

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**  
**A2 GCE**

**F853/01**

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Contemporary US Government  
and Politics**

**WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2013: Afternoon**

**DURATION: 2 hours**  
**plus your additional time allowance**

**MODIFIED ENLARGED 18pt**

<b>Candidate forename</b>		<b>Candidate surname</b>	
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<b>Centre number</b>						<b>Candidate number</b>				
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**Candidates answer on the Question Paper.**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**Insert – F853/01/I (inserted)**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**None**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **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 on the first page. 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.**

## **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 for example 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.

<b>CONTENTS</b>	
<b>QUESTION 1(a)</b>	<b>SEE PAGE 5</b>
<b>QUESTION 1(b)</b>	<b>SEE PAGE 8</b>
<b>QUESTIONS 2 TO 8 (ANSWER ANY THREE)</b>	<b>SEE PAGE 14</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE</b>	<b>SEE PAGES 31 – 33</b>

## **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]**

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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**QUESTIONS 2 TO 8 BEGIN ON PAGE 14**

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## **SECTION B**

**Answer THREE questions in this section.**

**Write the numbers of the questions answered in the margin.**

- 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]**

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

**Write the number of each question answered in the margin.**

[illegible]

































### ADDITIONAL ANSWER SPACE

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

[illegible]






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