



GCE A level

1403/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP3a

The Politics of the USA

P.M. TUESDAY, 14 June 2016

1 hour 30 minutes plus your additional time allowance

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink, black ball-point pen or your usual method.

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 state level initiatives.

[10]

(b) 'The main criticism of presidential campaigns in the USA is the length of them.' Discuss. [30]

2. POLITICAL PARTIES

(a) Explain the importance of ideology for parties in the USA. [10]

(b) Discuss whether the main parties in the USA are more factionalised than they are united. [30]

3. VOTING BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Explain the significance of socio-economic status in voting behaviour in the USA. [10]**
- (b) 'Voting behaviour is volatile and unpredictable in US elections.' Discuss. [30]**

4. PRESSURE GROUPS

- (a) Explain how PACs and super-PACs can exert pressure in US politics. [10]**
- (b) Analyse whether lobbying access points is more effective than other methods of pressure group action in the USA. [30]**

END OF PAPER