



GCE A level

1404/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP4a
The Government of the USA

P.M. FRIDAY, 13 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 Constitutional Framework of US Government

- (a) Explain why it is difficult to amend the US Constitution. [10]
- (b) Analyse whether the US Constitution maintains an effective balance between the rights and powers of the federal government, and those of the states and citizens. [30]

2. The Legislative Branch of Government: the US Congress

- (a) Explain how 'pork-barrelling' affects the work of Congress. [10]
- (b) Assess the view that Congress is a powerful and effective legislature. [30]

3. The Executive Branch of Government

- (a) Explain the role of the Executive Office of the President. [10]
- (b) 'Recent presidencies have proved that the US president can make the office as powerful as he wants it to be.' Discuss. [30]

4. The Judicial Branch of Government: the Supreme Court

- (a) Explain the factors a president will consider when nominating a Supreme Court justice for appointment. [10]
- (b) Given that the Supreme Court is not an elected body, analyse whether its role as guardian of the Constitution can be justified. [30]

END OF PAPER