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Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 8 June 2015 – 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 2008 and 2012 presidential elections are regarded by many as representing a new stage in the evolution of US voting behaviour. The dealignment of the past was less evident as a new 'Obama coalition' emerged. The changing composition of the US population was seen to be critical in this regard. Despite high levels of unemployment, President Obama was able to win a second term. If the Obama coalition represents the realignment of US voters, it would seem that the Republican Party faces a real challenge if it is ever to secure the White House again.

- 1 (a) Outline the meanings of dealignment and realignment. [10]
 (b) Assess the significance of race, region and religion as influences on US voting behaviour. [15]

SECTION B

Answer **three** questions in this section.

- 2 Discuss the view that political parties still have an important role in US politics today. [25]
 3 'Money alone does not make pressure groups successful.' Discuss. [25]
 4 Evaluate the role played by the Executive Office of the President. [25]
 5 Assess the claim that the US Constitution is an obstacle to effective government. [25]
 6 'Congress is a broken branch of government.' Discuss. [25]
 7 To what extent is the Supreme Court a political institution? [25]
 8 To what extent does the protection of rights in the USA depend upon public opinion? [25]

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