



**GCE A level**

1403/01

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP3α**  
**The Politics of the USA**

A.M. TUESDAY, 4 June 2013

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 Electoral College can be defended. [10]
- (b) ‘Candidates are more significant to the outcome of elections in the USA than other factors.’ Discuss. [30]

**2. Political Parties**

- (a) Explain why factions exist within the two main parties in the USA. [10]
- (b) Evaluate the claim that political parties are in serious decline in the USA. [30]

**3. Voting Behaviour**

- (a) Explain why levels of turnout in US elections tend to be relatively low. [10]
- (b) Assess the extent to which religion and region play a more important role than other factors in determining voting behaviour in the USA. [30]

**4. Pressure Groups**

- (a) Explain the importance of lobbying to pressure groups in the USA. [10]
- (b) Analyse whether pressure group politics in the USA is based more on pluralism than elitism. [30]