



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
January 2013

## Government and Politics

## GOV3A

### Unit 3A The Politics of the USA

Wednesday 16 January 2013 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

#### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. 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.

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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**Topic 1 The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy**

**0 1** Consider the importance of 'swing states' to the success of candidates in US presidential elections. *(10 marks)*

**0 2** 'Too long, too expensive and too dominated by style rather than substance.' Evaluate this view of the US presidential nomination process. *(30 marks)*

**Topic 2 Political Parties**

**0 3** Explain how third parties and independent candidates can have an impact in US politics. *(10 marks)*

**0 4** Assess the claim that the Democratic and Republican parties are now ideologically distinct and internally united. *(30 marks)*

**Topic 3 Voting Behaviour**

**0 5** Explain the concept of 'differential abstention' in US politics. *(10 marks)*

**0 6** 'Despite variations in voting behaviour from election to election, the two main US parties can always rely on a solid block of core voters for support.' Discuss. *(30 marks)*

**Topic 4 Pressure Groups**

**0 7** Explain why US pressure groups may use different access points in trying to achieve their objectives. *(10 marks)*

**0 8** Evaluate the view that US pressure groups are now far more powerful than political parties in the US political process. *(30 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**