



GCE A level

1403/01



S15-1403-01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS – GP3a
The Politics of the USA

P.M. MONDAY, 8 June 2015

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 Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

- (a) Explain the advantages of being an incumbent in elections in the USA. [10]
- (b) 'Candidates and issues have more significance for the outcome of elections than other factors.' Discuss. [30]

2. Political Parties

- (a) Explain why parties in the USA are 'big tent' parties. [10]
- (b) Discuss whether parties in the USA are too weak. [30]

3. Voting Behaviour

- (a) Explain why split-ticket voting occurs in elections in the USA. [10]
- (b) 'Race and ethnicity are the main determinants of voting behaviour in the USA.' Discuss. [30]

4. Pressure Groups

- (a) Explain the importance of multiple access points for pressure groups in the USA. [10]
- (b) Critically assess the role of pressure groups in the USA in upholding democracy. [30]

END OF PAPER