
A-Level POLITICS PAPER 2

Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics

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.
- 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 – US Government, politics and comparative theory

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3

1 Explain and analyse three ways in which independent candidates may be significant in US politics.

[9 marks]

2 Explain and analyse three ways that the concept of federalism influences US government.

[9 marks]

3 Explain and analyse three ways that structural theory could be used to study executive/legislative relations in the UK and US.

[9 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Section B - Extract Question

Read the extract below and answer question 4 that follows.

Selecting US Presidential Candidates

When it comes to nominating presidential candidates, it turns out the world's foremost democracy is not so purely democratic. For decades, both major parties have used a somewhat convoluted process for picking their nominees, one that involves ordinary voters in only an indirect way.

In Nashville, supporters of Donald J. Trump accused Republican leaders of trying to stack the state's delegate slate with people who were anti-Trump. The Trump campaign posted the cell phone number of the state party chairman on Twitter, leading him to be inundated with calls. Backers of Senator Bernie Sanders, bewildered at why he kept winning states but could not cut into Hillary Clinton's delegate count because of her overwhelming lead with "super delegates," used Reddit and Twitter to start an aggressive pressure campaign to flip votes.

However, the state-by-state primary still broadens the political conversation, rather than limiting it. Given the culture and demographics of each early state, several different candidates can compete. In years past, social conservatives relied on Iowa's evangelical voters to grab the national spotlight. New Hampshire then allowed more moderate Republicans to shape the conversation. Weeks later, Florida tends to put immigration front and centre, as that state's Cuban-American voters take to the polls. This gradual march to the nomination ensures that America hears from a variety of candidates, each with a week of extra attention heading into their most relevant primary. By the end of the primary season, we've had a chance to carefully consider a dozen different perspectives. For some candidates, just influencing the national conversation is a big win, and the current primary system encourages this dialogue.

Extract adapted from an article written by the journalist Jeremy W Peters for *The New York Times* newspaper in 2016 and 3 Reasons the Presidential Primary System Still Works By Ben Taylor on January 29, 2016 YouGov

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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above passage for and against the primary and caucus system used to select each party's presidential nominee.

[25 marks]

Turn over for the next question

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

- 5** The constitutional power of the Prime Minister exceeds the power of the President. Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

Or

- 6** 'Citizens' rights are better protected by the judiciary in the USA than in the UK.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS