

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
A2 GCE**

F853/01/I

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Contemporary US Government and Politics
INSERT**

TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016: Afternoon

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

MODIFIED ENLARGED

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.

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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