

Monday 12 June 2017 – Afternoon

A2 GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F853/01 Contemporary US Government and Politics

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:

- Insert – F853/01/1 (inserted)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 2 hours



Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The Insert will be found inside this document.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Answer **Question 1** and **three** other questions.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined page(s) at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You will be rewarded for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of the course.
- Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in this paper. This means you should:
 - ensure that text is legible and that spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that meaning is clear;
 - organise information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- This document consists of **20** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

CONTENTS	
Question 1(a)	See page 3
Question 1(b)	See page 5
Questions 2 to 8 (answer any three)	See page 8
Additional answer space	See pages 19–20

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

SECTION A

Answer the question in this section.

Use the source and your own knowledge to answer Question 1.

Source for Question 1

Calls for reform of the US Constitution have increased in recent years as critics have argued that it prevents effective government. The Obama administration struggled once the Democrats had lost their House majority in the 2010 mid-term elections and gridlock followed. Others suggest that the Constitution has departed from the underlying principles established by the Founding Fathers. They argue that increased federal government intervention threatens both states' and individual rights. Constitutional reform however is unlikely to occur in the near future, even though the Constitution has changed over time.

- 1 (a) Outline the main underlying principles of the US Constitution. [10]

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SECTION B

Answer **three** questions from this section.

Write the numbers of the questions answered in the margin.

- 2 Discuss the view that pressure groups play a key role in the democratic process in the USA today. [25]
- 3 Discuss the view that the US remains a two party system. [25]
- 4 Discuss the view that voting behaviour in the USA is best explained by the gender, age and ethnicity of the voters. [25]
- 5 Discuss the view that the cabinet's importance depends upon the president. [25]
- 6 Assess the claim that the USA has two co-equal congressional chambers. [25]
- 7 Evaluate the factors that influence Supreme Court rulings. [25]
- 8 Discuss the view that constant scrutiny is needed to ensure the protection of rights and liberties in the USA. [25]

(Use this space for planning your answer(s).)

Write the number of each question answered in the margin.

A vertical line on the left side of the page is followed by 25 horizontal dotted lines, providing a margin for writing the number of questions answered.

A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

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A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, starting from the top of the page and extending to the bottom, with a vertical solid line on the left side.

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A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

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A large area of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing space for writing answers. A solid vertical line is positioned on the left side of this area.

END OF QUESTION PAPER

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE

If additional space is required, you should use the following lined page(s). The question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margin(s).

A large area of lined paper for writing, consisting of 25 horizontal dotted lines. A solid vertical line runs down the left side of the page, creating a margin. The rest of the page is blank.

A large rectangular area with a solid vertical line on the left side and horizontal dotted lines extending across the page, providing a grid for writing answers.



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