



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2013

Government and Politics

GOV3A

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Tuesday 4 June 2013 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 Distinguish between hard money and soft money in the financing of US elections. *(10 marks)*

0 2 'Attractive in theory, but undesirable in practice.' Discuss this view of direct democracy in the USA. *(30 marks)*

Topic 2 Political Parties

0 3 Explain what is meant by describing US parties as internal coalitions. *(10 marks)*

0 4 Assess the extent to which the two main US parties may still be characterised as organisationally weak and in decline. *(30 marks)*

Topic 3 Voting Behaviour

0 5 To what extent does the New Deal Coalition of voting support for the Democratic Party still exist? *(10 marks)*

0 6 Evaluate the view that voting behaviour in the USA is determined more by the socio-economic characteristics of the voters than by issues, candidates and events. *(30 marks)*

Topic 4 Pressure Groups

0 7 Consider the importance of 'iron triangles' in US politics. *(10 marks)*

0 8 'Pressure groups are both essential and beneficial to the operation of representative democracy in the USA.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS