**A2 Government and Politics – Unit 3C Past Paper Questions**

**15 Marks**

**January 2011:**

Explain the factors that limit the electoral impact of minor parties.

Why are ethnic and racial minorities better represented in the House of Representatives than in the Senate?

Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the use, by the states, of initiatives/propositions.

Why has the impact of professional lobbyists on policy-making in the USA been controversial?

How influential is the left within the Democratic Party?

**June 2010:**

Analyse the significance of mid-term elections.

Explain the meaning of the term ‘iron triangles’, and assess their significance.

How influential are conservatives in the Democratic Party?

What is affirmative action, and what are the justifications for it?

Which types of pressure group seek to influence the Senate, and why?

**January 2010:**

Why are US presidential election campaigns so long?

Why, and to what extent, does the Republican Party oppose affirmative action?

In what ways, and to what extent, do pressure groups exert influence through initiatives and propositions?

Which groups of voters tend to support the Democratic Party, and why?

Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Electoral College.

**45 Marks:**

**January 2011:**

‘Race-based affirmative action has failed.’ Discuss.

To what extent are mid-term elections merely a referendum on the performance of

the President?

‘Pressure groups define the political issues that dominate US politics.’ Discuss.

**June 2010:**

Does the election of a black President mean that racial divisions in the USA have been

overcome?

‘Moderate conservatism is a declining force in the Republican Party’. Discuss.

To what extent did the 2008 presidential election prove that campaign finance

regulations are effective?

**January 2010:**

‘Racial equality in the USA remains a distant dream.’ Discuss.

‘The ideological differences between the Democratic and Republican parties are far greater than the differences within them.’ Discuss.

To what extent does pressure group activity in the USA benefit the wealthy at the expense of the poor?