



**GCE A level**

1404/01



S15-1404-01

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP4a**  
**The Government of the USA**

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 17 June 2015

1 hour 30 minutes

**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 Constitutional Framework of US Government**

- (a) Explain the importance of the Bill of Rights. [10]
- (b) 'The US Constitution is no longer fit for purpose.' Discuss. [30]

**2. The Legislative Branch of Government: the US Congress**

- (a) Explain why the Senate and the House of Representatives have different roles within Congress. [10]
- (b) Assess the extent to which Congress performs its function of representation effectively. [30]

**3. The Executive Branch of Government**

- (a) Explain how the power of the president is constrained by the Supreme Court. [10]
- (b) Critically assess the view that the executive is a weak branch of government in the USA. [30]

**4. The Judicial Branch of Government: the Supreme Court**

- (a) Explain the importance of life tenure of Supreme Court justices. [10]
- (b) 'Checks and balances are not effective in constraining the power of the Supreme Court.' Discuss. [30]

**END OF PAPER**