



GCE A level

1404/01



S16-1404-01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP4a
The Government of the USA

P.M. THURSDAY, 16 June 2016

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 how the US Constitution promotes the concept of federalism. [10]
- (b) ‘The Bill of Rights is more significant than other parts of the US Constitution.’ Discuss. [30]

2. The Legislative Branch of Government: the US Congress

- (a) Explain why the financial role of Congress is important. [10]
- (b) Assess whether Congress performs its function of oversight more effectively than its other functions. [30]

3. The Executive Branch of Government

- (a) Explain the importance of the president’s power to persuade. [10]
- (b) ‘The main problem with the federal bureaucracy is clientelism.’ Discuss. [30]

4. The Judicial Branch of Government: the Supreme Court

- (a) Explain why the Supreme Court is needed to interpret the US Constitution. [10]
- (b) ‘The US Supreme Court reflects rather than leads public opinion in the USA.’ Discuss. [30]

END OF PAPER