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Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 14 June 2016 – Afternoon

A2 GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F853/01/I 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.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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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

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]
- (b) Why has the appointment process been criticised? [15]

Section B

Answer **three** questions in this section.

- 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]

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