



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED

General Certificate of Education

2008

Government and Politics

Assessment Unit A2 1

assessing

Module 4: The Government and Politics
of the USA

Module 5: The Government and Politics
of the Republic of Ireland

[A2Q11]

MONDAY 7 JANUARY, MORNING



TIME

1 hour.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **either** Section A on Module 4 **or** Section B on Module 5.
Answer **one** question from your chosen section.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 30.
Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.
Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each question or part question.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

You are advised to take account of the marks for each part question in allocating the available examination time.

You should answer **one** question from **either** Section A **or** Section B

Section A

Module 4: The Government and Politics of the United States of America

1 The Constitution of the USA

- (a) Identify and explain **two** ways by which the Constitution can be **informally** amended. [10]
- (b) “The Constitution has failed in its task of preventing executive dominance.” Discuss. [20]

2 The United States Supreme Court

- (a) Identify and explain **two** Supreme Court decisions that have had a major impact upon American society. [10]
- (b) “More than ever, Supreme Court judges are ‘politicians in robes’.” Discuss. [20]

3 United States Political Parties

- (a) Identify and explain **two** differences between the support base of the Democratic Party and that of the Republican Party. [10]
- (b) “The decline of the two major US political parties shows no sign of slowing up.” Discuss. [20]

Section B

Module 5: The Government and Politics of the Republic of Ireland

1 Bunreacht na hEireann

- (a) Identify and explain **two** strengths of the formal amendment process. [10]
- (b) “Judicial Review has been the most effective way of bringing about constitutional change.” Discuss. [20]

2 Irish Local Government

- (a) Identify and explain **two** functions of Irish local government. [10]
- (b) “Irish local government is entirely dependent upon central government.” Discuss. [20]

3 Irish Political Parties

- (a) Identify and explain **two** core principles of Fianna Fail. [10]
- (b) “The Progressive Democrats’ attempt to break the mould of Irish politics has been undermined by their willingness to enter coalition governments.” Discuss. [20]

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER
