

OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 14 June 2016 – Afternoon

A2 GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F853/01 Contemporary US Government and Politics

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

OCR supplied materials:

- Insert – F853/01/1 (inserted)

Other materials required:

None

Duration: 2 hours



Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The Insert will be found in the centre of this document.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- Answer **Question 1** and **three** other questions.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined page(s) at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.
- 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 rewarded for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of the course.
- Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in this paper. This means you should:
 - ensure that text is legible and that spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that meaning is clear;
 - organise information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary where appropriate.
- This document consists of **20** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

CONTENTS	
Question 1(a)	See page 3
Question 1(b)	See page 5
Questions 2 to 8 (answer any three)	See page 8
Additional answer space	See pages 19–20

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE

SECTION A

Answer the question in this section.

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

Source for Question 1

The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an infrequent event of major significance in American politics. Vacancies on the nine member Court may occur only once or twice during a particular president's years in office and sometimes never at all. Appointments to the Supreme Court are important because of the enormous power the Court exercises; just as the judiciary has a critical role to play in upholding the 'rule of law', so does the appointment process in ensuring judicial independence.

- 1 (a) Outline the role of the President and Congress in the appointment of Supreme Court justices. [10]

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SECTION B

Answer **three** questions in this section.

Write the numbers of the questions answered in the margin.

- 2 Evaluate the criticisms of the system for nominating presidential candidates. [25]
- 3 Analyse the reasons why some pressure groups are more effective than others. [25]
- 4 Assess the factors that explain the performance of third party and independent candidates in recent elections. [25]
- 5 To what extent has President Obama been a 'lame duck' president? [25]
- 6 Assess the claim that parties are an increasingly important influence on voting within the Congress. [25]
- 7 Discuss the view that the Roberts Court has been an effective defender of the Bill of Rights. [25]
- 8 To what extent do the underlying principles of the US Constitution still operate today? [25]

(Use this space for planning your answer(s).)

Write the number of each question answered in the margin.

A vertical line on the left side of the page is followed by 25 horizontal dotted lines, providing a margin for writing the number of questions answered.

A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, starting from the top of the page and extending to the bottom, with a vertical solid line on the left side.

A vertical line is positioned on the left side of the page. From this line, 25 horizontal dotted lines extend across the page, creating a series of rows for writing.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, spanning the width of the page. A solid vertical line is positioned on the left side, creating a margin.

A vertical solid line runs down the left side of the page. To its right, there are 25 horizontal dotted lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing, starting from the top of the page and extending to the bottom, with a vertical solid line on the left side.

A vertical solid line is positioned on the left side of the page. To its right, there are 25 horizontal dotted lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice.

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A large area of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing space for writing answers. A solid vertical line is positioned on the left side of this area.

END OF QUESTION PAPER

ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE

If additional space is required, you should use the following lined page(s). The question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margin(s).

A large area of lined paper for writing. It consists of a vertical solid line on the left side, creating a margin. To the right of this line, there are numerous horizontal dotted lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for writing.

A large rectangular area with a solid vertical line on the left side and horizontal dotted lines extending across the page, providing a grid for writing answers.



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