



GCE A level

1403/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

UNIT GP3 α

THE POLITICS OF THE USA

A.M. TUESDAY, 24 January 2012

1½ hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer any **TWO** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The maximum mark for this paper is 80.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The time you spend on a question should be in proportion to the marks available.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in answers that involve extended writing (part *(b)* questions).

*Answer two questions.
Each question is worth 40 marks.*

Choose TWO of the questions that follow, and answer both parts, (a) and (b), for both the questions that you choose.

1. The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

- (a) Explain why the system of primaries in US elections can be criticised. [10]
- (b) 'Recent elections have confirmed the media as the most significant factor affecting the outcome.' Discuss. [30]

2. Political Parties

- (a) Explain why factions exist in the Democratic Party. [10]
- (b) 'For the main political parties in the USA, the economy causes more disagreement than any other issue.' Discuss. [30]

3. Voting Behaviour

- (a) Explain the significance of religion as a factor influencing voting behaviour in the USA. [10]
- (b) Analyse whether short-term factors are now more important than core voting coalitions in determining voting behaviour in the USA. [30]

4. Pressure Groups

- (a) Explain why there are so many pressure groups in the USA. [10]
- (b) Assess whether corporate groups or issue groups have more influence in the American political system. [30]