

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. 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 principles of the US Constitution. **[9 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Explain and analyse three policy differences between the Republican and Democrat parties. **[9 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

 Explain and analyse three ways that cultural theory could be used to study pressure groups in the US and UK. **[9 marks]**

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extracts below and answer question 4 that follows.

Presidential Power: the president as Emperor?

Don't Just Impeach Trump. End the Imperial Presidency, by Jeet Heer

Trump is not just the heir to the Imperial Presidency; he represents a new crisis of it. His incompetence and instability demonstrate the dangers of investing so much power in the hands of one person. The powers of the office are not just those enumerated in the Constitution, but the extra-constitutional powers the presidency has acquired over the decades. In theory, the president is coequal to Congress but as founding father Alexander Hamilton and historian Arthur Schlesinger noted, war almost always leads Congress to defer to the president. What limits there were on presidential power ended with 9/11 and the war on terror. Obama's use of drones and the assassination of Osama Bin Laden suggest his goal was to act as a more efficient and focused Imperial President. Obama left behind a presidency with vast, unchecked powers that could easily be abused by Trump.

The above extract is from *The New Republic*, an American magazine which comments on politics and contemporary culture from a liberal progressive perspective, published in August 2017.

The US Constitution is working to constrain Donald Trump, by Janan Ganesh

Both the judicial and legislative branches are placing a check on the president. When Mr Trump tried to restrict transgender people in the armed forces, judges found against him. When he threatened to withhold federal funds from "sanctuary cities", he lost again. This is just the judicial check on the president. The legislative branch has denied him full funding for his wall on the Mexican border. The House of Representatives will muster new kinds of resistance in 2019, when the fresh Democratic majority starts to scrutinise Mr Trump's personal tax affairs and dealings with Russia. No doubt, Mr Trump will have his agenda – the tariffs, the strongman-flattery – but these are policy choices well within a president's rights. When he strays outside those rights, an ensemble of judges, lawmakers and investigators comes into view. Such is the sign of a stressed but functioning system.

The above extract is from *The Financial Times*, a newspaper that focuses on business and economic current affairs, its editorial stance centres on economic liberalism, particularly free trade and free markets, published in December 2018.

0	4
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Analyse, evaluate and compare the different arguments in the above extracts regarding the extent to which the US presidency has become an imperial executive.

[25 marks]

Turn over ►

Section C – Comparative Government and Politics Essay Questions

Answer either Question 5 or Question 6 from Section C.

In your answer you should draw on material from across the whole range of your course of study in politics.

Either

0 5

'The scrutiny powers of the British Parliament are less effective than those of the US Congress.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0 6

'A key characteristic of the US and UK is that both have strong and durable two-party systems.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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