



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2010

Government and Politics

GOV3A

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Friday 22 January 2010 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 GOV3A.
- Answer **two** questions from a choice of four.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - 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 **two** questions.

Each question carries 40 marks.

- 1 (a) Explain the significance of the New Hampshire primary and the Iowa caucus in the presidential nomination process. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Evaluate the major criticisms of the Electoral College **and** give reasons for the lack of significant reform to its workings. *(30 marks)*
- 2 (a) Identify the main difficulties facing minor parties in the US electoral process. *(10 marks)*
- (b) ‘The ideological identity of the Democratic Party is now clearly liberal, whilst that of the Republican Party is now clearly conservative.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement? *(30 marks)*
- 3 (a) Explain the difference between aligned and de-aligned voters in the USA. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Assess the significance of race, gender and religion as factors influencing US voting behaviour. *(30 marks)*
- 4 (a) Explain the term pluralist democracy in the context of US politics. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Discuss the factors that determine the success of US pressure groups in achieving their political objectives. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS