



A-Level Practice Paper Set 1

Paper 2

Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

Time: 2 hours

In the style of AQA

Name _____

Mark _____ / 77

Grade _____

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- lined paper or an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- Answer **all** questions from sections A and B.
- Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6 from section C.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked. Do **not** tear out any part of the book. All work must be handed in.
- If you use more than one book, check that you have written the information required on each book.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 77.

Section A – Short Questions

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3

- 1) Explain and analyse three ways in which cultural theory could be used to study two party dominance in the US and UK.

[9 marks]

- 2) Explain and analyse three key principles of the US Constitution.

[9 marks]

- 3) Explain and analyse three roles of the US Congress.

[9 marks]

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extract below and answer question 4 that follows.

Nominating US Supreme Court justices: a broken process that needs fixing

The United States Supreme Court is a body that lacks representation, yet it is comprised of justices who hold contrasting views on how to interpret the Constitution and laws. This is a key factor in presidential nominations to the court.

However, the current system for selecting Supreme Court justices is flawed because it gives voters in some elections greater influence over appointments than in others. While the court does reflect the political values of the country over a long period of time, it is concerning that the size of the court remains fixed at nine, leading to unequal opportunities for presidents to nominate justices.

It would be fairer if each president had an equal number of appointments per term, and the size of the court fluctuated based on vacancies. The court usually decides cases based on historical sources, precedents, and accumulated wisdom, making it an important institution in interpreting the law.

Extract written by Study Politics

- 4) Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above article over the nature of the appointment process to the US Supreme Court.

[25 marks]

Section C – Essay Question

Answer **either** question 5 **or** question 6
In your answer you should draw on material from across the whole range
of your course of study in Politics.

Either

- 5) 'The Prime Minister has more control over foreign policy than the President.' Analyse and evaluate this statement. **[25 marks]**

Or

- 6) 'Pressure groups in the US exert more power than pressure groups in the UK.' Analyse and evaluate this statement. **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS