

## Democracy

### Question 1

Pressure Groups

Trade Unions

The Media

Chose one of the groups above.

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways in which the group you have chosen tries to influence the UK Government.

One way the media tries to influence the UK Government is when newspapers support a specific political party at election time. Newspapers are one of the most influential forms of media at election time and they often choose to make it clear which party they are supporting. This makes newspapers biased as they are in favour of a party which causes them to write only positive stories about the party and only negative stories about the opposition party. For example largely popular newspaper the sun with with over 4 million daily readers decided that in 2010 they were in support of the Conservative Party after years of supporting labour, this led them to write negative stories about prime minster Gordon Brown and very positive stores about the leader of the Conservative Party David Cameron therefore influencing the General Election.

Another way the media tries to influence the UK Government is through newspaper campaigns. A newspaper campaign is when a newspaper starts a public campaign on a certain issue and asks its readers to have their say by writing to the newspaper and signing online petitions. Due to the fact that newspapers are widely read they can make a clear influence on the Government through these campaigns. For example the Daily Express is a newspaper that in 2013 started a public newspaper campaign about the removal of the UK from the European Union and therefore encouraged its readers to sign their petition which they used to force Prime Minister David Cameron to hold a referendum.

### Question 2

Explain, **in detail**, the advantages **and** disadvantages of the First Past the Post system (FPTOP) which is used to elect the United Kingdom Parliament.

One advantage of First Past the Post (FPTP) is that it is easy and simple to operate. All voters have to do is put an 'X' next to the candidate of their choice, the candidate who has the most votes is elected. This encourages people to come out and vote as it is so easy to understand the process and result.. For example the turnout for the 2010 UK general election was 65% much higher than the 2011 Scottish Parliament election which uses the Additional Member System.

Another advantage of FPTP is that it forms a direct link between constituents and their MP. Under FPTP there is one and only one MP elected per constituency. This makes it easier for constituents to get answers on any problems or questions they may have. It means that the MP is held directly responsible for anything politically that happens in the constituency. For example people in West Dunbartonshire unhappy about the bedroom tax would approach their MP Gemma Doyle.

One disadvantage of FPTP is that MP's can be elected without a majority of the vote. Under FPTP the candidate with the most votes wins. However this means that you could be in a situation were the votes for all of the losing candidates in one constituency could add up to more than the votes for the winning candidate which is unfair and undemocratic. For example in the 2010 General elections 434 of 650 MP's elected received less than 50% of the vote in their constituencies.

Another disadvantage of FPTP is that it causes vote apathy due to the number of wasted votes. This is when constituents who support smaller parties such as the Green Party feel like their vote does

not count and they decide not to turn up and vote during the elections. For example in the 2010 General election around 35% of the eligible electorate did not vote.

### Question 3

Describe, **In detail**, **two** ways in which the House of Lords plays a part in decision making in the UK.

One way in which the House of Lords (HOL) plays a part in the decision making in the UK is by discussing legislation in great amounts of detail and making amendments. The HOL is filled with experts who have a large amount of expertise and an array of various areas, this allows them to look at legislation in greater amounts of detail than the House of Commons. The HOL will advise and make changes to legislation put forward by the House of Commons. For example the HOL examined the Coalition Governments Welfare Reform Bill and made amendments to it before it was finally passed in 2012.

Another way in which the HOL plays a part in the decision making in the UK is by elevating former senior MP's. They do this as a reward for a long and successful career in politics as well as an attempt to make use of their political experience. For example John McFall who had been the MP for West Dunbartonshire for 30 years as well as former Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee was appointed to the HOL by former primer minister Gordon Brown in 2010.

### Question 4

Media

Trade Unions

**Pressure Groups**

Choose one of the above.

Explain, **in detail**, why some people think they play a **positive** role in politics while others believe they play a **negative** role in politics.

One reason that some people believe pressure groups play a positive role in politics is that they provide information for voters about political issues. A pressure group uses various methods to inform the public about political issues including publicity stunts, online petitions and campaigns. For example the pressure group Shelter to do with homelessness regularly campaigns to inform the public about the issue of homelessness in the UK by publishing statistics such as the fact that every two minutes someone in the UK faces losing their home.

Another reason that some people believe pressure groups play a positive role in politics is that they provide influence for minority groups. Certain groups in the UK have trouble gaining representation in Government and find it hard to gain media attention for their cause. To help them pressure groups use various methods including media campaigns and demonstrations to help draw attention to the minority groups cause. For example Fathers 4 Justice dress up as superheroes and climb buildings in the UK to protest about access rights for single fathers, a group which is greatly underrepresented in the United Kingdom.

One reason that some people believe pressure groups play a negative role in politics is that certain pressure groups are very large and have far too much influence in Government policies. This prevents small pressure groups from having access to the Government. Larger pressure groups may also force the government to introduce new laws that only benefit their members. For example the British Medical Association (BMA) is a very large and influential pressure group which has lobbied the UK Government over reforms to the NHS in England and Wales.

### Question 5

Describe, in detail, two ways in which political parties campaign to get their candidates elected as MP's.

One way in which political parties campaign to get their candidate elected as MP is by canvassing. This is when supporters of the party go door to door asking voters who they are planning on voting for in the election and distributing election materials to on the fence voters. For example in the 2010 UK General Election supporters of the SNP would have canvassed like Clydebank, and Dumbarton asking who they would be voting for in the general election.

