

Tuesday 24 January 2012 – Morning

A2 GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F853/01/1 Contemporary US Government and Politics

INSERT

Duration: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- This Insert is for your **reference only**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- Questions printed within the Question Paper are **repeated** here.
- You can refer to this copy of the questions to help you when you are answering within the Question Paper.
- This document consists of **2** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer the question in this section.

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

Source for Question 1

Congress is frequently criticised as being ‘the broken branch’ of government. Although there are many legislative proposals in each congressional session, few bills are passed into law. The main reason for this is stated to be the complex legislative process that each bill has to go through to become law. Congressional committees play a key role in this regard but the problem is compounded by the factors which influence voting in both chambers, and the fact that Senate and the House are co-equal chambers.

- 1 (a) Describe the role of committees in Congress. [10]
 (b) Examine the reasons why Congress rejects more legislation than it passes. [15]

Section B

Answer **three** questions in this section.

- 2 Evaluate the importance of the ‘invisible primary’ in the selection of presidential candidates. [25]
 3 Evaluate the claim that some American pressure groups have too much power and influence whilst others are too weak. [25]
 4 Discuss the view that the US Constitution is in need of major reform. [25]
 5 Evaluate the usefulness of the Executive Office of the President in helping recent presidents. [25]
 6 Assess the importance of political parties in US politics. [25]
 7 Discuss the view that the Supreme Court is essentially a political institution. [25]
 8 Discuss the claim that rights and liberties in the United States are better protected in theory than in practice. [25]



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