



National
Qualifications
2026

X858/76/11

**Politics
Paper 1**

MONDAY, 25 MAY
9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Total marks — 52

SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks

Attempt **EITHER** question 1 (a) **OR** question 1 (b).

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks

Attempt **EITHER** question 2 (a) **OR** question 2 (b).

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 12 marks

Attempt **EITHER** question 3 (a) **OR** question 3 (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.

You must leave your answer booklet on your desk; if you do not, you could lose all the marks for this paper.



SECTION 1 — POLITICAL THEORY — 20 marks
Attempt EITHER question 1 (a) OR question 1 (b)

1. (a) Power, authority and legitimacy **all** continue to be relevant in 21st century politics.

Discuss with reference to the works of Steven Lukes **and** Max Weber.

20

OR

- (b) To what extent is direct democracy more effective than representative democracy?

20

In your answer you must refer to the work of relevant theorists.

[Now go to SECTION 2 on *page 03*]

SECTION 2 — POLITICAL SYSTEMS — 20 marks**Attempt EITHER question 2 (a) OR question 2 (b)**

2. (a) The passage of legislation is very similar across different political systems.
Discuss with reference to **two** political systems you have studied. **20**

OR

- (b) To what extent are some executives more effective than others in making policy?
In your answer you must refer to **two** political systems you have studied. **20**

[Now go to SECTION 3 on *page 04*]

SECTION 3 — POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS — 12 marks**Attempt EITHER question 3 (a) OR question 3 (b)**

3. (a) Evaluate the impact of a political party's dominant ideas on its electoral performance. 12

OR

- (b) Evaluate the impact of media strategies used by political parties during election campaigns. 12

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]