



**GCE A level**

1404/01

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP4α**  
**The Government of the USA**

P.M. TUESDAY, 29 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 Constitutional Framework of US Government**

- (a) Explain how the US Constitution limits the power of Congress. [10]
- (b) Discuss the extent to which the US Constitution hinders effective government. [30]

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

- (a) Explain the importance of the ‘power of the purse’. [10]
- (b) Assess the view that Congress is characterised more by conflict than by co-operation. [30]

**3. The Executive Branch of Government**

- (a) Explain the importance of the presidential role of ‘commander-in-chief’. [10]
- (b) ‘US presidents are far more likely to fail than to succeed.’ Discuss. [30]

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

- (a) Explain why some nominations as justices to the Supreme Court are not confirmed by the Senate. [10]
- (b) Evaluate whether the Supreme Court is more a legal body than a political one. [30]