

A2 Government & Politics

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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

Today's Special Sections: A Special Report on the 2008 Election, by the author of "The Choice" and "The Choice" author, p. 10. Election '08: The Choice, p. 10. Election '08: The Choice, p. 10.

VOL. CLXXVI, No. 34,683

1100 New York St., New York, N.Y. 10038

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008

ISSN 0001-5884

OBAMA

RACIAL BARRIER FALLS IN DECISIVE VICTORY

OBAMA

- Democrat wins for first time in the modern era, with 363 electoral votes, 363 out of 538.
- His victory was a triumph over the Republican incumbent, Barack Obama, who had won the White House in 2001.
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THE LONG JOURNEY

Journey to the Top

The story of Barack Obama's rise to the presidency is the story of a man who, in the eyes of many, was a political prodigy. He was born in Hawaii, where he spent his childhood. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2005 to 2006. He was a member of the U.S. Senate from 2005 to 2006. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2005 to 2006. He was a member of the U.S. Senate from 2005 to 2006.

DEBATE

Obama's Debt to Our Country

Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 election is a triumph for the American people. He is a man who has shown us that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve greatness. He is a man who has shown us that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve greatness. He is a man who has shown us that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve greatness.

WOMEN

Michelle Obama Wins

Michelle Obama's victory in the 2008 election is a triumph for women. She is a woman who has shown us that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve greatness. She is a woman who has shown us that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve greatness. She is a woman who has shown us that it is possible to overcome adversity and achieve greatness.

BOBBI

G.O.P. Subverts Bill

The Republican Party's attempt to subvert the bill is a clear violation of the principles of democracy. It is a clear violation of the principles of democracy. It is a clear violation of the principles of democracy.

NEW YORK

Democrats Take Senate

The Democrats' victory in the 2008 election is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people.



President-elect Barack Obama with his wife, Michelle, and their daughters in Chicago on Tuesday night.

Democrats in Congress Strengthen Grip

By GINA KAGANOVSKY

Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 election is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people.



THE CHALLENGE

No Time for Laurels; Now the Hard Part

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — As politicians across the nation celebrate the victory of Barack Obama, the hard part is just beginning. The challenge is to implement the policies that Obama has promised.

THE MORNINGS

After Decades, A Time to Reap

By KEVIN RAY

ALBANY, Ga. — Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 election is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people.

THE PROMISE

For Many Abroad, An Ideal Renewed

By STEPHEN BRANDEGE

ROME — President Obama's victory in the 2008 election is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people. It is a triumph for the American people.

THE CHALLENGE

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Introduction

There couldn't be a better time to study American government & politics. You have witnessed history in the making as America elected its first African-American president. As the 2012 election looms the novelty of this has worn off and Barack Obama is being forced to deal with some of the most difficult issues any American president has had to face – the fallout from the banking crisis with huge levels of debt, high levels of unemployment and slow economic growth; military engagement in three countries (at the time of writing), widespread popular anger at his welfare reforms and a hostile Congress determined to oppose any and everything he does.

America is a nation of many contradictions. Why is it that the world's wealthiest country is also one of the most unequal? Why is the most powerful country in the world unable to secure military victories in much smaller countries? Why is it involved in so many wars? Why do so many people in the world hate America? Why do so many love and admire it? Why is it that a country founded on the principles of freedom and liberty and with entrenched rights for minorities allows everyone to own a gun? Why is it that a country that is prepared to elect a black president all has spent so much time wondering if he was born in the USA (he was)? Why is it that 40 years after abortion was legalised some doctors who are prepared to carry out abortions have been assassinated?

This is your chance to answer these questions and find out what makes America tick.

Basic information

Exam board	Edexcel
Website	http://www.edexcel.com/Pages/home.aspx
Course	A2 GCE in Government & Politics (9GP01)
Number of units	2
Unit titles	Unit 3C Representative Processes in the USA Unit 4C Governing the USA
Exam	100%
Coursework	No
Number of exams	2
When	June 2012

Summary of assessment requirements

Unit number and unit title Level	Level	Assessment information	Total marks
Unit 3: Representative Processes in the USA	A2	<p>Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes</p> <p>Students must take one topic. For each topic, students are required to answer three short answer questions from a choice of five (15 marks each).</p> <p>Students are then required to answer one essay question from a choice of three (45 marks).</p>	90 marks
Unit 4: Governing the USA	A2	<p>Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes</p> <p>Students must take one topic. For each topic, students are required to answer three short answer questions from a choice of five (15 marks each).</p> <p>Students are then required to answer one essay question from a choice of three (45 marks).</p>	90 marks

GRADE	MARK/100
A*	90
A	80
B	70
C	60
D	50
E	40

Politics Curriculum Map 2011 - 2012

	RCD (4) Unit 3C Representation in the USA	COM (2) Unit 4C Governing the USA
Term 1	Racial and ethnic politics	The Constitution
Term 2	Party Policies and Ideas	The Constitution Congress
Term 3	Elections Pressure Groups	Congress The Presidency
Term 4	The Supreme Court	The Presidency
Term 5	Revision	Revision

A2 Government & Politics – Student Folders

You will be given lots of paper over the next year and it is absolutely essential that you organise your folders and keep them up to date. You should do this right from the start of the course.

You can expect us to ask you to bring your folders into class so we can check them, and you will be asked to bring them to parents evenings so we can go through them with your families.

You are studying two units so you should have two A4 ring binders, one for each unit. Each ring binder should be divided up as follows:

Unit 3C: REPRESENTATION IN THE USA

- Racial and ethnic politics
- Elections and voting
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups

Unit 4C: GOVERNING THE USA

- The constitution
- Congress
- The presidency
- The Supreme Court

You won't need to bring your ring binders to every lesson – they will be too heavy and you could lose all of your work. Most of the time these will be kept at home.

You should bring into class the work for the topic we are working on – you will need foolscap folders for this.

In class, we will issue you with hand-outs, notes and articles from newspapers and magazines. When you get home, you should read the relevant chapter from the text book you will be given and write up your notes adding additional information.

Cut articles out of newspapers and magazines, highlight them and file them under the relevant headings – don't wait for me to start teaching the topic. If you see something useful, keep it safe!

A2 POLITICS – STUDY SKILLS

- 1 Attendance & punctuality really matter. If you miss lessons you are immediately behind. If you are late you are missing the most important part of the lesson. Fact: the students who get the highest grades have the best records of attendance & punctuality
- 2 Read quality newspapers, watch good TV news programmes, listen to the radio, especially Radio 4. Be well informed.
- 3 Keep a file of press cuttings. If some are relevant to a topic we have done in class then file them next to those notes.
- 4 Read through your notes every evening. Keep reading and rereading them until you know them inside out.
- 5 Don't try to write everything the teacher is saying. Make notes – write down what the most important points are. Develop a system of notes/abbreviations.
- 6 Write your notes up neatly when you get home, while it is still fresh in your mind.
- 7 Read the text book and add notes to those you took in class. Remember you are creating **NOW** the revision notes you'll use to prepare for the exam.
- 8 Organise your folder carefully, take pride in it. Spend money on file dividers, plastic wallets.
- 9 Complete all assignments and hand them in on time. They are essential to success. They are giving you a chance to develop and show your understanding. Work hard to impress us.
- 10 If you don't know what to do **ASK**. If you can't find us around school you can contact us by email: russellchild@qkschool.org.uk and careyoppenheim@qkschool.org.uk
- 11 Contribute to class discussions. Have an opinion. Listen to what other people have got to say. This gives you a chance to develop your ideas.
- 12 Get involved in politics. Join a political party, attend demonstrations, go to meetings.
- 13 Do extra work – go the extra mile. Do additional essays & tasks and show them to me – the feedback is essential as we can explain how you can improve your work.
- 14 Show initiative – don't wait for us to tell you to do something

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

1. **Start now** – revise as you go along. If you leave everything until the last minute you will have a huge mountain to climb
2. Make notes from your notes – condense things down to headings/sub-headings
3. Draw diagrams, mind maps, tables etc to summarise information
4. Buy loads of highlighter pens – highlight your notes and the articles you have cut out
5. Do lots of additional practice essays – redo essays/tasks you've done before
6. Immerse yourself in politics – read quality newspapers/magazines. Watch good news and politics-based programmes on TV. Listen to the radio – the Today & Any Questions programmes on R4.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES
(these are hyperlinks available on the Intranet)

American newspapers

[The Washington Post](#)

[The New York Times](#)

[The New Yorker](#)

American news channels

[Fox News](#)

[CNN](#)

[ABC](#)

[CBS](#)

Commentators/TV and radio shows

[John Stewart The Daily Show](#)

[Bill O'Reilly](#)

[Rush Limbaugh](#)

[Michael Moore](#)

[The Onion](#)

New media

[American News Project](#)

[Real Clear Politics](#)

[Democracy Now](#)

US Political Parties/organizations

[The US Green Party](#)

[The American Independent Party](#)

[Move On](#)

[Project for the New American Century](#)

[The Republicans](#)

[The Democrats](#)

Blogging

[The Reaction](#)

[Ta-Nehishi Coates](#)

[Wonkette DC Gossip](#)

[Fivethirtyeight](#)

[Andrew Sullivan](#)

[Tigerbeatdown](#)

[Hullabaloo](#)

International/UK news agencies

[Al-Jazeera](#)

[The Guardian \(US elections\)](#)

[The Independent \(US elections\)](#)

[BBC News](#)

[BBC News Country Profile - USA](#)

[ITN](#)

[Channel 4 News](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[The Independent](#)

[The Daily Telegraph](#)

[The Times](#)

[The Economist](#)

Want to watch footage of something that has happened in US politics or history?

[You Tube](#)