

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 5 The Politics of the USA

GOV5

Tuesday 27 June 2006 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is GOV5.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Advice

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each question.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Each question carries 40 marks.

1 Study the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Text from G YOUNGE, 'Latinos become main minority group in US',
The Guardian, 23 January 2003. Not reproduced here due to third-party
copyright constraints.

- (a) Explain the term *electoral college votes* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, consider the ways in which US parties are trying to attract the increasing minority vote. (12 marks)
- (c) Evaluate the importance of ethnicity as a factor affecting voting behaviour in the USA. (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

- 2 'A key characteristic of the US political system is the strength of the two major parties and the insignificance of third-party candidates.'
Consider the reasons for the strength and durability of the two-party system in the USA. *(40 marks)*
- 3 Consider whether direct participation in decision making through the use of referendums, initiatives and propositions helps or hinders democracy in the USA. *(40 marks)*
- 4 Evaluate the view that pressure groups are now more powerful than political parties in US politics. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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