century and with the Russian Revolution in the 20th. Both revolutions claimed to promote liberty and equality for all but produced only tyranny and oppression.

- 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 by Marx and Engels in the *Communist Manifesto*, that capitalism would create the means of its own destruction. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate Mill's view, as set out in *On Liberty*, that the "Harm Principle" is enough to prevent the tyranny of the majority. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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