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General Certificate of Education

2018

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1
Comparative Government



* AGP11*

[AGP11]

MONDAY 11 JUNE, AFTERNOON

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

Failures in the 1970s and 1980s to manage the economy, to combat poverty, to provide proper welfare services, and to protect the dollar began to be explained as a failure of the political system. In the 1990s and 2000s, similar failures occurred over health care reform, the budget and gun control. For some, these failures were the outcome of the system of separation of powers: if it did not actually cause governmental failure, it encouraged it. Although presidents do possess powers to overcome obstacles, such as Executive Orders, gridlock is often the result. In such a situation, it is difficult to provide effective government.

*Adapted from © Governing America: The Politics of a Divided Democracy by Robert Singh.
(ISBN: 9780199250493) Published by Oxford University Press, 2003*

- 1 What is meant by the term “pork-barrelling”? 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 opposition. (Source, Line 7) [10]
- 3 Explain why Presidents have much greater freedom over the control of foreign policy than they do over domestic policy. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that the operation of the US political system prevents effective government. [30]

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

5 Identify and explain **two** differences between the powers of Public Bill Committees in the House of Commons and Standing Committees in the House of Representatives. [10]

6 **Either**

(a) Assess the view that Members of Congress are concerned with local issues while MPs and Lords focus on national issues. [30]

Or

(b) “There are more differences today between the powers of British Prime Ministers and US Presidents.” Assess the validity of this statement. [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

A growing number of Fine Gael TDs believe Enda Kenny should stand down as party leader. Some backbench TDs are considering whether they will table motions on his leadership as early as next week. "This level of political instability cannot go on given we are a minority government," said a Fine Gael TD.

Mr Kenny last week saw his authority challenged when Independent Alliance Ministers voted in favour of a Bill on fatal foetal abnormalities despite Fine Gael opposing the legislation. In spite of this open opposition, Mr Kenny was powerless to take any action against the rebel ministers.

© Growing number of FG TDs want Enda Kenny gone by Michael O'Regan. Published by The Irish Times, 10 July 2016

- 1 What is meant by the term "judicial review"? 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** limitations on the Taoiseach's control over cabinet. (Source, Lines 7/8) [10]
- 3 Explain why there are so many independent TDs in Dáil Éireann. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant information you have studied, assess the view that a Taoiseach today is little more than the "Chair" of the Cabinet. [30]

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

5 Identify and explain **one** similarity and **one** difference between Question Time in the Dáil and in the Commons. [10]

6 Either

(a) Assess the view that there is a strong case for keeping the Lords but not for retaining the Seanad. [30]

Or

(b) “Parliament is much better at scrutinising the Executive than the Oireachtas.” Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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