



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
January 2014

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2

Political Power and Political Ideas

[AQ221]



WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY, AFTERNOON

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

The representation of women in positions of political power has been repeatedly documented and demonstrates the existence of gender inequality even within democratic political systems. The issue of why this continues to persist has been the subject of intense debate. One suggestion is that the patriarchal culture that is present in most, if not all, societies leads to discrimination against women who seek political office. This may explain why even women voters may be reluctant to support women candidates.

- 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 power you identified in Question 1 may be criticised. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate the view that economic factors are the main reason why states lose legitimacy. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that a state can survive without the support of most of those it rules. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow:

Source

The role of the state should be to regulate society by providing a framework of laws. The state should also ensure that the laws are properly enforced: those who break the law should be punished and must be seen to be punished. If a state fails in this duty then it will result in widespread disregard for the law and an epidemic of crime. The removal of the death penalty in the UK was a serious mistake, based upon a naïve view of human nature. The evidence confirms that, where capital punishment has been retained, society benefits.

- 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 that the vision of society, set out by Marx and Engels in the *Communist Manifesto*, is flawed. [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that Mill's idea of a free society, as set out in *On Liberty*, is flawed. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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