

## A-level GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### Unit 4A The Government of the USA

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Thursday 16 June 2016    Afternoon    Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

#### **Materials**

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### **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** Examine the concept of federalism in the USA. **[10 marks]**

**0 2** To what extent do the separation of powers **and** checks and balances limit government in the USA? **[30 marks]**

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

**0 3** Explain the importance of the advice and consent powers of the US Senate. **[10 marks]**

**0 4** Assess the role of political parties in the US Congress. **[30 marks]**

**Topic 3 The Executive Branch of Government**

**0 5** Explain the significance of the 'spoils system' in the executive branch of US government. **[10 marks]**

**0 6** 'The reality of the modern presidency is one of vulnerability not strength.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

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

**0 7** Explain how US Supreme Court justices are appointed and why the process is considered significant. **[10 marks]**

**0 8** 'The main role of the Supreme Court is to protect the rights and liberties of US citizens.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**