5.1 US Presidency: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For levels-marked questions, write a well-structured, developed response using accurate political knowledge, named examples and precise terminology. This pack forms part of Edexcel Paper 3A (9PL0/3A): Comparative Politics - USA.

1 This question tests recall of constitutional rules on presidential eligibility and tenure.

(a) State two constitutional qualifications a person must meet to become President. **(2)**

(b) Explain the effect of the 22nd Amendment on presidential tenure. **(3)**

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 This question is about alternatives to the treaty process.

(a) Explain the difference between a treaty and an executive agreement. **(4)**

(b) State one advantage to a President of using an executive agreement rather than a treaty. **(2)**

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.1 US Presidency: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) one accurate qualification, e.g. must be a natural-born citizen of the United States **B1**

(a) a second accurate qualification, e.g. must be at least 35 years old, or must have been a resident within the United States for at least 14 years **B1**

(a) Answer: Any two of: must be a natural-born citizen of the United States; must be at least 35 years old; must have been a resident within the United States for at least 14 years.

(b) identifies that the 22nd Amendment limits a person to being elected President twice **B1**

(b) explains that a person who serves more than two years of another President's term may subsequently be elected only once **B1**

(b) explains the resulting maximum of ten years: serving up to two years of another President's term followed by two elected four-year terms **B1**

(b) Answer: The 22nd Amendment limits a person to being elected President twice. A person who serves more than two years of another President's term may subsequently be elected only once. Someone who serves two years or less of that term can still be elected twice, allowing a maximum of ten years in office: two years plus two four-year terms.

Question 2

(a) identifies that a treaty is a formal international agreement requiring Senate advice and consent by two-thirds of senators present under Article II before presidential ratification **B1**

(a) identifies that an executive agreement is made by the President with a foreign power without requiring the Article II Senate advice and consent procedure **B1**

(a) further accurate distinction or developed explanation of either procedure, e.g. executive agreements can be quicker to conclude because they avoid the Article II Senate consent process **B1**

(a) further accurate distinction or developed explanation, e.g. executive agreements are far more numerous in practice than formal treaties, since they avoid the two-thirds Senate hurdle **B1**

(a) Answer: A treaty is a formal international agreement requiring Senate advice and consent by two-thirds of senators present under Article II, Section 2 before the President can ratify it. An executive agreement is made between the President and a foreign government without requiring that Article II Senate consent procedure. Avoiding this hurdle can make executive agreements quicker to conclude and, in practice, they are far more numerous than treaties.

(b) identifies a valid advantage **B1**

(b) brief accurate development of that advantage **B1**

(b) Answer: It avoids the Article II requirement for Senate advice and consent by two-thirds of senators present, so it can be agreed more quickly and is not at risk of being blocked by a Senate minority withholding treaty consent.

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