

**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

**Monday 28 June 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

One of the main functions of parties is to provide ideological choice. Many argue however there are no great differences between the two main parties in the USA and that they share the same ideology. Some argue that this is because elections are won and lost on the ability of candidates to appeal to independent floating voters. Parties have therefore moved together in order to win the “vital centre” vote. Others state both parties lack a coherent ideology altogether and are merely broad coalitions of different interests.

Original material

- 1 (a) Outline the functions of parties in the USA. [10]
- (b) Discuss the view that the ideologies of the Democratic and Republican parties have converged in recent times. [15]

Section B

Answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 To what extent did the nominations of McCain and Obama strengthen the case for reforming the method of choosing presidential candidates? [25]
- 3 Evaluate the claim that pressure groups undermine democracy in the USA. [25]
- 4 Examine the reasons for the changes in the balance of power between federal and state governments since 1980. [25]
- 5 Assess the importance of committees in the work of Congress. [25]
- 6 Discuss the view that the cabinet does not serve any significant presidential purpose. [25]
- 7 Evaluate the factors which influence appointments to the Supreme Court. [25]
- 8 Assess the role of the Supreme Court in the defence of rights and liberties. [25]

Paper Total: [100]

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