

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 5 The Politics of the USA

GOV5

Wednesday 18 June 2008 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 black ink or black 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 to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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.

Political Parties

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The extract explains why politics in the United States is less party-centred than in most western democracies.

Source: ROBERT SINGH, *Governing America: The Politics of a Divided Democracy*,
Oxford University Press, 2003

- (a) Explain the term *social diversity of the United States* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, assess the extent to which US political parties may be described as organisationally weak. (12 marks)
- (c) ‘Broad coalitions of different interests and values.’
To what extent is this still a valid description of US political parties? (20 marks)

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

- 2 Consider whether the growth of primary elections in the presidential nomination process has reduced the role and functions of the national nominating conventions to a mere formality. *(40 marks)*
- 3 Assess the factors that make some US pressure groups more successful than others in achieving their goals. *(40 marks)*
- 4 To what extent is voting behaviour in the US still determined by socio-economic factors rather than by candidates and issues? *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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