



A-level

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Monday 12 June 2017 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is GOV3A.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions on each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- Use continuous prose.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to read through the examination paper before you attempt the questions.
- You are advised to spend the same amount of time on each topic.

Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions on each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1 The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

0 1 Explain the importance of recall elections in US politics. **[10 marks]**

0 2 'The national party conventions no longer have any significant roles or functions in the modern presidential nomination process.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

Topic 2 Political Parties

0 3 Examine the extent to which the Democratic Party may be described as **both** fiscally **and** socially liberal. **[10 marks]**

0 4 'In the past the two main parties were organisationally weak and in ideological decline.' To what extent is this an accurate description of the Democratic and Republican parties today? **[30 marks]**

Topic 3 Voting Behaviour

0 5 Consider the reasons why some voters 'split their ticket' when voting in US elections. **[10 marks]**

0 6 'Long term primacy factors rather than short term recency factors are the most important determinants of voting behaviour in the US.' Discuss. **[30 marks]**

Topic 4 Pressure Groups

0 7 Explain the significance of 'iron triangles' in US politics. **[10 marks]**

0 8 Evaluate the view that pressure groups are necessary for the functioning of pluralist democracy in the USA. **[30 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

