



GCE A level

1404/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

UNIT GP4 α

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA

P.M. FRIDAY, 27 January 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 constitutional relationship between the federal government and the states. [10]
- (b) 'The US Constitution is irrelevant to the actual operation of government in the USA today.' Discuss. [30]

2. The Legislative Branch of Government: the US Congress

- (a) Explain the importance of Congressional oversight. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the view that the legislative process makes it impossible to pass radical legislation quickly in the USA. [30]

3. The Executive Branch of Government

- (a) Explain why it is difficult to control the federal bureaucracy. [10]
- (b) Analyse critically the argument that the presidency is more imperilled than imperial. [30]

4. The Judicial Branch of Government: the Supreme Court

- (a) Explain how the Supreme Court ensures the protection of rights in the USA. [10]
- (b) 'The US Supreme Court is not an impartial guardian of the Constitution.' Discuss. [30]