



GCE A level

1404/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP4a
The Government of the USA

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 22 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 Constitutional Framework of US Government

- (a) Explain the significance of the US Constitution. [10]
- (b) 'The US Constitution is too flexible.' Discuss. [30]

2. The Legislative Branch of Government: the US Congress

- (a) Explain the importance of committees within Congress. [10]
- (b) Assess whether parties have any importance for the relationship between Congress and the Executive. [30]

3. The Executive Branch of Government

- (a) Explain how the Constitution restricts the powers of the president. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the view that US presidents have more power in foreign affairs than in domestic affairs. [30]

4. The Judicial Branch of Government: the Supreme Court

- (a) Explain why Supreme Court landmark judgements have impact in the USA. [10]
- (b) Discuss the view that in reality the Supreme Court has less political significance than its critics claim it has. [30]

END OF PAPER