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General Certificate of Education  
2022

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# Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2  
Political Power and Political Ideas



AGP21

**[AGP21]**

**THURSDAY 16 JUNE, 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 answer **all five** questions, the **three** in Section A and the **two** in Section B.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 75.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in Questions **3, 5(a)** and **5(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 question in allocating the available examination time. Study the Source before attempting to answer Questions **2** and **3** and refer to the Source in your answers.

## Option A: Political Power

Answer **all five** questions, the **three** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

### Section A: Factors Involved in the Exercise of Power

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 3.

#### Source

The legitimacy and stability of Liberal Democratic states has long been taken for granted. However, the recent rise of populism has thrown this into question. The leaders of these populist parties and movements have questioned some of the central features of liberal democracy. They have, for example, challenged the authority of democratic institutions such as an independent judiciary. As a consequence of this challenge the legitimacy of many liberal democratic states is at its lowest since the 1930s. Those in favour of liberal democracy argue that we should not take it for granted.

- 1 What is meant by the term “legitimacy” when applied to the state? (Source Line 1) Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** features of a liberal democracy. [10]
- 3 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the reasons why some states may become unstable. [20]

## Section B: Theories of Power

4 What is meant by the term “oligarchy”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]

**Either**

5 (a) “The political subordination of women begins in the home, in the school and in the workplace.” Evaluate this view. [35]

**Or**

(b) “The domination of political power by the wealthy is greater today than ever.” Evaluate this view. [35]

## Option B: Political Ideas

Answer **all five** questions, the **three** in Section A and the **two** in Section B

### Section A: Texts

Read the Source below and refer to it in your answers to Questions 2 and 3.

#### Source

Modern bourgeois society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle. Society is more and more splitting into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other – the Bourgeoisie and the Proletariat. The Bourgeoisie has ... conquered for itself in the modern representative state, exclusive political sway. The executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie has forged the weapons that bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield those weapons – the proletariat

*Adapted from © Marx/Engels Internet Archive (marxists.org) 1987, 2000.*

- 1 What did Marx and Engels mean by “the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie”? (Source, Lines 5 and 6) [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the Communist Manifesto’s claim that “society is more and more splitting into two great hostile camps”. [10]
- 3 Using material from the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how the claim that the Proletarians would “bring death” to the Bourgeoisie has been criticised. [20]

## Section B: Ideologies

4 What is meant by the term “strong state”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]

### Either

5 (a) Evaluate the Liberal view that it is the government “that governs least, that governs best”. [35]

### Or

(b) Evaluate the view that Conservatism lacks core principles and is just about opposing change. [35]

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

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