



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2012

## Government and Politics

## GOV4A

**Unit 4A The Government of the USA**

**Thursday 14 June 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-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 on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Use continuous prose.

### **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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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**Topic 1 The Constitutional Framework of US Government**

- 0 1** Explain the concept of fundamental law. (10 marks)
- 0 2** Assess the view that the US Constitution ensures limited government. (30 marks)

**Topic 2 The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress**

- 0 3** Explain the practice and importance of the filibuster in the government of the USA. (10 marks)
- 0 4** 'I would rather be a senator than a member of the House of Representatives.'  
Discuss this statement, comparing the roles of senators and members of the House of Representatives. (30 marks)

**Topic 3 The Executive Branch of Government**

- 0 5** Explain the significance of 'iron triangles' in US government. (10 marks)
- 0 6** 'More imperilled than imperial.' Discuss this view of the US presidency. (30 marks)

**Topic 4 The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court**

- 0 7** Explain the principle of entrenched rights. (10 marks)
- 0 8** 'Nine politicians in robes.' Discuss, with reference to the US Supreme Court. (30 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**