



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
January 2013

Government and Politics

GOV3A

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Wednesday 16 January 2013 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 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 Consider the importance of 'swing states' to the success of candidates in US presidential elections. *(10 marks)*

0 | 2 'Too long, too expensive and too dominated by style rather than substance.' Evaluate this view of the US presidential nomination process. *(30 marks)*

Topic 2 Political Parties

0 | 3 Explain how third parties and independent candidates can have an impact in US politics. *(10 marks)*

0 | 4 Assess the claim that the Democratic and Republican parties are now ideologically distinct and internally united. *(30 marks)*

Topic 3 Voting Behaviour

0 | 5 Explain the concept of 'differential abstention' in US politics. *(10 marks)*

0 | 6 'Despite variations in voting behaviour from election to election, the two main US parties can always rely on a solid block of core voters for support.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

Topic 4 Pressure Groups

0 | 7 Explain why US pressure groups may use different access points in trying to achieve their objectives. *(10 marks)*

0 | 8 Evaluate the view that US pressure groups are now far more powerful than political parties in the US political process. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS