



Politics

A Level | Edexcel | 9PLO



2017 specification
first exams in 2019

Practice Exams for A Level Edexcel Politics

Paper 3A: Comparative Politics:
Government and Politics of the USA

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Contents

Product Support from ZigZag Education	ii
Terms and Conditions of Use	iii
Teacher’s Introduction.....	1
Practice Papers	2
Practice Exam A.....	2
Practice Exam B.....	4
Practice Exam C.....	6
Practice Exam D.....	8
Mark Schemes	10
Practice Exam A	10
Practice Exam B	22
Practice Exam C	34
Practice Exam D.....	46

Teacher's Introduction

In this pack, you will find four original practice exams for Paper 3A: Comparative Politics: Government and Politics of the USA (Paper 3A) that between them cover all aspects of the Component 3 USA option for the Edexcel A Level Politics specification (9PL0).

The practice exam papers follow a very similar style to that of the actual exam papers.

A comprehensive mark scheme is included for each paper, providing indicative content for the exam questions. These mark schemes contain a level mark scheme to determine what grade to award students, along with the specific AO1, AO2 and AO3 skills that should be present and how they should be put to use in answering each question.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

January 2020

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Supporting A Level Education

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A Level Edexcel Politics Paper 3A (9PL0/3A)
Comparative Politics: Government and Politics

Practice Exam 1A



Name	
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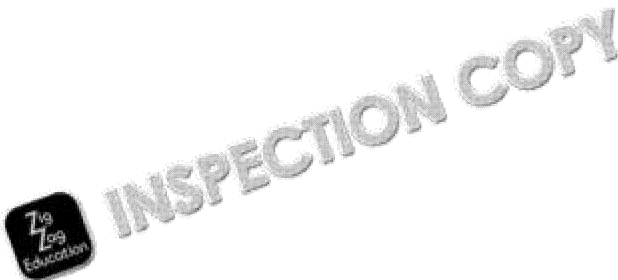
Time allowed:
2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS

- Write your name in the box above.
- Answer **four questions** in total.
- In Section A answer **either** 1(a) **or** 1(b)
- In Section B answer **2**.
- In Section C answer two of the questions **either** 3(a) **and/or** 3(b) **and/or** 3(c)

INFORMATION

- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 84.



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SECTION A

Answer **ONE** question: **EITHER** Q1 (a) **OR** Q1 (b)

EITHER

- 1 (a) Examine the ways in which the UK and US Supreme Courts are independent.

OR

- 1 (b) Examine the ways in which federalism and devolution are similar.

SECTION B

Answer Question 2

- 2 Analyse the extent of the changing significance of political parties in the UK and the USA.

In your answer you must consider the relevance of at least one comparative theme.

SECTION C

Answer **TWO** questions: **EITHER** Q3 (a) **AND/OR** Q3 (b) **AND/OR** Q3 (c)

EITHER

- 3 (a) Evaluate the view that it is hard to reform campaign finance regulations in the USA.

You must consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.

AND/OR

- 3 (b) Evaluate the view that the executive is the most powerful branch of US government.

You must consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.

AND/OR

- 3 (c) Evaluate the view that the US Supreme Court is an 'imperilled judiciary'.

You must consider this view and the alternative to this view in a balanced way.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Practice Exam B

Section A

Guidelines for Question 1 (a)

AO1 must be used by students to underpin their analysis (AO2). The AO2 criteria must be used to ensure that the students developed will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.

Students who refer to only one country will not be able to score 6 or 7.

AO1 (6 Marks)

The students may demonstrate the following understanding (AO1) when examining the differences between the UK and US legislatures in which the control over monetary issues such as taxation and money is distributed among political parties.

As both legislatures have two houses, both legislatures have very similar responsibility for the formulation of legislation.

Both of the legislatures are able to check the actions of the executive.

Both of the legislatures have limited control over foreign policy and have attempted to assert some authority in this area.

Both of the legislatures are able to initiate some form of constitutional change.

Accept any other valid responses.

The students may discuss the following analysis of the differences between the UK and US legislatures are similar:

In the UK, money bills are initiated from the House of Commons. In the US, the House has the exclusive responsibility for initiating money bills.

In the UK, policy must be initiated by the House of Commons. In the US, it is very rare for the government to introduce legislation. Although both the House of Representatives and the Senate have the power to initiate legislation, there is the scrutiny that takes place before a bill is passed.

The UK has a 'fusion of powers', where the executive and legislative functions are combined. In the US, there is a separate branch of government. However, the President can veto legislation. In the UK, Parliament can vote against the government. In the US, Congress can impeach the President.

Until recently, the UK prime minister has exercised a direct role in the formulation of legislation. In the US, the President has a limited role in the formulation of legislation. The UK prime minister has exercised a direct role in the formulation of legislation. In the US, the President has a limited role in the formulation of legislation.

The rejection of David Cameron's attempts to extend the deployment of armed forces. In the US, the President has a limited role in the formulation of legislation. The UK prime minister has exercised a direct role in the formulation of legislation. In the US, the President has a limited role in the formulation of legislation.

In the UK, this can be done by a simple Act of Parliament. In the US, constitutional changes such as the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011 require a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. In the US, although the President can initiate some constitutional change through initiative, it requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. In the US, although the President can initiate some constitutional change through initiative, it requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress.

Amendment and numerous attempts to ban firearms. In the US, although the President can initiate some constitutional change through initiative, it requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. In the US, although the President can initiate some constitutional change through initiative, it requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress.

Accept any other valid responses.

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<p>Guidelines for Question 1 (b)</p> <p>AO1 must be used by students to underpin their analysis (AO2). The AO2 criteria dictate that the students developed will be underpinned by their use of knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Students who refer to only one country will not be able to access L2 or above.</p>	
<p>AO1 (6 Marks)</p> <p>The students may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) when examining the ways in which party discipline is different in the UK and USA:</p>	
<p>Political parties in the UK have far greater control over their representatives than in the USA.</p>	<p>The whips in the UK party system have much more power. They often speak on behalf of the prime minister and force resignations from ministers / shadow ministers if they say over who their representative could be before about their own interests before those of the party.</p>
<p>The power of patronage from the prime minister is far greater than anything that can be offered by the president.</p>	<p>The prime minister can 'promote' ministers to work in parliamentary secretaries, which then binds them to the government policy (with resignation being very little patronage available for the president to use).</p>
<p>There is traditionally more collective 'cohesion' within UK political parties than in the more 'individual' mindset of US representatives.</p>	<p>Generally, in the UK politicians will club together to support the government. In the USA, the nature of the short election cycle and the deep divisions within both of the main parties (Democrat and Republican) means that representatives to think more individually, in terms of their own interests. This is also seen in the near-unanimous vote to overrule the 'War on Terror Act', with only one Democrat voting against it.</p>
<p>Accept any other valid responses.</p>	

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Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable answers.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates weak knowledge and understanding of political establishments, processes, • Limited comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with partial logical chains of reasoning in politics, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and concepts appropriately in order to underpin analysis (AO1). • Some emerging comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with some focused, logical chains of aspects of politics, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and concepts appropriately in order to underpin analysis (AO1). • Makes a comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with focused, logical chains of aspects of politics, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 4	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and concepts to underpin analysis (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of aspects of politics, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).

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Section B

Guidelines for Question 2

This question dictates that students draw upon their knowledge of UK and US politics, including comparative theories (AO2) criteria dictate that the students develop their answers with analytical skills to answer the question, which will

Candidates who refer to only one country will not be able to access L2 marks.

Students who do not make any reference to comparative theory will not be able to make any comparative theory points will be

AO1 (6 Marks)

The students may demonstrate the following knowledge and understanding (AO1) when analysing the differences between the US president and UK prime minister and how they differ in their respective legislatures (not a comprehensive list):

The US system tends to allow for more divisive and ideological candidates to be elected to Congress, which in turn limits the ability of the legislature to check the executive effectively, whereas the UK executive tends to have a majority in its respective legislature.

The students may discuss the following which the US President and UK (not a comprehensive list):

Primaries tend to divide members of a party, who is ultimately chosen by voters. There is a trend of divided governments in the USA (2011–2015 and 2019 to present). The US tends to have checks and balances on the executive (Obama and Trump) to weak, while the UK has a majority for the government, and policies being forced through.

The fact that the US Congress has its authority from the Constitution makes it a greater threat to the executive, whereas the UK Parliament's powers of oversight depend greatly on the majority held by the government of the day.

Ultimately, the president has to make decisions if he/she wants to avoid impeachment proceedings which are able to outmanoeuvre checks and balances. The president has a vote of no confidence in the government since, even during times of crisis, since 2010, this ability has been used. However, at the time (coalition, small overhang), it was demonstrated by the recent SC as it was deemed 'unlawful'.

The nature of the shorter election cycle in the US carries a great weight in the minds of the representatives because they are more reactive to their constituents in the UK the longer the term in office means that the PM does not have to be as reactive to public opinion.

In the US, representatives (especially in the House) serve short two-year terms. Therefore, there is a need to be reactive to their constituents. There are more pressing concerns on the ground in the US. However, it is worth noting that between 2015–2019, meaning the current period, constituents' views are heard a

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AO1 (6 Marks)

The UK executive has a stronger level of patronage power than the US executive, which is arguably limited to 'power of persuasion' due to the separation of powers.

The prime minister is largely able to bring MPs fall into line with the party's limited accountability to their constituents. This/her Cabinet as it has to join your political career (theory) a strong mechanism of impeachment proceedings.

Students may refer to the following when considering rational theory:

The US Constitution clearly states how the legislature should avoid the executive to account, and this doesn't change with the UK Constitution is unwritten and subject to convention.

Students may refer to the following when considering rational theory:

US representatives are largely about what will benefit them the most, i.e. re-election, given the short electoral cycle i.e. re-election whereas UK representatives (in the not too distant past) have been more able to distance public opinion from their actions.

Students may refer to the following when considering rational theory:

The US legislature has clearer guidelines in theory, provide greater checks and authoritative works and conventions varied, and at times in conflict with the executive.

Students may refer to the following when considering rational theory:

This feeds into the effectiveness of the party as a whole in their constituents re-elect them of public opinion, are able to distance their oversight of the executive.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable answers.
Level 1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates weak knowledge and understanding of political establishments, processes, and structures. Limited comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with partial logical chains of reasoning which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, and structures, but not always appropriately in order to underpin analysis (AO1). Some emerging comparative analysis of aspects of politics with some focused, logical chains of reasoning between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, and structures, but not always appropriately in order to underpin analysis (AO1). Mostly focused, logical chains of reasoning between ideas and concepts (AO2).
Level 4	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes, and structures, and consistently underpins analysis (AO1). Consistent comparative analysis of aspects of politics, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning between ideas and concepts (AO2).

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Section C

Guidelines for Marking the 30-mark Essay Question

AO1 – Knowledge (10 Marks)

Marks are related to the knowledge and understanding relevant to the question and should be used to underpin

AO2 – Analysis (10 Marks)

The students should construct analytical views which either support or challenge the contention in the question.

AO3 – Evaluation (10 Marks)

- The students are expected to evaluate the arguments that are presented. They are permitted to rank the
- They should be able to form careful judgements and are expected to reach a conclusion.
- The students must approach the question in a balanced way and consider both viewpoints of the question.
- A judgement that is presented by a candidate should be reflected in his/her conclusion.
- Answers that do not demonstrate a balanced view of the contention in the question will not be able to achieve high marks.
- Other valid responses are acceptable.

Question 3(a)

AO1 10 Marks

Agreement:

Personality is a very important factor when electing a president.

Contrast of personalities in campaigns can often be one of the deciding factors in an election campaign.

Personalities of candidates can often lead to a campaign ending before it started.

Campaigns are often decided by the candidate himself rather than the party or political system.

AO2 10 Marks

Agreement:

The chosen president needs to be someone who will be able to have good relations with other countries while maintaining a firm line to protect American interests.

In 2000, George W Bush was seen as someone who was more down to earth than Al Gore; in 2008, the flustered and more rigid persona of John McCain contrasted poorly with the youthful and calm demeanour of Barack Obama; in 2012, Romney was portrayed as an elite, wealthy, and somewhat arrogant person, a common American; in 2016, Hillary Clinton's perceived untrustworthiness and aloofness contrasted strikingly with Trump's clear 'anti-establishment' image. During the primaries, candidates are looking at the personality of the candidate. This was seen in the 2016 Republican primaries with candidates such as Governor Jeb Bush being seen as too 'weak' and lacking the ability to progress further despite Bush being the clear favourite from the onset of the process.

In presidential elections, while other areas are often scrutinised, the personality of the candidate is attacked without fail. In 2008, Obama was attacked for being naive in terms of foreign policy, whereas in 2012 he was attacked as a 'fast-talking dishonest'. In 2016, both Clinton and Trump repeatedly attacked each other's characters throughout the campaign.

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AO1_10 Marks

Disagreement:

Personality is only a part of the whole candidate's campaign – finance is also important.

Policy is a major aspect of a presidential candidate's campaign.

The type of experience of that a candidate brings to the electoral process is often a vital factor in the selection of a presidential candidate.

The choice of political advisors / running mates can also play a large part in the outcome of a presidential election.

AO2_10 Marks

Disagreement:

Personality alone doesn't drive the outcome – campaign finance is a very important factor, as seen in 2008, 2012 and 2016 with the vast amounts raised by presidential candidates and, crucially, how it was spent (i.e. effectiveness).

In 2016, Clinton's vague message of 'Stronger Together America' contrasted poorly with Obama's repeated message of how he was going to 'create more American jobs, deport illegal immigrants and build a border wall'. Clinton's credentials for being president were arguably superior to Obama's (former First Lady, Senator and Secretary of State) it was argued that her experiences were largely those of a wealthy, untrustworthy 'power grab politician with too much of a link to the failed 'establishment'. Trump was a coarse and sleazy 'outsider' but crucially also as a perceived successful businessman who had real ideas about how to improve jobs, the economy and issues within America – he was seen as being more in touch with the needs of ordinary Americans than Clinton was.

The importance of choosing a running mate who is a worthy choice as a president is evident in the choices made in recent presidential elections:

- **2000** – Bush's choice of Dick Cheney, Washington insider with huge experience in foreign affairs, contrasted favourably with Gore's choice of Lieberman, who, while respected, was arguably not as experienced
- **2008** – Obama's choice of the experienced and respected Joe Biden contrasted favourably compared with McCain's choice of the untested and politically limited Sarah Palin
- **2012** – Romney's choice of the younger Paul Ryan was a sensible choice that Romney himself was in his right mind to have contrasted well given that he was a Spanish-speaking conservative
- **2016** – Clinton's choice of Hillary Clinton contrasted well given that he was a Spanish-speaking conservative who had been banded around for Trump's running mate. Obama's choice of the experienced and respected Joe Biden contrasted favourably compared with McCain's choice of the untested and politically limited Sarah Palin

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Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	0 1–6	<p>No rewardable answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited comparative analysis of political information, with superficial logical chains of relevant information, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of political information, constructing simple arguments and unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some relevant knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some relevant comparative analysis of political information, with some focused, logical chains of relevant information, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some relevant evaluation of political information, constructing occasionally substantiated and lead to generic conclusions without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused comparative analysis of political information, with focused, logical chains of relevant information, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs generally relevant evaluation of political information, constructing generally substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of political information, with coherent, logical chains of relevant information, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of political information, constructing mostly effective and lead to mostly focused and justified conclusions (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Perceptive comparative analysis of political information, with sustained, logical chains of relevant information, which make coherent and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs fully relevant evaluation of political information, constructing fully effective and lead to fully substantiated and justified conclusions (AO3).

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Question 3(b)	AO1 10 Marks	AO2 10 Marks
<p>Agreement: There has been increased partisanship in Congress since the 1980s.</p>	<p>Agreement: There are more 'party votes' than previously in Congress purely as a result of the other party from succeeding, and this has certainly been the case in the Obama and Trump with clear divisions of parties voting against the sign of any bi-partisan cooperation, especially when one party controls the houses.</p>	<p>Disagreement: This has been seen most recently with Trump's major tax overhaul alongside historical examples of President Clinton's Welfare Reform and the Child Left Behind in 2002 and the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act in 2015.</p>
<p>The filibuster or threat of a filibuster is used more routinely within the Senate as a means to disrupt proceedings and force the hand of a president.</p>	<p>There have been a number of notable occasions in recent times when the filibuster has been used to disrupt proceedings based on the grounds of Congress, e.g. Ted Cruz in 2013, Rand Paul in 2013 and Charles Schumer in 2015.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>
<p>Appointment of judges is more on the personality of the president than on whether he/she is a good person for office.</p>	<p>The 'non-hearing' of Merrick Garland in 2016 is a prime example of not fulfilling its duty. The heated and difficult confirmation hearings of Jeff Sessions and Brett Kavanaugh also highlight how the appointment of the person rather than their ability to do the job.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>
<p>Congressional oversight of the branches of government is arguably more on the basis of partisan reasons than effective oversight.</p>	<p>Certainly in the Obama and Trump presidencies, this has been seen as Oversight is done to hamper the president rather than genuinely scrutinise actions as president.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>
<p>Policies and measures with large support will still pass through Congress.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>
<p>It could be argued that it is a president's failed strategy which leads to a failure of policy success rather than problems within Congress.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>
<p>Controversial measures do pass in Congress even if there is little support.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>	<p>Arguably, Obama approached his strategy of healthcare reform in 2010 by relying on his majorities in Congress rather than looking at what was possible in the party to accept), leading to a number of shutdowns within Congress resulting in some changes to the bill. Trump can also be said to have a flawed strategy in his attempts to try to abolish Obamacare, leading to the fact that it has not been passed. It can also be noted that his failure to enact any serious reform in the area of his strategy failing as opposed to inherent issues within the system. Finally, healthcare reform did pass in 2010 and has survived numerous attempts at repealing the legislation, including Trump's notable failure in 2017.</p>

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AO1 10 Marks		AO2 10 Marks	
It is often the case that members of Congress will vote with their district (constituency) rather than their party.		The notion of 'party control' within Congress is somewhat of a misnomer quite weak within Congress. Members of Congress are always thinking about their constituents and what will sit well with their constituents rather than the needs of the party.	
Congress plays a very important part in being able to effectively scrutinise the actions of a president i.e. blocking legislation and power of veto.		President Obama was unable to veto the Stimulus Package Against Sponsors of the ACA in 2010. The House of Representatives had his controversial attempt to support for this bill. President Obama had his controversial attempt to support for this bill. President Obama had his controversial attempt to support for this bill. President Obama had his controversial attempt to support for this bill.	
Level	Marks	Level	Marks
Level 1	1-4	Level 1	1-4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and evaluation (AO1). Limited comparative analysis of political information, with partial logical chains of reasoning and concepts (AO2). Makes superficial evaluation of political information, constructing simple arguments and unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3). 	
Level 2	5-7	Level 2	5-7
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and evaluation (AO1). Some emerging comparative analysis of political information, with some focused, logical chains of reasoning and concepts (AO2). Constructs some relevant evaluation of political information, constructing occasionally substantiated and lead to generic conclusions without much justification (AO3). 	
Level 3	8-10	Level 3	8-10
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and evaluation (AO1). Mostly focused comparative analysis of political information, with focused, logical chains of reasoning and concepts (AO2). Constructs generally relevant evaluation of political information, constructing generally substantiated and lead to some focused and justified conclusions (AO3). 	
Level 4	11-13	Level 4	11-13
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and evaluation (AO1). Consistent comparative analysis of political information, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning and concepts (AO2). Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of political information, constructing mostly effective and substantiated conclusions (AO3). 	
Level 5	14-16	Level 5	14-16
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political institutions, processes and evaluation (AO1). Perceptive comparative analysis of political information, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning and concepts (AO2). Constructs fully relevant evaluation of political information, constructing fully effective and substantiated conclusions (AO3). 	

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Question 3(c)	AO1 10 Marks	AO2 10 Marks
<p>Agreement: Congress was designed to be the foremost branch of the US government.</p>	<p>Agreement: Initially, the president was supposed to suggest legislation only in their State of the Union Address 'from time to time' and the power of declaring war was always reserved by Congress, but since WWII, it has become a duty that the president has assumed a more dominant role in this area, especially when trying to convince Congress of his agenda for things like climate change and healthcare reform, Trump and his administration.</p>	<p>As has happened in modern presidencies, there have been attempts by the president to arguably encroach upon the powers held by the states, e.g. executive orders, education reform and abortion debates.</p>
<p>The 10th Amendment was designed to contain the powers of the federal government.</p>	<p>This establishment of judicial review in <i>Marbury v Madison 1803</i> has essentially allowed for the potential of an 'imperial judiciary' to form, which was not the intention of the Founding Fathers nor included in the original document.</p>	<p>There was no requirement for the Senate to be 'directly elected' when the Founding Fathers envisioned the Constitution and presidential electors were chosen previously by the states as opposed to some now being chosen via primaries and voters. The electoral college now almost always reflects the popular votes.</p>
<p>Disagreement: The president's perceived increase in powers is arguably overstated.</p>	<p>Disagreement: The president's powers are still clearly defined by the Constitution – while it can be denied that the president has acquired more powers over time, this has been done with the consent of Congress and the president is still heavily dependent on Congress to support his/her agenda.</p>	<p>As the Founding Fathers had intended, each branch of government does ensure it keeps the other in check – this has not changed since the Constitution was passed and has been one of the constants of the Constitution since its inception in 1789.</p>
<p>The 'Necessary and Proper' clause in the Constitution allows for Congress to expand its powers.</p>	<p>This was anticipated by the Founding Fathers who recognised that Congress would have to exercise its authority in other areas as time progressed – the states still retain significant powers of autonomy to this day.</p>	<p>Judicial review was not added in as a separate point afterwards with no link to the Constitution – it was established as a principle very soon after the ratification of the Constitution.</p>
<p>The power of judicial review is implicit within the Constitution.</p>		

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Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	0 1–6	<p>No rewardable answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates superficial knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Limited comparative analysis of political information, with minimal logical chains of reasoning, which make simplistic connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Makes superficial evaluation of political information, constructing simple arguments and unsubstantiated conclusions (AO3).
Level 2	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates some accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Some comparative analysis of political information, with some focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make some relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs some relevant evaluation of political information, constructing occasionally substantiated and lead to generic conclusions without much justification (AO3).
Level 3	13–18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates mostly accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Mostly focused comparative analysis of political information, with focused, logical chains of reasoning, which make mostly relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs generally relevant evaluation of political information, constructing generally substantiated and lead to some focused conclusions that are sometimes justified (AO3).
Level 4	19–24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates accurate knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Consistent comparative analysis of political information, with coherent, logical chains of reasoning, which make relevant connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs mostly relevant evaluation of political information, constructing mostly effective and lead to mostly focused and justified conclusions (AO3).
Level 5	25–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates thorough and in-depth knowledge and understanding of political institutions, process analysis and evaluation (AO1). • Perceptive comparative analysis of political information, with sustained, logical chains of reasoning, which make coherent and convincing connections between ideas and concepts (AO2). • Constructs fully relevant evaluation of political information, constructing fully effective and lead to fully focused and justified conclusions (AO3).

Preview of Answers Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of answers ends here to stop students looking up answers to their assessments. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.