



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2014

## Government and Politics

## GOV3A

### Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Monday 9 June 2014 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 **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 congressional mid-term elections. **[10 marks]**

**0 2** To what extent have the role and functions of the national nominating conventions been reduced to mere formalities? **[30 marks]**

**Topic 2 Political Parties**

**0 3** Explain how political parties are organised in the USA. **[10 marks]**

**0 4** 'Minor parties and independent candidates in the USA have little political significance and are destined to fail.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 3 Voting Behaviour**

**0 5** Explain why the Hispanic vote is becoming more important in US elections. **[10 marks]**

**0 6** 'A continuing paradox of US voting behaviour is the willingness of many voters to split their ticket.' Evaluate the reasons for and the consequences of such electoral behaviour. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 4 Pressure Groups**

**0 7** Explain the role and significance of single-issue pressure groups in the USA. **[10 marks]**

**0 8** 'The political activities of pressure groups help rather than hinder the operation of pluralist democracy in the USA.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**