

General Certificate of Education
January 2008
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 4 Comparative UK/USA Government

GOV4

Monday 28 January 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 GOV4.
- 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.

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Source: adapted from R SEITZ, *Over Here*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, a division of The Orion Publishing Group, 1998

- (a) Explain the term *federal system* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, consider the main differences between the sources and status of the constitutions of the UK and the US. (12 marks)
- (c) Evaluate the extent to which the UK and US constitutions are able to change and adjust to new political realities. (20 marks)

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

- 2 ‘Members of the House of Representatives in the US Congress are significantly more powerful than MPs in the House of Commons.’ Discuss. *(40 marks)*
- 3 ‘Real power and decision-making within any system of government lies with permanent bureaucracies, not with temporary executives.’ Discuss with reference to the UK and the US. *(40 marks)*
- 4 ‘The role of judges in any democracy is to interpret and apply the law, not to become involved in political decisions.’ To what extent does this statement apply to the judiciaries of the US and UK? *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page