



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2010

Government and Politics

GOV3A

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Monday 28 June 2010 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 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 GOV3A.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions in each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - 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 topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1 The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

- 0 1** Examine the significance of the televised debates in presidential election campaigns. *(10 marks)*
- 0 2** 'The advantages of primary elections vastly outweigh their disadvantages in the selection of each party's presidential nominee.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

Topic 2 Political Parties

- 0 3** Explain why minor parties can be seen as important rather than as unimportant in the US political process. *(10 marks)*
- 0 4** 'Organisationally weak and ideologically similar.' To what extent is this still an accurate description of the two main US parties? *(30 marks)*

Topic 3 Voting Behaviour

- 0 5** Explain the increasing importance of the Hispanic vote in US elections. *(10 marks)*
- 0 6** Why do some voters split their ticket when voting in US elections **and** what are the consequences of such behaviour? *(30 marks)*

Topic 4 Pressure Groups

- 0 7** Explain, using examples, why US pressure groups may use direct action to try to achieve their aims. *(10 marks)*
- 0 8** Assess the factors that make pressure groups so powerful in the USA. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS