



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2010

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]

FRIDAY 28 MAY, MORNING



AQ221

TIME

1 hour 30 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Either

Answer Questions **1**, **2** and **3(a)** or **3(b)** in **Option A**: Political Power

Or

Answer Questions **1**, **2** and **3(a)** or **3(b)** in **Option B**: Political Ideas.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 60.

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

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

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

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

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

Option A: Political Power

Source

Any consideration of political systems, whether historical or contemporary, confirms that the idea of democracy is just that: an idea. Democracy is an ideal or a dream that cannot be achieved in the real world. The evidence is overwhelming that all political systems have been ruled by a very small number of individuals or even by a single individual. The characteristics of the small group who rule may differ from one system to another but what remains constant is that it is always a small group who are in control. States may claim to be democracies but the claim is false and this includes modern liberal democracies.

- 1 Which theory of political power is put forward in the Source? With reference to the Source and other relevant material you have studied, explain three features of this theory. [10]
- 2 With reference to the Source and 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 democracy is the only legitimate form of government. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the factors that can undermine the stability of a state. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Source

The inherent instability of capitalist economic systems was confirmed by the crisis that shook the world economic order in 2008. For much of the previous twenty years it was almost universally accepted that capitalism would deliver continuing growth and rising prosperity. This belief has now been shattered by the most serious economic slump since the 1930s. The current crisis confirms the fact that capitalism is, by nature, a system that is prone to booms and slumps. Rather than rising prosperity, it brings regular poverty to the many. The 2008 crisis was a taste of things to come as the capitalist economic order spirals towards a world-changing collapse.

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

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate how Edmund Burke's view of human nature, as expressed in *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, influenced his political ideas. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate John Stuart Mill's proposals for creating both a free and progressive society, as put forward in *On Liberty*. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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