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Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 12 June 2017 – Afternoon

A2 GCE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

F853/01/1 Contemporary US Government and Politics

INSERT

Duration: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- This Insert is for your **reference only**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- Questions printed within the Question Paper are **repeated** here.
- You can refer to this copy of the questions to help you when you are answering within the Question Paper.
- This document consists of **2** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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SECTION A

Answer the question in this section.

Use the source and your own knowledge to answer Question 1.

Source for Question 1

Calls for reform of the US Constitution have increased in recent years as critics have argued that it prevents effective government. The Obama administration struggled once the Democrats had lost their House majority in the 2010 mid-term elections and gridlock followed. Others suggest that the Constitution has departed from the underlying principles established by the Founding Fathers. They argue that increased federal government intervention threatens both states' and individual rights. Constitutional reform however is unlikely to occur in the near future, even though the Constitution has changed over time.

- 1 (a) Outline the main underlying principles of the US Constitution. [10]
 (b) Discuss how three of these principles have evolved over time. [15]

SECTION B

Answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Discuss the view that pressure groups play a key role in the democratic process in the USA today. [25]
 3 Discuss the view that the US remains a two party system. [25]
 4 Discuss the view that voting behaviour in the USA is best explained by the gender, age and ethnicity of the voters. [25]
 5 Discuss the view that the cabinet's importance depends upon the president. [25]
 6 Assess the claim that the USA has two co-equal congressional chambers. [25]
 7 Evaluate the factors that influence Supreme Court rulings. [25]
 8 Discuss the view that constant scrutiny is needed to ensure the protection of rights and liberties in the USA. [25]

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