



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2022

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1
Comparative Government



* AGP11*

[AGP11]

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY, MORNING

TIME

2 hours 15 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided. Choose **either Option A**: The United States of America and the United Kingdom **or Option B**: The Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

From your chosen option answer **all six** questions, the **four** in Section A and the **two** in Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 100 marks.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in Questions **3, 4, 6(a)** and **6(b)**.

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 part question in allocating the available examination time. Study the Source before attempting to answer Questions 2 and 4 and refer to the Source in your answers.

Option A: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK)

Answer **all six** questions, the **four** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

Section A: The Government and Politics of the USA

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 4.

Source

The US political system was designed to prevent the emergence of a dominant political leader and therefore avoid any possibility of tyranny. This led to the creation of structures such as federalism, an independent Supreme Court and checks and balances. However, some believe that this objective has not been achieved because of the dominance of the president. For decades, commentators have warned of the growth of an “Imperial Presidency”. The limitations on presidential power are now so ineffective that he is a virtual tyrant. For example, overturning a Presidential Veto is almost impossible. Democracy in the USA is therefore under threat, according to those who take this view.

- 1 What is meant by the term ‘impeachment’? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, identify and explain **two** ways in which a president can overcome Congressional checks (Source Line 7). [10]
- 3 Explain why so few Bills succeed in becoming laws in Congress. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that presidential dominance over Congress is now complete. [30]

Section B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the USA and UK

5 Identify and explain **two** differences in how laws are made in the House of Representatives and the House of Commons. [10]

6 **Either**

(a) "US Senators are major political players. Members of the House of Lords are only political 'extras'." Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

Or

(b) Assess the view that both Presidents and Prime Ministers rely much more on personal advisers than they do on their cabinets. [30]

Option B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK)

Answer **all six** questions, the **four** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

Section A: The Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 4.

Source

Ireland used to be seen as a “two and a half party” system with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael being the big two parties and the Labour Party as the “half”. This has all changed, in part due to the Irish electoral system. The dominance of the traditional big parties is over and Ireland is clearly an example of a multi-party system. Contrary to what many feared, this has not undermined the power of governments to govern. Irish parties and politicians have adapted to the new multi-party situation by showing a willingness to compromise and accept new arrangements. This makes it possible for a strong and stable government to operate, as the experience of the Varadkar government demonstrated.

- 1 What is meant by the term ‘confidence and supply agreement’? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, identify and explain **two** reasons why Ireland has become a multi-party political system (Source Line 4). [10]
- 3 Explain the criticisms made of Dáil scrutiny of the executive. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that “strong and stable government” is possible in the Republic of Ireland. [30]

**Section B: A Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the
Republic of Ireland and the UK**

5 Identify and explain **two** differences between committees in Parliament and those in the Oireachtas. [10]

6 Either

(a) “The greatest threat to any Prime Minister comes from the Opposition while the greatest threat to any Taoiseach comes from within their own party.” Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

Or

(b) Assess the view that MPs are concerned with national issues while TDs are just “messengers” for their constituents. [30]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for.
In some cases, efforts to contact copyright holders may have been unsuccessful and CCEA
will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgement in future if notified.