



Rewarding Learning

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General Certificate of Education

2016

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



AQ221

[AQ221]
MONDAY 6 JUNE, MORNING

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

Winston Churchill's statement that "democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others" has many supporters. In reality, however, many other political systems that fall far short of democratic standards continue to survive in the modern world. This includes some systems that, from a western point of view, seem very authoritarian. This suggests that the sources of legitimacy are many and what works in one political system will not work in another. State control of the media is considered undemocratic in liberal democracies such as the UK. However, a free media is not a feature of all systems, for example, North Korea.

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- 1 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **three** factors that can help to legitimise a state. [10]

- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain what makes a political system authoritarian. [15]

- 3 **Either**
 - (a) Evaluate Michels' view that democracy is impossible because "who says organisation, says oligarchy." [35]

Or

 - (b) Evaluate the view that liberal democracy is the ideal form of political system. [35]

Option B: Political Ideas

Study the source below and answer the questions that follow.

Source

As the western world continues to suffer from the impact of the economic crisis that began in 2008, one thing remains unchanged: the major financial institutions, banks and hedge funds have remained largely unreformed and continue to dominate western capitalism. These institutions, through their greed and reckless pursuit of profit, were the main cause of the crisis that has blighted the lives of ordinary people over the past six years. The fact that governments have done so little to hold to account those responsible is evidence of where power lies within capitalist systems. The state really is “a committee for managing the common affairs of the bourgeoisie.”

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- 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 custom and tradition are “the general bank and capital of nations and of ages” and must be respected and valued. [35]

Or

- (b) Evaluate Mill’s view, as set out in *On Liberty*: “over himself, over his body and mind, the individual is sovereign” and therefore the power of the state must be limited. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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