



ADVANCED  
General Certificate of Education  
January 2014

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## Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1

Comparative Government

[AQ211]

MV18

MONDAY 13 JANUARY, MORNING

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### TIME

2 hours 15 minutes, plus your additional time allowance.

### 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 at the end of each question 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. This may be longer if you have an additional time allowance.

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

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**(Questions start overleaf)**

## **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 Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act effectively ended segregation after a lengthy campaign. Finally, the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution were being applied. Did this mean that the Constitution, belatedly, provided freedom and equality of opportunity for all? Some in the African-American community expressed the view that the new acts would be insufficient to end 200 years of segregation and discrimination. The denial of freedom and equality could not meaningfully be overcome by the passage of two pieces of legislation.

- 1** With reference to the Source and any other relevant information you have studied, discuss the view that the US Constitution has failed to deliver freedom and equality for all American citizens. [30]

## **Section B: Government in the UK and the USA**

**Answer all four questions.**

**2** Explain what is meant by the term “judicial review”. Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]

**3** Explain the reasons why members of Congress spend so much time on constituency work. [10]

**4** Compare and contrast the House of Commons and the House of Representatives as scrutiny bodies. [25]

**5 Either**

**(a)** “Prime Ministerial advisers have much less influence than Presidential advisers.” Evaluate this view. [30]

**Or**

**(b)** “There are fewer differences today between the powers of the US President and the UK Prime Minister.” 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**

The State recognises the Family as the natural, primary and fundamental unit of Society... The State therefore guarantees to protect the Family... The State shall therefore endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home. The State pledges itself to guard with special care the institution of Marriage, on which the Family is founded, and to protect it against attack.

- 1** With reference to the Source and any other relevant information you have studied, assess how well the constitution has adapted to the changes in Irish society. [30]

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

**Answer all four questions.**

- 2** What is meant by the term “vote of confidence”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
  
- 3** Explain the reasons why TDs spend so much time on constituency work. [10]
  
- 4** Compare and contrast the appointment powers of the Prime Minister and Taoiseach. [25]
  
- 5** **Either**
  - (a)** “Committees are much more significant in the UK Parliament than they are in the Irish Oireachtas.” Evaluate this view. [30]

**Or**

- (b)** “MPs play a much greater role in determining legislation than their Irish counterparts.” Evaluate this view. [30]

## SOURCES

Option A

Pg 4, Section A - Source: Adapted from: William Storey, US Government and Politics, Edinburgh University Press, 2007

Option B

Pg 6, Section A - Source: Adapted from: Article 41, BUNREACT NA hEIREANN available under the terms of the PSI General licence No.: 2005/08/01