



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
January 2012

## Government and Politics

## GOV3A

### Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Tuesday 24 January 2012 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**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 on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Use continuous prose.

#### 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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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**Topic 1 The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy**

**0 1** Consider the significance of the selection of vice-presidential candidates in the US nomination process. *(10 marks)*

**0 2** 'Despite several attempts to regulate campaign finance, money increasingly dominates the US electoral process and is the main factor contributing to a candidate's success.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

**Topic 2 Political Parties**

**0 3** Examine the extent to which the Republican Party may be described as **both** fiscally **and** socially conservative. *(10 marks)*

**0 4** 'Destined only to sting like a bee then die.' Evaluate this view of the significance of third parties and independent candidates in the USA. *(30 marks)*

**Topic 3 Voting Behaviour**

**0 5** Explain why some voters 'split their ticket' when voting in US elections. *(10 marks)*

**0 6** Assess the significance of region, race and religion as factors explaining voting behaviour in the USA. *(30 marks)*

**Topic 4 Pressure Groups**

**0 7** Explain the role of lobbying in US pressure group activity. *(10 marks)*

**0 8** 'Whilst pressure groups are vital to a pluralist democracy, they have come to dominate decision-making in the USA.' Evaluate this statement. *(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**