Government and Politics GOV4A

Unit 4A   The Government of the USA

Wednesday 17 June 2015   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

A
- 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.

GOV4A

Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions on each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1   **The Constitutional Framework of US Government**

| 0 | 1 | Explain the concept of the separation of powers as found in the USA.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 2 | 'The US Constitution was designed to resist change.' Discuss.

[30 marks]

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

| 0 | 3 | Consider arguments for bicameralism as found in the USA.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 4 | 'Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work.' Discuss.

[30 marks]

Topic 3   **The Executive Branch of Government**

| 0 | 5 | Examine the operation of 'iron triangles' in US policy making.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 6 | 'The power and influence of the Executive Office of the President
far exceed those of the cabinet.' Discuss.

[30 marks]

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

| 0 | 7 | Explain the distinction between judicial activism and judicial restraint.

[10 marks]

| 0 | 8 | 'Constitutionally separate but not outside the political battle.'
Evaluate this description of the role of the US Supreme Court.

[30 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS