Government and Politics   GOV3A

Unit 3A   The Politics of the USA

Monday 13 June 2011   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 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.

GOV3A

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

Each topic carries 40 marks.

Topic 1   The Electoral Process and Direct Democracy

| 0 | 1 | Examine the use of recall elections in US politics.   *(10 marks)*

| 0 | 2 | 'Slick media events which lack any significance in the modern US nomination process.' Assess this view of the national nominating conventions.   *(30 marks)*

Topic 2   Political Parties

| 0 | 3 | Consider the importance of the 'religious right' in US politics.   *(10 marks)*

| 0 | 4 | Why are US parties often described as weak organisations, and how accurate is the description today?   *(30 marks)*

Topic 3   Voting Behaviour

| 0 | 5 | Explain the 'gender gap' which exists in US voting behaviour.   *(10 marks)*

| 0 | 6 | 'Although most forms of political participation are high in the USA, voter turnout at elections remains low.' Discuss.   *(30 marks)*

Topic 4   Pressure Groups

| 0 | 7 | Explain, using examples, the differences between sectional groups and cause groups in US politics.   *(10 marks)*

| 0 | 8 | Critically evaluate the methods used by US pressure groups to achieve their political aims.   *(30 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS