



National
Qualifications
2016

X758/76/11

Politics

FRIDAY, 3 JUNE

1:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Total marks — 60

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks

Attempt Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt Question 2 and EITHER Question 3(a) OR QUESTION 3(b).

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 20 marks

Attempt Question 4 and EITHER Question 5(a) OR QUESTION 5(b).

Write your answers clearly in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



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SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks

Attempt Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b)

1. Answer EITHER Question 1(a) OR Question 1(b).

The benefits of direct democracy are far superior to those for representative democracy.

- (a) Discuss with reference to the ideas of relevant theorists.

20

OR

The key features of political ideologies have very little in common.

- (b) Discuss with reference to **two** political ideologies and the ideas of relevant theorists.

20

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SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt Question 2 and EITHER Question 3(a) OR Question 3(b)

2. Study Sources A and B below (and opposite) then answer the question that follows.

SOURCE A

The UK Supreme Court

The UK Supreme Court was set up in 2009. It is the highest court in the United Kingdom, acting as a final court of appeal in most cases of major public importance. The Supreme Court gives the final verdict in all types of cases in the United Kingdom, other than criminal matters in Scotland. UK Citizens, however, also have the option of appealing to the European Court of Human Rights. In recent years a number of senior British judges have criticised the power of the European Court of Human Rights to overturn decisions made in the UK.

The UK Supreme Court does not have equal status to Parliament. The Supreme Court can review the legality of actions of the government, however, it cannot overturn any primary legislation passed by Parliament. In the UK, Parliament is sovereign and the UK Supreme Court cannot nullify laws passed by Parliament. However, it can overturn secondary legislation if, for example, that legislation is found to go beyond the powers the primary legislation originally granted by Parliament. When the Supreme Court makes such a ruling, the government must reconsider its legislation. In 2013, in perhaps the most high profile case the Supreme Court made, a judgment ruled that the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government's "back to work" schemes were legally flawed. This impacted on the Government, as it had to make changes to its secondary legislation.

Constitutionally, the UK Supreme Court should be above party politics. The Executive does not nominate justices to the UK Supreme Court. A Selection Commission, which is independent of political influence, nominates who should become a Supreme Court judge. The Lord Chancellor can then accept or reject a nomination. It is then up to the Prime Minister to make a final recommendation to the Queen, who confirms the appointment. The nomination of justices is not seen as a political decision and their appointment is based on their legal expertise. As a result the appointment of members of the UK Supreme Court is seen as a non-controversial decision. In fact, appointments made to the UK Supreme Court generate very little public interest or political debate.

2. (continued)

SOURCE B

The US Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court can review the actions of both federal and state government. It is here that the status of the Supreme Court as final interpreter of constitutional law comes into its own. In the legal system of the United States, the Supreme Court is the final interpreter of federal constitutional law and following the landmark *Madison v Marbury* ruling in 1803 the Supreme Court has exercised the power of full judicial review. There have been landmark Supreme Court rulings, which have made a massive impact on American society. In *Brown v Board of Education* (1954), the Supreme Court ruled that racially segregated schools in the state of Kansas were unconstitutional because they violated the Fourteenth Amendment. The US Supreme Court can strike down any legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by the President if the court decides it is unconstitutional. For example in its *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission* ruling in 2010, the court effectively invalidated campaign finance laws passed by Congress in 2002. In these ways it can be seen that it is the Supreme Court, rather than the Executive or the Legislature, that has made some of the most significant decisions in the country.

The US Supreme Court is also the final court of appeal and its decisions cannot be overturned. It hears cases and settles disputes that have progressed through both the Federal Courts system and the State Court system. In 2000 the Supreme Court in *Bush v Gore*, effectively overturned the decision of the Florida Supreme Court and stopped the recounting of disputed votes, which ensured George Bush would become President.

Appointments to the Supreme Court are seen as major political decisions for the President and Congress. Supreme Court Judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. In fact, the appointments made by a President are seen by many as the most significant decisions they will make in office due to the impact Supreme Court Judges can have long after a President has left office. A Supreme Court justice is increasingly seen as a highly political post. When a President nominates a justice their decision is subject to very detailed scrutiny by the Senate and the media due to the importance of the post. In 1987 the US Senate rejected President Reagan's controversial nomination of the conservative Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. Once appointed, Supreme Court Justices have life tenure unless they resign, retire or are removed after impeachment. No Supreme Court justice has ever been removed from office.

Using only the information in Sources A and B above (and opposite):

Compare the status of the Supreme Court in the UK and the USA.

In your answer you must make **three** points of comparison and reach an overall conclusion.

8

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3. Attempt EITHER Question 3(a) OR Question 3(b).

(a) Compare the role of the constitution in protecting individual rights in two political systems you have studied.

12

OR

(b) Compare the effectiveness of the legislature in scrutinising the actions of government in two political systems you have studied.

12

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SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 20 marks
Attempt Question 4 and EITHER Question 5(a) OR Question 5(b)

4. Study Sources A, B and C below (and opposite) then answer the question that follows.

SOURCE A

New York City Mayoral Election Results 2009 (by Borough)						
New York Boroughs						
Candidate	Manhattan	The Bronx	Brooklyn	Queens	Staten Island	Total for New York City
Michael Bloomberg (Independent)	159,837 (56%)	53,796 (37%)	153,739 (45%)	162,933 (55%)	55,161 (66%)	585,466 (51%)
Bill Thompson Jr (Democrat)	118,651 (41%)	88,845 (61%)	175,691 (52%)	127,646 (43%)	24,036 (29%)	534,869 (46%)

SOURCE B

New York City Mayoral Election Results 2013 (by Borough)						
New York Boroughs						
Candidate	Manhattan	The Bronx	Brooklyn	Queens	Staten Island	Total for New York City
Bill de Blasio (Democrat)	195,317 (72%)	121,511 (86%)	263,823 (78%)	181,921 (70%)	33,107 (44%)	795,679 (73%)
Joe Lhota (Republican)	69,434 (25%)	15,559 (11%)	68,543 (20%)	71,306 (28%)	39,538 (53%)	264,380 (24%)

4. (continued)

SOURCE C

Voting by selected groups in the 2013 New York City Mayoral Election

Income	Under \$50,000	\$50,000 – \$99,999	\$100,000+
Bill de Blasio (Democrat)	86%	75%	63%
Joe Lhota (Republican)	13%	22%	36%

Age	18–29	30–34	45–64	65+
Bill de Blasio (Democrat)	72%	76%	76%	67%
Joe Lhota (Republican)	22%	22%	23%	31%

Race	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Bill de Blasio (Democrat)	54%	96%	87%	70%
Joe Lhota (Republican)	43%	3%	10%	28%

Using only the information in Sources A, B and C above and (opposite):

Across the city as a whole and in each of the five boroughs, both Michael Bloomberg in 2009 and Bill de Blasio in 2013, overwhelmingly defeated their opponents in the elections for New York Mayor. In the 2013 Mayoral Election, Bill de Blasio comprehensively defeated his opponent in every section of society.

To what extent does the information in Sources A, B and C support this viewpoint?

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5. Attempt EITHER Question 5(a) OR Question 5(b).

(a) Analyse the relevance of the Sociological Model in explaining voting behaviour.

12

OR

(b) Analyse the impact of the dominant ideas of a political party you have studied on its electoral performance.

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