



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination

Government and Politics

GOV4A

Unit 4A Politics and Power

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards

This question paper uses the [new numbering system](#) and [new AQA answer book](#)

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 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 that 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 of the separation of powers found in the US Constitution. (10 marks)

0 2 “Our Constitution works!” Gerald Ford, post-Watergate President. To what extent and why can a constitution written in and devised for the 18th century still work in the 21st century? (30 marks)

Topic 2 The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress

0 3 Consider the relative importance of party as an influence on voting in the US Congress. (10 marks)

0 4 Evaluate the claim that the Senate is far more powerful than the House of Representatives within Congress. (30 marks)

Topic 3 The Executive Branch of Government

0 5 Explain the circumstances in which a President will have to leave office. (10 marks)

0 6 ‘The US President is effectively unrestrained in the exercise of political power within the US system of government.’ How far do you agree with this statement? (30 marks)

Topic 4 The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court

0 7 Explain the way in which Supreme Court Justices are selected and appointed in the US. (10 marks)

0 8 ‘Nine politicians sitting on a Bench.’ Critically evaluate this description of the US Supreme Court. (30 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS