



Wednesday 16 January 2013 – 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.

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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 Constitution limits the powers of the presidency. Despite a mandate and majorities in both the Senate and the House, President Obama found it difficult to get congressional support for health care reform and for plans to cut greenhouse gases. Part of the problem was the absence of a filibuster-proof supermajority in the Senate for most of the first term. More generally, presidents have encountered problems due to the increased polarisation of parties over the last 20 years, which has prevented a bipartisan approach being adopted.

- 1 (a) Describe the congressional checks on the presidency. [10]
 (b) Discuss the view that crises faced by the Bush and Obama administrations increased presidential power. [15]

SECTION B

Answer **three** questions in this section.

- 2 Discuss the merits of presidential primaries and caucuses as a method of selecting presidential candidates. [25]
 3 Discuss why pressure groups play such an important role in US government and politics. [25]
 4 Examine the reasons why most proposed amendments to the American Constitution have failed to be passed. [25]
 5 Evaluate the claim that the Senate is more powerful than the House of Representatives. [25]
 6 Assess the method by which members of the Supreme Court are chosen. [25]
 7 To what extent has the Supreme Court been an effective defender of rights and liberties? [25]
 8 Discuss the view that US political parties are experiencing a revival. [25]

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