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**ADVANCED**  
General Certificate of Education  
2024

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# Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 2  
Political Power and Political Ideas

[AGP21]



AGP21

**MONDAY 3 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

A lack of trust in state institutions is a sure sign of declining legitimacy. One reason why trust may fall is when state institutions are seen to be politically corrupt and only working for the wealthy and powerful. The elite regard themselves as being above the rules that other members of society are subject to. Those in power may seek to use the media to disguise this reality by, for example, suppressing dissenting voices. Too often this fails to work and this may be one possible cause of a crisis of legitimacy.

- 1 What is meant by the term “crisis of legitimacy”? Support your answer with a relevant example. [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain **two** ways in which a ruling group may seek to control the media. [10]
- 3 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain the reasons why state legitimacy may decline. [20]

## Section B: Theories of Power

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

### Either

- 5 (a) Evaluate the view that a few female political leaders do not disprove the fact that all political systems remain patriarchal. [35]

### Or

- (b) “Democracy is an illusion behind which those with wealth exercise power.” 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

What is liberty without wisdom? It is the greatest of all possible evils. How has the liberty of France been combined with government, with morality and religion and with peace and order? Without them, liberty is not likely to continue long. Good order is the foundation of all good things. Society requires that the passions of individuals should be controlled and brought into subjection. The private stock of reason in each man is small compared to the general bank and capital of nations and of ages.

*Adapted from: Edmund Burke. Reflections on the Revolution in France. 1790*

- 1 What did Burke mean by “the private stock of reason in each man is small”? [5]
- 2 With reference to the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain Burke’s argument that “good order is the foundation of all good things”. [10]
- 3 Using material from the Source and any other relevant material you have studied, explain how Burke’s ideas for creating “peace and order” in society have been criticised. [20]

## Section B: Ideologies

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

### Either

5 (a) Evaluate the view that all Socialists believe that the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism is necessary. [35]

### Or

(b) Evaluate the view that all Liberals believe that the role of the state should always be minimal. [35]

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

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