

ADVANCED GCE

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Contemporary US Government and Politics

F853

Candidates answer on the answer booklet.

OCR supplied materials:

- 16 page answer booklet
(sent with general stationery)

Other materials required:

None

**Friday 21 January 2011
Morning**

Duration: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer Question 1 and **three** other questions.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten these securely to your answer booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **100**.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- This document consists of **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

You will be rewarded for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of this course.

In answering each question, you should draw upon the knowledge and understanding gained from your study of Politics of both the UK and the United States. Where appropriate, you should also make reference to other political systems, as well as to the European Union.

Section A

Answer the question in this section.

Use the source below and your own knowledge to answer Question 1.

Source for Question 1

There are several types of pressure group in the US and their impact upon government and society varies enormously. Some economic pressure groups such as the American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) have actively campaigned against recent health care reform proposals. Their activities beg the question as to whose interests they serve. Are they seeking to protect the interests of the general public, including the estimated 48 million Americans without health cover, or do they merely seek to represent the vested interests of private insurance companies?

- 1 (a) Describe **two** types of pressure group and provide at least **one** US example of each to illustrate your answer. [10]
- (b) Explain why pressure groups are considered by some to be a threat to democracy. [15]

Section B

Answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Discuss the view that long-term factors are the key influence on voting behaviour in presidential elections. [25]
- 3 Evaluate the claim that political parties are in decline. [25]
- 4 Discuss the claim that the Constitution has evolved greatly since 1787. [25]
- 5 Evaluate the factors which influence how members of Congress vote. [25]
- 6 To what extent has Obama been a successful president? [25]
- 7 To what extent has the Supreme Court become more conservative in recent years? [25]
- 8 Discuss the view that rights and liberties are not adequately protected in the USA. [25]

Paper Total: [100]

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