

Global politics
Higher level and standard level
Paper 1

Thursday 8 November 2018 (afternoon)

1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all the questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[25 marks]**.

Unit 1 Power, sovereignty and international relations

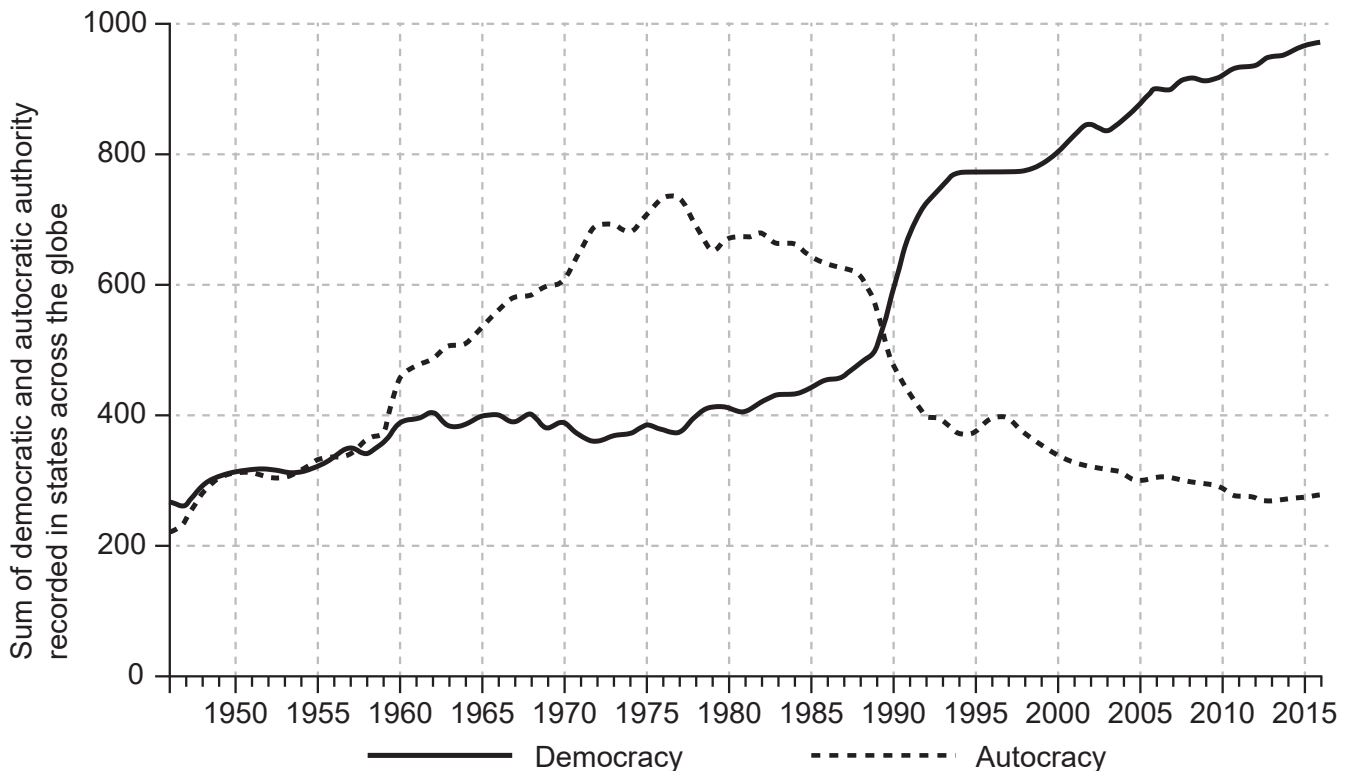
Operation of state power in global politics: Legitimacy of state power

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Source A

A chart showing trends in democracy and autocracy¹ across the globe, adapted from the *Center for Systemic Peace* website, an organization which supports scientific research and quantitative analysis of global systems (accessed 2017).

Democracy and autocracy, 1946–2016



[Source: <http://www.systemicpeace.org/conflictrends.html> (figure 14)]

Source B

From “The U.S. is no longer a ‘full democracy’ a new study warns”, an article by Amanda Erickson, *The Washington Post* (2016).

