



Rewarding Learning
ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2023

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



AGP21

[AGP21]
FRIDAY 16 JUNE, AFTERNOON

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

All states, even the most democratic and liberal, have the power to coerce their citizens. This was demonstrated in the measures that many governments took in order to deal with the Covid pandemic. However, some authoritarian states employ a consistently high level of coercion at all times and not just in response to a crisis. A number of features are apparent in such states, including the suppression of any groups that oppose the government, as in the Pro-Democracy movement in Hong Kong. Such suppression can result in short-term political stability and survival, but coercive regimes rarely survive in the long term. One reason for this is the financial burden that a high level of coercion puts on the state.

- 1 What is meant by the term “political stability”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** forms of coercion that may be employed by a state. [10]
- 3 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the reasons why coercive states “rarely survive in the long term”. [20]

Section B: Theories of Power

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

Either

5 (a) “Political power has always been dominated by an elite few and this will continue to be the case in the future.” Evaluate this view. [35]

Or

(b) “Liberal democracy is the best form of government.” 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

The appropriate region of human liberty comprises, first, liberty of thought and feeling, absolute freedom of opinion on all subjects. The liberty of expressing and publishing opinions belongs to that part of the conduct of an individual that concerns other people: but being of as much importance as the liberty of thought, should not be separated from it and should also be absolute. Secondly, the liberty of doing as we like, as long as what we do does not harm. Thirdly, the liberty of combination among individuals, freedom to unite for any purpose not causing harm to others.

Adapted from: JS Mill. On Liberty. 1859

- 1 What did Mill mean by “the liberty of combination among individuals”? [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain Mill’s view on “liberty of expressing and publishing opinions”. [10]
- 3 Using material from the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how Mill’s proposals for maximising liberty have been criticised. [20]

Section B: Ideologies

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

Either

- 5 (a) Evaluate the view that the differences between Socialists are less important than what unites them. [35]

Or

- (b) Evaluate the view that the differences between Organic and Libertarian Conservatives are less important than what unites them. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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