



GCE A level

1403/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP3a
The Politics of the USA

A.M. MONDAY, 13 January 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 why it is difficult to control election finance in the USA. [10]
- (b) Critically assess the view that US presidential elections are effectively decided before the election campaign between the parties starts. [30]

2. Political Parties

- (a) Explain the main functions of political parties in the USA. [10]
- (b) Discuss whether the factionalised nature of US political parties is an advantage or a disadvantage for US politics and democracy. [30]

3. Voting Behaviour

- (a) Explain why party loyalty has declined in the USA. [10]
- (b) Analyse the importance of socio-economic status, compared to other factors affecting voting behaviour in the USA. [30]

4. Pressure Groups

- (a) Explain why 'iron triangles' can be criticised. [10]
- (b) 'Sectional pressure groups are more successful than cause groups in US politics.' Discuss. [30]

END OF PAPER