



**GCE A level**

1404/01

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP4α**  
**UNIT 4α**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA**

A.M. THURSDAY, 14 June 2012

1½ hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part *(b)* questions).

*Answer two questions.*

*Each question is worth 40 marks.*

**Choose TWO of the questions that follow, and answer both parts, (a) and (b), for both the questions that you choose.**

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

- (a) Explain the importance of the principle of separation of powers in the US Constitution. [10]
- (b) Assess critically the argument that the US Constitution puts too much emphasis on the protection of the rights of citizens and the states. [30]

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

- (a) Explain the significance of Congress's power of impeachment. [10]
- (b) How far do you agree with the description of Congress as 'an inefficient and ineffective legislature'? [30]

**3. The Executive Branch of Government**

- (a) Explain the factors a president will consider when appointing a Cabinet. [10]
- (b) 'Conflict is the main feature of relations between the President and Congress.' Discuss. [30]

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

- (a) Explain the importance of appointments to the Supreme Court. [10]
- (b) 'The Supreme Court's power of judicial review is less significant than critics often claim.' Discuss. [30]