



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2025

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2
Political Power and Political Ideas



* AGP21*

[AGP21]

THURSDAY 5 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.

Indicate clearly on your Answer Booklet which option you have chosen by ticking the relevant box on page 2.

Please take a new page at the start of each question.

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

Many who live in liberal democracies believe that a state cannot have genuine approval unless its people elect the government in fair elections. However, the reality is that many authoritarian states do have significant support from large sections of their population and must therefore also be regarded as legitimate. One reason why an authoritarian state may have legitimacy is because it is seen to have restored pride and prestige after a period of national decline.

- 1 What is meant by the term “authoritarian state”? 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 democratic system. [10]
- 3 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain some of the reasons why authoritarian states can have a significant degree of legitimacy. [20]

Section B: Theories of Power

- 4 What is meant by the term 'patriarchy'? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]

Either

- 5 (a) "Oligarchy, whether open or concealed, will always operate in all political systems." Evaluate this view. [35]

Or

- (b) "Ownership of wealth has been the basis of political power throughout human history and that is still the case today." 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 history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles ... Modern capitalist society is more and more splitting up into two great classes directly facing each other – Bourgeoisie and Proletariat. As the Bourgeoisie developed, the Proletariat developed, a class of labourers who live only as long as they find work and who find work only as long as their labour increases profit.

Adapted from: The Communist Manifesto. 1848

- 1 What is meant by the phrase “history ... is the history of class struggles”? [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the Communist Manifesto’s claim that the Proletariat “work only as long as their labour increases profit”. [10]
- 3 Using material from the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how the Communist Manifesto’s analysis of capitalism can be criticised. [20]

Section B: Ideologies

- 4 What is meant by the term 'natural rights'? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]

Either

- 5 (a) Evaluate the Liberal view that humans are sensible and rational beings who do not need to be controlled by the state. [35]

Or

- (b) Evaluate the Conservative view that humans are weak and irrational beings whose behaviour needs to be controlled by the state. [35]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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