



GCE A level

1403/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP3α
The Politics of the USA

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 16 January 2013

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 Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

- (a) Explain the significance of swing states in US elections. [10]
- (b) Assess whether money is always more significant than other factors in affecting the outcome of elections in the USA. [30]

2. Political Parties

- (a) Explain why political parties are weak in the USA. [10]
- (b) ‘Third parties and independent candidates have no significance in US politics.’ Discuss. [30]

3. Voting Behaviour

- (a) Explain the importance of core voting coalitions to parties in the USA. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the importance of race and ethnicity, compared with other factors, as determinants of voting behaviour in US elections. [30]

4. Pressure Groups

- (a) Explain the significance of Political Action Committees. [10]
- (b) Critically assess the argument that pressure groups are too powerful in the USA. [30]