



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2010

Government and Politics

GOV4A

Unit 4A The Government of the USA

Wednesday 30 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 GOV4A.
- 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 Constitutional Framework of US Government

- 0 1** Explain the principle and practice of checks and balances in US government. (10 marks)
- 0 2** 'Far from being rigid, the US constitution is remarkably flexible.' Discuss. (30 marks)

Topic 2 The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress

- 0 3** Explain the practice and significance of impeachment in the USA. (10 marks)
- 0 4** To what extent does the social and political composition of Congress undermine representative government in the United States? (30 marks)

Topic 3 The Executive Branch of Government

- 0 5** Consider the operation and importance of the presidential veto. (10 marks)
- 0 6** Assess the view that, in practice, presidential power is restricted to issues relating to foreign policy. (30 marks)

Topic 4 The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court

- 0 7** Examine the process for selecting Supreme Court judges in the USA. (10 marks)
- 0 8** To what extent has the Supreme Court abandoned judicial activism in favour of judicial restraint? (30 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS