



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

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## **Government and Politics**

### **Assessment Unit A2 2**

#### **Political Power and Political Ideas**

**[AQ221]**

**THURSDAY 29 MAY, AFTERNOON**

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#### **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

It is claimed by some, that the last twenty years have seen the triumph of liberal democracy over other forms of political system. In this view, nations with a long history of authoritarianism are unlikely to survive, yet dictatorships persist.

One reason for this is that they enjoy popular support. In Cuba, for example, many people continued to support Fidel Castro, in spite of the limitations of his regime. The charisma possessed by some leaders may offer one possible explanation why a dictator may have popular approval.

- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, identify and explain **three** reasons why an authoritarian state may persist. [10]
  
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain why authoritarian states frequently collapse. [15]
  
- 3 **Either**
  - (a) Evaluate the view that rule by the few is not only inevitable but also the best form of political system. [35]

Or

  - (b) Evaluate the view that the inequalities in wealth in capitalist societies, prevents them from being true democracies. [35]

## Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

### Source

All people wish to be free and to have control over their own lives. Liberty is the most basic of human desires and is the most fundamental of all human rights. Only when people are denied their freedom do they appreciate how important it is. Human history repeatedly records populations resisting oppression and tyranny in an attempt to achieve their liberty. Contemporary events also provide examples of the struggle for freedom from oppressive government. This confirms that freedom should be the first and most important goal of all political systems.

- 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 Burke's view, set out in *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, that "good order is the foundation of all good things". [35]

Or

  - (b) Evaluate the view, set out in the *Communist Manifesto*, that the proletariat would eventually have "nothing to lose but their chains". [35]

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**THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

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