



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

Government and Politics

GOV3A

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Monday 11 June 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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1 The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

0 | 1 Examine the significance of the caucus system in the presidential nomination process. *(10 marks)*

0 | 2 Evaluate the view that, despite criticisms, the Electoral College is by far the best method of electing the US President. *(30 marks)*

Topic 2 Political Parties

0 | 3 Identify and outline the main divisions within the Democratic Party. *(10 marks)*

0 | 4 'Despite the vast diversity of the USA, two parties continue to dominate the political system.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

Topic 3 Voting Behaviour

0 | 5 Consider the importance of the age of US voters as a factor influencing voting behaviour. *(10 marks)*

0 | 6 'Democratic overload is the main cause of the high abstention levels in US elections.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

Topic 4 Pressure Groups

0 | 7 Explain why US political culture encourages pressure group activity. *(10 marks)*

0 | 8 Analyse why some US pressure groups are more successful than others in achieving their aims and objectives. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS