

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Unit 4 Comparative UK/USA Government

GOV4

Wednesday 18 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-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 GOV4.
- Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- The marks for questions (or part questions) are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to 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 question.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Each question carries 40 marks.

- 1** Study the extract below and answer parts (a) to (c) which follow.

Judiciaries

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The extract contrasts the significance of senior judicial appointments in the UK and the USA.

Source: adapted from M KETTLE, 'This vulgar system puts our judicial process to shame',
The Guardian, 5 July 2005

- (a) Explain the term *independent judiciary* used in the extract. (8 marks)
- (b) Using the extract and your own knowledge, critically assess the appointment processes of senior judges in the UK and US. (12 marks)
- (c) Explain the 'centrality of the judges' in the US system of government compared with their position in the UK. (20 marks)

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

- 2 Consider the extent to which political power is still centralised and concentrated in the UK system of government and still decentralised and dispersed in the US. *(40 marks)*
- 3 ‘A major function of any legislature is scrutiny and control of the executive.’
Compare the extent to which this function is carried out effectively by the US Congress and the UK Parliament. *(40 marks)*
- 4 ‘Both the terms “prime-ministerial government” in the UK and “presidential government” in the US are over-simplistic descriptions of the realities of executive power in both countries.’
Discuss. *(40 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page