AQA

A-level
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Tuesday 14 June 2016   Afternoon   Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials
For this paper you must have:
* an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions
* Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
* Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is GOV3A.
* 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.

GOV3A

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1   The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

| 0 | 1 | Explain the significance of a 'balanced ticket' in US presidential elections.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 2 | Evaluate the use of recalls, referendums and initiatives as forms of direct democracy in the USA.

[30 marks]

Topic 2   Political Parties

| 0 | 3 | Consider the significance of 'social conservatives' in US politics.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 4 | 'In spite of the diversity of the USA, third parties and independent candidates have failed to break the electoral domination of the Democrat and Republican parties.'
Discuss.

[30 marks]

Topic 3   Voting Behaviour

| 0 | 5 | Consider the importance of race and ethnicity as factors influencing US voting behaviour.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 6 | Discuss the reasons for the high abstention levels at US elections.

[30 marks]

Topic 4   Pressure Groups

| 0 | 7 | Explain the importance of Political Action Committees in US politics.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 8 | Analyse the reasons why some pressure groups are more successful than others within the US political system.

[30 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS