



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2015

## Government and Politics

## GOV3A

### Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Monday 8 June 2015 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** Identify and explain the differences between primary elections and the caucus system in the US presidential nomination process. **[10 marks]**

**0 2** 'An eighteenth-century process still used for the election of the twenty-first-century president.' Critically evaluate this view of the Electoral College. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 2 Political Parties**

**0 3** Consider how accurate it is to describe the USA as having a two-party system. **[10 marks]**

**0 4** 'The two main US parties are now more ideologically distinct and internally united than in the past.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 3 Voting Behaviour**

**0 5** Explain the term 'democratic overload' in the context of US voting behaviour. **[10 marks]**

**0 6** 'The factors that influence voters are varied, complex and difficult to predict.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 4 Pressure Groups**

**0 7** Explain how the US political system encourages pressure group activity. **[10 marks]**

**0 8** Critically assess the methods used by US pressure groups to achieve their aims and objectives. **[30 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**