



*Rewarding Learning*

**ADVANCED**  
**General Certificate of Education**  
**January 2014**

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**Government and Politics**

**Assessment Unit A2 2**

*assessing*

Political Power and Political Ideas

**[AQ221]**

**WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY, AFTERNOON**

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**MARK  
SCHEME**

## **General Marking Instructions**

These mark schemes are intended to ensure that the AS/A2 examinations are marked consistently and fairly. The mark schemes provide examiners with an indication of the nature and range of candidate responses likely to be worthy of credit. They also set out the criteria which they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses. The mark scheme should be read in conjunction with these general marking instructions which apply to all papers.

### **Quality of candidates' responses**

In marking the examination papers, examiners will be looking for a quality of response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of 17- and 18-year-olds, which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their AS/A2 examinations.

### **Flexibility in marking**

The mark schemes which accompany the specimen examination papers are not intended to be totally prescriptive. For many questions, there may be a number of equally legitimate responses and different methods by which the candidates may achieve good marks. No mark scheme can cover all the answers which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner for the paper concerned.

### **Positive marking**

Examiners are encouraged to be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for valid responses rather than penalising candidates for errors or omissions. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range for any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected for 17- and 18-year-old GCE candidates. Conversely, marks should only be awarded for valid responses and not given for an attempt which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

### **Types of mark schemes**

Mark Schemes for questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication. These questions are indicated on the cover of the examination paper.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

## Levels of Response

Questions requiring extended written answers are marked in terms of levels of response. In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the “best fit” bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement. The following guidance is provided to assist examiners:

**Threshold performance:** Response which just merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the bottom of the range.

**Intermediate performance:** Response which clearly merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the middle of the range.

**High performance:** Response which fully satisfies the level description and should be awarded a mark at or near the top of the range.

## Quality of Written Communication

Quality of written communication is taken into account in assessing candidates’ responses to all questions that require them to respond in extended written form. These questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication which is incorporated within the marks awarded for AO3. Where the quality of candidates’ subject knowledge and understanding is not matched by the quality of written communication, marks awarded will not exceed the maximum for Level 4.

## Option A: Political Power

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### 1 Background

The Source presents the Feminist analysis of the nature and distribution of power. Candidates should identify and explain the existence of a patriarchal culture as a key element of the Feminist analysis. Any other two relevant features of Feminist Theory can be explained, including features of the various strands of Feminism such as Radical, Liberal, Marxist and Black Feminism.

An answer that contains no reference to the Source can be awarded a maximum of 6 marks.

**(AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 4 marks)**

[10]

10

### 2 Background

The Source states that the under-representation of women is a universal phenomenon but critics would challenge that this is true. There are examples, admittedly rare, of matriarchal societies although few, if any of these are to be found in modern societies. Even in modern societies, there are some examples of political systems that seek to institutionalise gender equality and this has been successfully achieved. Critics of Feminism would also challenge the idea of systematic discrimination against women and assert that the under-representation of women is a consequence of voluntary decisions. Other relevant criticisms are acceptable.

An answer that contains no reference to the Source can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

An answer that contains no examples/evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

#### Level 1 ([1]–[3])

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 1 mark; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Feminism and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

#### Level 2 ([4]–[6])

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 2 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Feminism but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although

communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([7]–[9])**

**AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Feminism but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([10]–[12])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Feminism and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([13]–[15])**

**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 5 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Feminism and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[15]

15

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

**3 (a) Background**

One of the major factors that contribute to the legitimacy of any state is the extent to which the state sustains a viable economy. This has consequences for employment and opportunities but also generates the income that allows the state to provide essential services such as education, welfare and health care. If a state is seen to have presided over economic failure this could significantly undermine the support of the population. It has been noted that the world's most prosperous societies are also the most politically stable and instability and crises of legitimacy are more likely to occur in the poorest nations.

On the other hand, economic factors are only one of many that affect the legitimacy of the state. Poorer nations do enjoy considerable stability and wealthy, or potentially wealthy nations, can be afflicted by conflict and state collapse.

Answers should use a range of evidence to consider why a state may lose legitimacy and should consider the effect of economic and other factors.

Weaker answers will display only a limited grasp of the issue and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will display more detailed knowledge and offer a broad range of evidence.

An answer that contains no evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

An answer that contains no balance and is one-sided can be awarded a maximum of Level 4.

