

General Certificate of Education  
June 2007  
Advanced Level Examination



**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**Unit 5 The Politics of the USA**

**GOV5**

Friday 22 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV5.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Each question carries 40 marks.

- 1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

**The Path to the Presidency**

**Election day minus 4–8 years**  
A future President has usually been elected previously as a State Governor, US Senator or Vice-President.

**Election day minus 2 years**  
Hopefuls raise the millions of dollars needed to run a campaign.

**Election day minus 18 months**  
Individuals announce that they are actively campaigning to be President of the United States. They begin to visit states with early *primaries* and *caucuses*.

**Election day minus 6 months**  
The winners of the primaries and caucuses are virtually assured the nominations of their parties.

**Election day minus 3 months**  
Party nominating conventions officially name their presidential candidates before the beginning of their national campaign. Candidates visit states they can win, avoid those they will lose and pour money into the swing states.

**Election day minus 6 weeks**  
Hard campaigning and head-to-head television debates take place to influence viewers/voters.

**Election day**  
Voters nationwide cast ballots and electoral votes are counted state by state to decide the winner.

**Election day plus 6 weeks**  
The Electoral College votes are announced.

**Election day plus 10 weeks**  
The Inauguration of the President of the United States takes place.

Source: adapted from R DUNCAN and J GODDARD, *Contemporary America*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

- (a) Using the extract, explain the differences between *primaries* and *caucuses*. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, suggest reasons for the rising costs of presidential election campaigns. (12 marks)
- (c) Critically assess the workings of the Electoral College in the election of the President of the USA. (20 marks)

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Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

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- 2 'As of today, we have two Republican parties separated only by the issue of abortion.'  
To what extent is this an accurate description of the two main political parties in the USA  
today? *(40 marks)*
- 3 Consider whether the activities of pressure groups help or hinder the operation of a pluralist  
democracy in the USA. *(40 marks)*
- 4 'Despite the constant celebration of US democracy and the heroic struggles to extend the  
franchise, too many Americans do not appear to value the right to vote.' Discuss. *(40 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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