



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2022 Reserve Series

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1
Comparative Government



* AGP11*

[AGP11]

TUESDAY 28 JUNE, 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 and an independent Supreme Court. In addition, presidential nominations for key positions require Senate approval. However, some believe that the objective of preventing a dominant political leader has not been achieved because of the growth of presidential power. Commentators have been warning of the growth of an “Imperial Presidency” for decades and some believe this is now the reality. The limitations on presidential power are now so ineffective that he is a virtual tyrant. Democracy in the USA is therefore under threat, according to those who take this view.

- 1 What is meant by the term “Presidential Veto”? 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 Congress can limit a president’s independence. [10]
- 3 Explain the role of Congressional Committees in the legislative process. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that presidents remain unable to dominate Congress. [30]

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

5 Identify and explain **two** similarities in how Members of the House of Representatives and the House of Commons perform their representative role. [10]

6 **Either**

(a) "Members of the House of Lords have none of the powers of members of the US Senate." Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

Or

(b) Assess the view that, in both the UK and USA, the Cabinet has been made irrelevant by increased prime ministerial and presidential dominance. [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 democracy. This has undermined the power of governments to govern. Irish parties have been reluctant to adapt to the new multi-party situation and have shown an unwillingness to compromise and accept new arrangements. This makes it hard for strong and united government to operate, with Ministers publicly disagreeing with the Taoiseach.

- 1 What is meant by the term “multi-member constituency”? 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 for the electoral decline of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. [10]
- 3 Explain the ways in which backbench TDs can influence legislation. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that it is “hard for strong and united government to operate” in the Irish Republic. [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 in the powers of the Seanad and the House of Lords. [10]

6 Either

(a) “Both in the UK and in Ireland, the party dictates what MPs and TDs say and do.”
Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

Or

(b) Assess the view that scrutiny of the executive is much better in the UK than in Ireland. [30]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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