### **Level 1 ([1]–[7])**

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the influence of economic factors on legitimacy and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

### **Level 2 ([8]–[14])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 8 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the influence of economic factors on legitimacy but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([15]–[21])**

**AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 6 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the influence of economic factors on legitimacy but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and

explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

#### **Level 4 ([22]–[28])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 16 marks; AO3: 8 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the influence of economic factors on legitimacy and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

#### **Level 5 ([29]–[35])**

**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 19 marks; AO3: 11 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the influence of economic factors on legitimacy and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3). [35]

35

#### **(b) Background**

It was Rousseau who gave us the idea that a state must convert “might into right” if it is to survive and on this basis a state without the support of most of its population should not do so. It is expected that candidates will be familiar with this argument and include it in their response.

However, as the question implies, there is considerable evidence of states with only minority support being able to last. This may be for a variety of reasons. Those in power may employ a high level of coercion to control the mass of the population negating the need for popular support. The political culture of a nation may support minority rule and popular acceptance of this. Military juntas use the survival of the nation as justification for their domination. Religious authority may be used by a minority to justify their hold on power. These last two points highlight the fact that the dividing line between authority and force is not a clear one and the best answers may refer to this fact.

Weaker answers will display only a limited grasp of the theories and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will display more detailed



theoretical knowledge and offer a broad range of evidence.

An answer that contains no evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

An answer that contains no balance and is one-sided can be awarded a maximum of Level 4.

### **Level 1 ([1]–[7])**

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of how states without popular support may survive and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

### **Level 2 ([8]–[14])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 8 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of how states without popular support may survive but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([15]–[21])**

**AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 6 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of how states without popular support may survive but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 4 ([22]–[28])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 16 marks; AO3: 8 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of how states without popular support may



survive and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([29]–[35])**

**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 19 marks; AO3: 11 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of how states without popular support may survive and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[35]

**Total**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

35

**60**

## Option B: Political Ideas

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

### 1 Background

The view expressed in the Source is the Conservative perspective. The evidence for this in the Source is the argument that strong laws and order are essential to the wellbeing of any society. In addition to the identification and explanation of this feature, candidates should identify and explain two other relevant features of Conservative thinking.

An answer that contains no reference to the Source can be awarded a maximum of 6 marks.

**(AO1: 6 marks; AO2: 4 marks)**

[10]

10

### 2 Background

Candidates should seek to criticise the Conservative emphasis upon strong law and order. One criticism voiced by liberals is that this emphasis leads to states putting order above human freedom which in turn leads to abuse of human rights. States with a record of human rights abuses often seek to defend their record on the grounds of the necessity for strong law and order. Another criticism is that the laws and institutions of order serve the interests of the wealthy and powerful. From this point of view, Conservatism is simply a defence of the few against the many.

Candidates should refer to other relevant criticisms of Conservatism.

An answer that contains no reference to the Source can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

An answer that contains no examples/evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

#### Level 1 ([1]–[3])

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 1 mark; AO3: 1 mark**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Conservatism and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

#### Level 2 ([4]–[6])

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 2 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Conservatism but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and

grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 3 ([7]–[9])**

**AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 3 marks; AO3: 3 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Conservatism but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

### **Level 4 ([10]–[12])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Conservatism and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

### **Level 5 ([13]–[15])**

**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 5 marks; AO3: 5 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the criticisms of Conservatism and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[15]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

15

### 3 (a) Background

Critics of the *Communist Manifesto* argue that the vision of socialism that it presents is fundamentally flawed. This is apparent in the *Manifesto's* prediction of the Proletarian Revolution that will mark the beginning of socialist society. Critics state that no such revolution has ever occurred and is unrealistic because the proletariat in advanced capitalist societies are very happy with their situation. Critics also attack the ideas of communal ownership, the abolition of private property and the withering away of the state as pure fantasy.

Socialist supporters of the *Manifesto* would defend the vision of socialism as not only practical but desirable. The case for the type of society set out by Marx and Engels is even stronger when the failings of capitalism are so painfully revealed as they are at present.

Candidates may interpret the question as referring to Marx and Engels' view of capitalist society. If this approach is taken candidates should seek to explain why the *Manifesto's* analysis of capitalist society is flawed.

Weaker answers will display only a limited grasp of the bases of the arguments of the *Communist Manifesto* and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will display more detailed knowledge and offer a broad range of evidence.

An answer that contains no evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

An answer that contains no balance and is one-sided can be awarded a maximum of Level 4.

