

Wednesday 16 January 2013 – Afternoon

A2 GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F853/01 Contemporary US Government and Politics

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:

- Insert – F853/01/1 (inserted)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 2 hours



Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The Insert will be found in the centre of this document.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Answer **Question 1** and **three** other questions.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined page(s) at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You will be rewarded for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of the course.
- Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in this paper. This means for example you should:
 - ensure that text is legible and that spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that meaning is clear;
 - organise information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- This document consists of **20** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

CONTENTS	
Question 1(a)	See page 3
Question 1(b)	See page 5
Questions 2 to 8 (answer any three)	See page 8
Additional answer space	See pages 19 – 20

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

SECTION A

Answer the question in this section.

Use the source below and your own knowledge to answer Question 1.

Source for Question 1

The Constitution limits the powers of the presidency. Despite a mandate and majorities in both the Senate and the House, President Obama found it difficult to get congressional support for health care reform and for plans to cut greenhouse gases. Part of the problem was the absence of a filibuster-proof supermajority in the Senate for most of the first term. More generally, presidents have encountered problems due to the increased polarisation of parties over the last 20 years, which has prevented a bipartisan approach being adopted.

- 1 (a) Describe the congressional checks on the presidency. [10]

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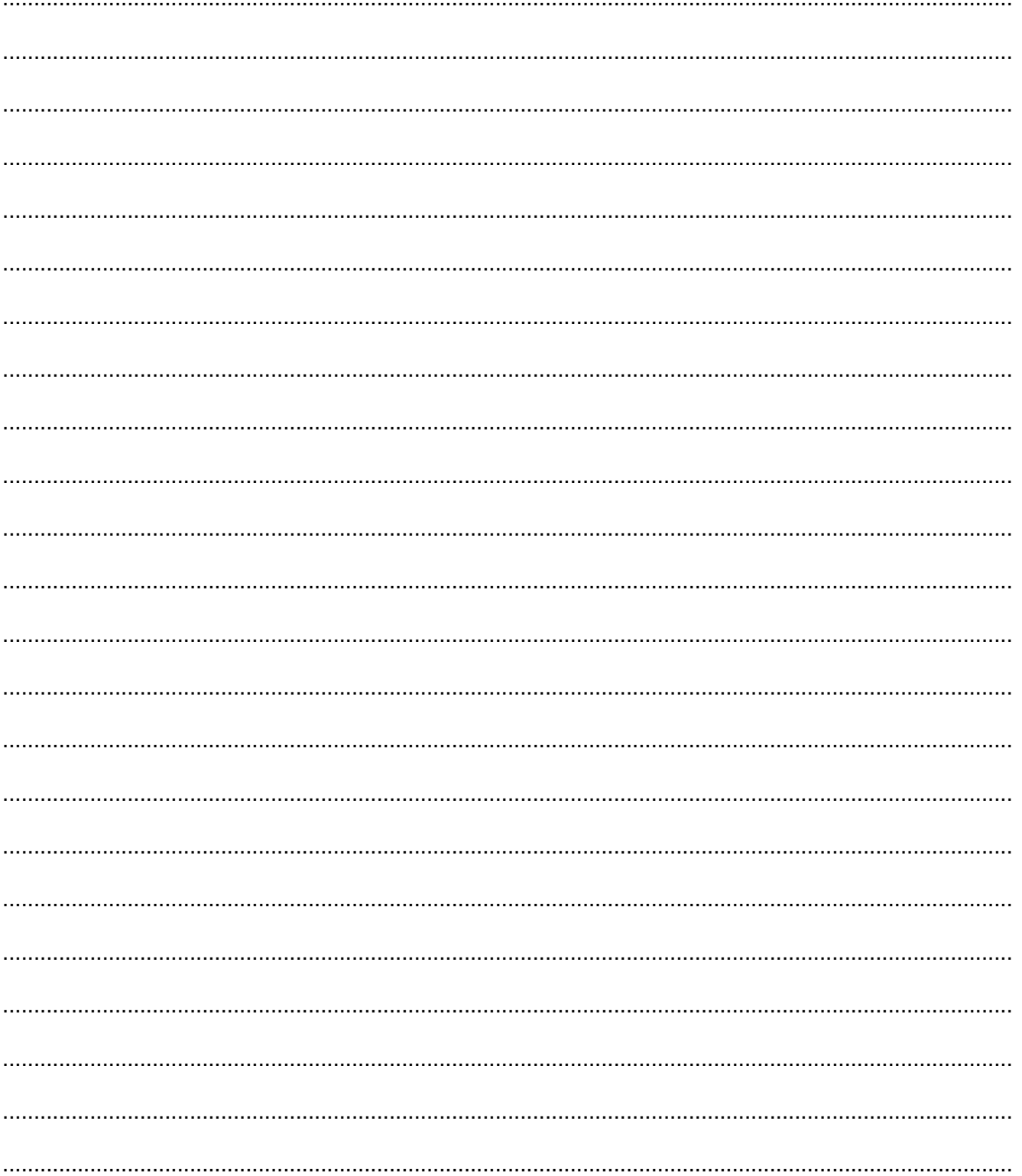
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SECTION B

Answer **three** questions in this section.

Write the numbers of the questions answered in the margin.

- 2 Discuss the merits of presidential primaries and caucuses as a method of selecting presidential candidates. [25]
- 3 Discuss why pressure groups play such an important role in US government and politics. [25]
- 4 Examine the reasons why most proposed amendments to the American Constitution have failed to be passed. [25]
- 5 Evaluate the claim that the Senate is more powerful than the House of Representatives. [25]
- 6 Assess the method by which members of the Supreme Court are chosen. [25]
- 7 To what extent has the Supreme Court been an effective defender of rights and liberties? [25]
- 8 Discuss the view that US political parties are experiencing a revival. [25]

(Use this space for planning your answer(s).)

Write the number of each question answered in the margin.

A vertical margin line is positioned on the left side of the page. To its right, there are 25 horizontal dotted lines extending across the page, providing a space for writing the number of questions answered.

A vertical solid line is positioned on the left side of the page. To its right, there are 25 horizontal dotted lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice.

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A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

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A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

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A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, starting from the top of the page and extending to the bottom, with a vertical solid line on the left side.

END OF QUESTION PAPER

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE

If additional answer space is required, you should use the following lined page(s). The question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margins.

A large area of lined paper for writing answers. It features a vertical solid line on the left side, creating a margin. The rest of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing space for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

A large rectangular area with a solid vertical line on the left side and horizontal dotted lines across the rest of the page, intended for writing answers.



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