

**ADVANCED GCE****GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Contemporary US Government and Politics

F853

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

- 16 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Friday 22 January 2010
Morning

Duration: 2 hours**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Read each question carefully and 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 the Answer Booklet.
- If you use additional sheets of paper, fasten the sheets to the 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

It has been suggested that the Founding Fathers established the Electoral College as they feared the 'will of the people' and consequently they created a system by which the president was not elected by the ordinary voter. The bitterly disputed Florida vote in 2000 resulted in calls for the abolition of the Electoral College. In 2004, these demands disappeared from view. The fact remains however that presidents have been elected without winning the popular vote.

Original material

- 1 (a) Outline how the Electoral College works. [10]
- (b) Discuss the view that the Electoral College should be reformed. [15]

Section B

Answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Evaluate the importance of third parties in American politics. [25]
- 3 Assess the relative importance of factors likely to lead to success for pressure groups in Washington. [25]
- 4 Examine whether congressional checks on the president are effective today. [25]
- 5 Analyse the reasons why Congress rejects more legislation than it passes. [25]
- 6 Assess the claim that there are too few checks on the president in the determination of foreign policy. [25]
- 7 Discuss the view that the power of the Supreme Court cannot be justified in a democracy. [25]
- 8 To what extent have developments since 9/11 proved that rights and liberties are not adequately protected in the US today? [25]

Paper Total: [100]

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