



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2011

## Government and Politics

## GOV4A

### Unit 4A The Government of the USA

Thursday 16 June 2011 1.30pm to 3.00pm

**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 GOV4A.
- Choose **two** topics and answer **both** questions in each topic.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**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 in each topic.

Each topic carries 40 marks.

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**Topic 1    The Constitutional Framework of US Government**

**0 | 1**    Examine the process involved in amending the US Constitution. (10 marks)

**0 | 2**    'The separation of powers hinders effective government in the USA.'  
Discuss. (30 marks)

**Topic 2    The Legislative Branch of Government: US Congress**

**0 | 3**    Explain the significance of the advice and consent powers of the US Senate. (10 marks)

**0 | 4**    Assess the view that political parties have grown in importance in the US Congress.  
(30 marks)

**Topic 3    The Executive Branch of Government**

**0 | 5**    Explain the main elements of bureaucratic power in US government. (10 marks)

**0 | 6**    'The president only has the power to persuade.' Discuss. (30 marks)

**Topic 4    The Judicial Branch of Government: The Supreme Court**

**0 | 7**    Explain the principle of judicial independence in US government. (10 marks)

**0 | 8**    Evaluate the role of the Supreme Court in protecting the rights and liberties of  
US citizens. (30 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**