The government of the United States got a downgrade this week: We’re no longer a “full democracy”, according to the [Democracy Index produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit]². For the first time, we were [lowered to] “flawed”, thanks to an “erosion of public trust in political institutions”.

According to the report’s authors, a flawed democracy has free elections but “weak governance, an underdeveloped political culture and low levels of political participation”. Other countries that [are considered flawed democracies] include Italy, Japan, France and India. Rankings are based on a country’s electoral process, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture...

Faith in our public institutions – including Congress, newspapers and banks – has been in decline for decades... Three-quarters [of Americans] believe that most elected officials put their own interests ahead of the country... [Worldwide], just five percent of the world’s population live in a “full democracy”; [thirty-four percent] live under authoritarian regimes.

[Source: From “The U.S. is no longer a ‘full democracy,’ a new study warns,” by Amanda Erickson, *The Washington Post*, 26 January 2017, © 2017 The Washington Post. All rights reserved.]

Source C

Adapted from “Global Human Rights Under Siege Worldwide”, a testimony by Mark P. Lagon (Freedom House³) to the USA Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing (2016).

Freedom House has documented the tenth year of global decline in freedom, with 105 states experiencing a decline over the last decade. Thirty-six percent of the world’s population lives in countries ranked as “not free”. The sharpest declines have occurred in the areas of freedom of expression, rule of law, and freedom of association.

Economic pressures have increased the decline. Declining economies have led to public unrest which has been suppressed by many of the world’s authoritarian rulers. One argument popular with undemocratic leaders is that the crushing of dissent is necessary to maintain peace and stability. There is a difference between the superficial appearance of stability based on repression and stability that democracy brings.

Many states resort to anti-terrorism laws, blasphemy or insult laws, and laws governing the registration and foreign funding of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to effectively silence civil society. Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Russia and Turkey, among others, all utilize such laws to varying degrees. Protests break out because citizens have no other ways to engage in the political system or express discontent. All too often, democracies only say that they uphold democratic principles while sacrificing them for short-term economic and strategic gains.

Source D

Adapted from “Is Western Democracy Backsliding⁴? Diagnosing the Risks”, an article by Pippa Norris, *Journal of Democracy* (2016).

Setbacks to democracy have occurred among several non-Western regions, developing societies, and fragile states. Some of the worst backsliding during the last decade has happened in “hybrid regimes”, such as Russia, Venezuela, Kenya and Turkey. Hybrid regimes are neither full democracies nor full autocracies. In contrast, there have been improvements seen in Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan, Tunisia and Côte d’Ivoire. However, core institutions safeguarding political rights and civil liberties have not yet declined in Western states. The most serious contemporary threats to Western liberal democracies arise from two forces that each, in different ways, seek to undermine governments: (i) terrorist attacks on domestic soil, which damage feelings of security, and (ii) the rise of populist-authoritarian forces.

The growth of populist-authoritarianism⁵ threatens liberal democracy by challenging tolerance, rule of law, human rights and freedoms in Western societies. Populist rhetoric emphasizes that legitimate political authority is based on popular sovereignty and majority rule. Populism undercuts the legitimacy of the checks and balances on executive power in liberal democracies.

The argument that Millennials⁶ have become disillusioned with liberal democratic institutions and values in the West has attracted considerable attention, going viral in media commentary. However, in the United States and in many European countries, voters supporting populist-authoritarian parties and leaders are drawn disproportionately from the older generation, not the Millennials.

¹ autocracy: a system of government in which one person has unlimited or uncontrolled authority over others

² the Economist Intelligence Unit: a British company which provides economic research and analysis in association with *The Economist* newspaper

³ Freedom House: an organization that promotes freedom and democracy around the world

⁴ backsliding: to relapse; weaken

⁵ populist-authoritarianism: a political ideology whose beliefs include cynicism about human rights, hostility to the state, opposition to immigration and an enthusiasm for a strong defence and foreign policy

⁶ Millennials: a generation of people born between the early 1980s and 1990s

1. Outline what Source A reveals about the trends in democracy and autocracy. [3]
 2. With explicit reference to Source B **and one** example you have studied, analyse the concept of a *flawed democracy*. [4]
 3. Compare and contrast the accounts of democratic decline provided in Source C **and** Source D. [8]
 4. “States need to be democracies to be legitimate.” Examine this claim using all the sources **and** your own knowledge. [10]
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