

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced GCE

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2698

Government and Politics (US Option)

Thursday **29 JUNE 2006** Afternoon 1 hour 30 minutes

Each candidate must be given:
16-page Answer Booklet

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answers should be written in continuous prose.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten these securely to the answer booklet.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of your answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.
- The maximum mark for this paper is **120**. Each question is worth **60** marks.
- This is a synoptic unit. You will be awarded marks for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of this course.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This question paper consists of 2 printed pages.

Answer two questions .

This is a synoptic unit. You will be awarded marks for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of this course.

In answering each question, you should draw upon the knowledge and understanding gained from your study of Government and Politics of both the United States and the UK. Where appropriate, you should also make references to other political systems, as well as the European Union.

- 1 Discuss the importance of judicial independence from other branches of government. [60]
- 2 Discuss whether the activity of interest groups helps or hinders representative democracy. [60]
- 3 Contrast the importance of parties in the selection of presidential candidates and party leaders. [60]
- 4 Discuss the merits of presidential forms of government over prime ministerial forms of government. [60]
- 5 Analyse the claim that elections no longer fulfil their functions . [60]
- 6 Discuss the benefits of a shift in power away from the centre in modern political systems. [60]
- 7 Discuss the view that the most important role of legislatures today is to check executives. [60]
- 8 Evaluate the contribution of different institutions to the defence of rights and liberties in modern political systems. [60]

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (OCR) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.