



Rewarding Learning
ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2023

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1
Comparative Government



* AGP11*

[AGP11]

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY, 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

Many suggested that when Donald Trump became President he would be severely restricted by the other institutions that make up the United States political system. The Separation of Powers would, it was believed, result in the President being unable to pursue his more radical proposals. The House of Representatives, with its power to set the Budget, would frustrate Trump's plans. These predictions proved correct. Trump was unable to achieve many of the policies on which he campaigned, such as building a wall along the Mexican border. This confirms that power in the USA has shifted away from the presidency.

- 1 What is meant by the term 'bipartisanship'? 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 block a President's plans. [10]
- 3 Explain why the representative role is so important to Members of the House of Representatives. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that power in the USA "has shifted away from the presidency". [30]

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

5 Identify and explain **two** differences between committees in the House of Representatives and those in the House of Commons. [10]

6 **Either**

(a) "Today there are fewer differences between the powers of US Presidents and UK Prime Ministers." Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

Or

(b) "Political parties have little relevance in Congress. In Parliament, political parties are dominant." 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

Political life in Ireland remains dominated by localism and brokerage. Voters tend to make their choice of candidate on the basis of who they believe has worked or will work to benefit them personally. A candidate's record in sorting out issues such as social security problems is crucial in determining how people vote. National and international issues come a very definite second for TDs and they play little part in creating legislation. Backbench TDs are content to leave legislating to the government, preferring instead to focus on constituency work.

- 1 What is meant by the term 'hung Dáil'? 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** forms of brokerage. [10]
- 3 Explain how backbench TDs can scrutinise the Executive. [15]
- 4 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, assess the view that the dominance of localism and brokerage has undermined the role of TDs as lawmakers. [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 composition of the Seanad and the House of Lords. [10]

6 Either

(a) “When it comes to running their governments, Taoisigh are ‘chairs’ but Prime Ministers are ‘chiefs’.” Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

Or

(b) “The Seanad has virtually no relevance in Irish politics, but the Lords remains a powerful part of the British system.” Assess the validity of this statement. [30]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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