
A-level POLITICS

Paper 2 Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

Wednesday 07 June 2023

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- 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. The **Paper Reference** is **7152/2**.
- Answer **all** questions from Section **A** and Section **B**.
- Answer **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6 from Section **C**.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work 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 answer 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 – US Government, Politics and Comparative Theory

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3.

0 1 Explain and analyse three functions of national nominating conventions in the US. **[9 marks]**

0 2 Explain and analyse three factions within the Republican Party. **[9 marks]**

0 3 Explain and analyse three ways that structural theory could be used to study the legislative process in the US Congress and UK Parliament. **[9 marks]**

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extracts below and answer question 4 that follows.

Does the US Constitution still work?

Extract 1

Extract not reproduced here due to third party copyright restrictions

Extract 2

Constitutional crisis?

Is the Constitution the source of America's political problems? In 2018, 81% of Americans thought the Founders would be upset with the functioning of federal institutions.

An effective constitution should provide a stable framework for government by channelling societal conflict into politics, allow the expression in law and policy of majority preferences while safeguarding protections for individual rights, ensure the peaceful transfer of power, and permit the means of its own revision through amendments and interpretation. The Constitution meets these core requirements, and its own Preamble's six objectives.

The Constitution is far from flawless and may need some modernising regarding the composition of the US Senate, how the Electoral College works and the amendment process. But the Constitution has not been trampled under goose-steps. American democracy is not in its death throes.

Extract taken from the website *Birkbeck's blogs*, published in September 2018. Written by Robert Singh, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

0 4

Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above extracts for and against the view that the US Constitution still works as the Framers intended.

[25 marks]

Turn over for Section C

Turn over ►

Section C – Comparative Government and Politics Essay Questions

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

0 5

'The UK Supreme Court has become as judicially and politically important as the US Supreme Court.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0 6

'Third parties in the US and UK are irrelevant and on the political margins.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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