

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
A2 GCE**

F853/01

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Contemporary US Government and Politics

TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016: Afternoon

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

MODIFIED ENLARGED

Candidate forename						Candidate surname				
Centre number						Candidate number				

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:
Insert – F853/01/I**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:
None**

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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 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.

Any blank pages are indicated.

CONTENTS	
Question 1(a)	See page 6
Question 1(b)	See page 9
Questions 2 to 8 (answer any three)	See pages 14–15
Additional answer space	See pages 32–34

BLANK 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]**

[illegible]

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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.

[illegible]

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).

[illegible]

[illegible]

BLANK PAGE



Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.