

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.

- | | |
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| 0 | 1 |
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 Explain and analyse three factors that can influence voting behaviour in the US. **[9 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 2 |
|---|---|

 Explain and analyse three ways in which executive power can be constrained by the other branches of government. **[9 marks]**
- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 3 |
|---|---|

 Explain and analyse three ways that rational theory could be used to study how members of Congress and Parliament vote within their respective legislatures. **[9 marks]**

Section B – Extract Question

Read the extracts below and answer question 4 that follows.

Lobbying and US democracy

Extract 1

Trump-tied lobbyists' revenues peaked in president's final year

Lobbyists selling their connections to former President Trump finished a lucrative four years with their best year in 2020, connections included firms such as Ballard Partners and Miller Strategies. After raking in millions from high-profile clients, these Washington influencers are already losing clients under President Joe Biden but could still benefit from Trump's continued influence over the GOP.

Ballard Partners earned \$24.4 million, becoming a significant firm on K Street and Miller Strategies earning \$13.6 million. Their clients included Pfizer, Amazon and Apple. Miller also employed ex-White House aides including a former senior director of Cabinet affairs. Trump had promised to "drain the swamp" but in 2020, over 3000 lobbyists reported lobbying the White House. Ballard Partners even hired several Democrats after Biden's election because the firm wanted to "effectively advocate on both sides of the aisle in our nation's capital".

Extract taken from an article that appeared on the website of a non-partisan and non-profit organisation called the *Center for Responsive Politics*, published in January 2021.

Extract 2 not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions

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Analyse, evaluate and compare the arguments in the above extracts regarding the extent to which democracy in the US is undermined by lobbying.

[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

'Civil rights and liberties are more effectively promoted and protected in the US than in the UK.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

or

0 6

'Devolution has brought the UK closer to the federal system of government found in the US.' Analyse and evaluate this statement.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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