



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2011

Government and Politics

GOV3A

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Monday 13 June 2011 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions in each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work 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 topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1 The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

0 1 Examine the use of recall elections in US politics. *(10 marks)*

0 2 'Slick media events which lack any significance in the modern US nomination process.'
Assess this view of the national nominating conventions. *(30 marks)*

Topic 2 Political Parties

0 3 Consider the importance of the 'religious right' in US politics. *(10 marks)*

0 4 Why are US parties often described as weak organisations, and how accurate is the description today? *(30 marks)*

Topic 3 Voting Behaviour

0 5 Explain the 'gender gap' which exists in US voting behaviour. *(10 marks)*

0 6 'Although most forms of political participation are high in the USA, voter turnout at elections remains low.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

Topic 4 Pressure Groups

0 7 Explain, using examples, the differences between sectional groups and cause groups in US politics. *(10 marks)*

0 8 Critically evaluate the methods used by US pressure groups to achieve their political aims. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS