



GCE A level

1403/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP3a
The Politics of the USA

P.M. MONDAY, 9 June 2014

1 hour 30 minutes

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 importance of a 'balanced ticket' to presidential candidates. [10]
- (b) 'The media have less significance than other factors in US elections.' Discuss. [30]

2. Political Parties

- (a) Explain the importance of region for US political parties. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the view that parties do not matter in US politics today. [30]

3. Voting Behaviour

- (a) Explain why turnout seems to be relatively low in elections in the USA. [10]
- (b) Assess whether partisan alignment is more important than other factors in determining voting behaviour in the USA. [30]

4. Pressure Groups

- (a) Explain why participation in pressure group politics is popular in the USA. [10]
- (b) 'Corporations have more influence than any other type of pressure group in US politics.' Discuss. [30]

END OF PAPER