



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2014

## Government and Politics

## GOV4A

### Unit 4A The Government of the USA

Friday 13 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 GOV4A.
- 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 Constitutional Framework of US Government**

**0 1** Explain the concept of constitutional sovereignty in the USA. **[10 marks]**

**0 2** 'A constitution written in the eighteenth century does not work in the twenty-first century.'  
Discuss with reference to the USA. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 2 The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress**

**0 3** Explain the importance of pork-barrel politics in the US Congress. **[10 marks]**

**0 4** 'Gridlock is an inevitable consequence of the US system of government.'  
Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 3 The Executive Branch of Government**

**0 5** Examine the role and importance of the federal agencies in US government. **[10 marks]**

**0 6** Assess the significance of the cabinet in the executive branch of US government. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 4 The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court**

**0 7** Explain the practice and importance of judicial review. **[10 marks]**

**0 8** 'The Supreme Court is essentially the guardian of the US Constitution.'  
Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**