#### Level 1 ([1]–[7])

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the view of socialist society in the *Communist Manifesto* and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

#### Level 2 ([8]–[14])

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 8 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the view of socialist society in the *Communist Manifesto* but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar

is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([15]–[21])**

**AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 6 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the view of socialist society in the *Communist Manifesto* but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([22]–[28])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 16 marks; AO3: 8 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the view of socialist society in the *Communist Manifesto* and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([29]–[35])**

**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 19 marks; AO3: 11 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the view of socialist society in the *Communist Manifesto* and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3). [35]

AVAILABLE  
MARKS

35

**(b) Background**

In *On Liberty* Mill asserts that freedom is threatened by many things but the emerging “tyranny of the majority” was his greatest concern. He believed that individual freedom was at risk from the “despotism of custom” and the tendency of society to impose its rules of conduct on all citizens. He thought that this posed a greater danger to freedom than that found in autocratic regimes. To avoid this danger, he advocated his “one very simple principle” which, if followed, would protect individual liberty. He further believed that where liberty flourished, individuals and society would progress. Behind Mill’s proposals lies a positive view of the capacity of individuals to act in a rational way and to exercise the freedom he wished to grant them.

Conservative critics of Mill argue that his view that individuals are rational creatures who do not need the guidance and rules of society is unrealistic. Mill’s principle would not only lead to less freedom but would throw society back into some barbaric state, rather than lead to progress. Socialist critics allege that Mill was concerned only with the freedom of an intellectual elite. His proposals were unrealistic because they would do little to liberate the vast majority.

Weaker answers will display only a limited grasp of the bases of the arguments of *On Liberty* and have limited concrete evidence. Stronger answers will display more detailed knowledge and offer a broad range of evidence.

An answer that contains no evidence can be awarded a maximum of Level 3.

An answer that contains no balance and is one-sided can be awarded a maximum of Level 4.

**Level 1 ([1]–[7])**

**AO1: 1 mark; AO2: 4 marks; AO3: 2 marks**

The candidate demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of the debate about Mill’s proposals for a free society and makes little attempt to answer the question. The answer is ill-informed and/or has a high degree of irrelevant material. The response contains general statements and/or includes no evidence or examples (AO1). There is little analysis and evaluation of information, arguments and explanations. There is little recognition of basic similarities and differences between political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain significant errors. An argument or explanation, if present, is ill-informed and poorly constructed. The level of communication and use of political vocabulary are both limited. (AO3).

**Level 2 ([8]–[14])**

**AO1: 2 marks; AO2: 8 marks; AO3: 4 marks**

The candidate demonstrates outline knowledge and understanding of the debate about Mill’s proposals for a free society but there are major gaps in this knowledge and understanding and only a limited attempt is made to answer the question. The response contains some relevant material but also significant irrelevant or general material. Some relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is limited analysis and simple evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is some recognition of basic similarities and differences between



political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is satisfactory. An argument or explanation is constructed although communication and structure tend to be narrative or descriptive. There is some use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 3 ([15]–[21])**

**AO1: 3 marks; AO2: 12 marks; AO3: 6 marks**

The candidate demonstrates sound knowledge and understanding of the debate about Mill’s proposals for a free society but there are some gaps in this knowledge and understanding. The response makes a reasonable attempt at answering the question and contains relevant material along with some more general material. Relevant evidence or examples are provided (AO1). There is sound analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is a reasonable attempt at comparing political systems (AO2). The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is generally good. A structured argument is constructed, displaying effective communication and presentation of ideas. A suitable conclusion is reached and there is good use of appropriate political vocabulary (AO3).

**Level 4 ([22]–[28])**

**AO1: 4 marks; AO2: 16 marks; AO3: 8 marks**

The candidate demonstrates accurate, detailed and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the debate about Mill’s proposals for a free society and uses this to fully address the requirements of the question. Accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made (AO1). There is clear and full analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a consistently high standard. A cogent and coherent argument is constructed which displays clear communication and presentation of ideas. There is extensive use of appropriate political vocabulary and a reasoned conclusion is reached (AO3).

**Level 5 ([29]–[35])**

**AO1: 5 marks; AO2: 19 marks; AO3: 11 marks**

The candidate demonstrates precise, exhaustive and almost flawless knowledge and understanding of the debate about Mill’s proposals for a free society and deploys this to produce an exemplary answer to the question. The most relevant and accurate evidence and examples are deployed to illustrate points made extremely effectively (AO1). There is exceptionally thorough and clear analysis and evaluation of political information, arguments and explanations. There is highly effective comparison of political systems (AO2). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent throughout. A thoroughly convincing and logical argument is constructed which displays highly effective communication and presentation of ideas. There is precise and wide-ranging use of appropriate political vocabulary and a clear and logical conclusion is reached (AO3).

[35]

**Total**

**AVAILABLE  
MARKS**

35

**60**