Another way in which political parties campaign to get their candidate elected as MP is by producing a variety of election material for distribution. Political parties may produce leaflets, posters, badges and balloons which all bear their local candidates name and the date of the next election. The materials are designed to be very eye catching and are usually in line with the parties colours and logos. For example constituents in West Dunbartonshire would have received a variety of posters and leaflets during the run up to the 2010 General Election for the local candidate for West Dunbartonshire, Gemma Doyle.

### Question 6

Explain, **in detail**, why some people want changes made to the House of Lords.

One reason some people want changes made to the House of Lords (HOL) is that it is undemocratic. Some people believe that the HOL is undemocratic as peers in the HOL are appointed by the Prime Minister (PM) for life instead of being elected by the General Public. Many people want elections for peers in the HOL as they believe this will make the HOL more accountable to the general public and force them to think about the interests of their constituents. For example the Liberal Democrat party have been strong supporters of elections to the HOL for many years.

Another reason that some people want changes made to the HOL is that there is a lack of representation for women and ethnic minorities in the HOL. Due to the lack of elections and the lack of powerful female and ethnic minority MP's there are even fewer from these groups in the HOL. For example out of 778 peers in the HOL less than 200 are female.

Another reason that some people want changes made to the HOL is that they want to see an end to patronage. The PM has the power to appoint close personal friends as well as political allies into the HOL who will help him push legislation through the HOL. This is a major advantage to the Prime Minister and many believe it to be incredibly unfair. For example in 2010 Prime Minister Gordon Brown named Labour colleague and influential MP John McFall as a peer in the HOL.

### Question 7

Describe, in detail, at least two powers of the Prime Minister in the UK Government.

One power of the Prime Minister (PM) in the UK Government is the power of appointment. The PM can appoint and dismiss members of his or her cabinet, senior judges and peers into the HOL. The PM may do this as a reward for political allies by appointing them into senior positions in government. For example in 2010 the PM David Cameron appointed George Osborne, a long time friend and political ally to the position as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Another power of the PM in the UK Government is the power of media attention for the UK

government. The PM has widespread access to the media and can use this in various ways such as announcing new policies, criticise the opposition and responding to national events such as terrorist acts. For example when the Woolwich terrorist attack occurred PM David Cameron called a press conference to condemn the attacks and enforce the message of the UK's fight against terrorism.

### Question 8

Explain, **in detail**, why some people believe that coalition government works well **and** explain, **in detail** why some people believe that coalition government does not work well.

One reason that some people believe that the coalition government works well is that parties are forced to work together therefore it creates more corporation and compromise within government. Due to the fact that more than one party is in Government it means that policies from parties in coalition have to be discussed and debated resulting in a compromise before any legislation can be passed. For example the current coalition Government of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats compromised over raising the personal tax allowance of citizens to £10,000.

Another reason that some people believe that the coalition government works well is that more voters feel like their views are represented in Government. As First Past the Post (FPTP) usually results in single party Governments, coalition governments allow more peoples views to be represented resulting in a higher chance that policies they believe in will be enacted. For example in the 2010 General Election the Liberal Democrats received 23% of overall vote. This means that a large group of voters are now represented in the coalition government.

However one reason that some people believe that a coalition Government does not work well is that voters will be dissatisfied as no one votes for a coalition government. Instead voters vote for a single party who they wish to see form the government alone. Voters are not given the option of a coalition government on their ballot paper and may feel that their views are being diluted by the other coalition party. For example over 10.5 million people voted for the Conservatives in the UK General Election in 2010. The majority of these voters have already rejected the policies put forward by the Liberal Democrats but still find them in Government working along side the Conservatives and potentially still pushing their own policies through government.

### Question 9

Describe, **in detail**, **two** powers the UK parliament has to make decisions affecting the whole of the UK.

One power the UK parliament has to make decisions affecting the whole of the UK is the power to declare war. The UK Parliament has the power to declare war on other countries who it deems as a threat, this is done by the means of a majority vote. For example in 2012 the UK parliament voted no to going to war with Syria which was proposed by Prime Minister (PM) David Cameron.

Another power of the UK parliament has to make decisions affecting the whole of the UK is the power of social security. The UK Parliament has control over the benefits system in the UK which is there to provide aid to those of low income. For example the Conservative Liberal Democrat Coalition recently unveiled Universal Credit, an amalgamation credit that has been widely criticised.

### Question 10

Explain, **in detail**, why many people in the UK feel it is important to use their right to vote in elections.

One reason many people in the UK feel it is important to use their right to vote is that if they do not, they do not have the right to complain about the chosen government. If someone does not vote in an election they can not reasonably complain about the elected government as they never used their responsibility to vote in the election in the first place. For example in 2011 40% of the UK electorate never voted, therefore they do not have the right to complain about the Coalition Government.

Another reason many people in the UK feel it is important to use their right to vote is that it improves democracy. The more voters that vote the more democratic an election is as it is more representative of the populations political opinions.

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## Crime and Law

### Question 1

Explain, **in detail**, why some people commit crime.

One reason people commit crime is due to poverty. Poorer families may not be able to afford special activities and luxury items such as games consoles and flat screen TV's. This can put pressure on parents who wish to provide for their families which can then lead them to commit crime. For example a parent may buy stolen goods at a far cheaper price in order to keep their children happy.

Another reason people commit crime is due to greed. Greed is when someone wants more of something that they do not really need or deserve, in many cases with crime this is relating to money. Senior executives as well as major companies may avoid pay certain taxes in order to minimise expenses. For example there have been recent reports of Apple, Amazon and UK Phone company Vodaphone not avoiding taxes in the UK.

Another reason people commit crime is poor living conditions. This reason particularly applies to young people who have been raised in a poor social environment where low level crime is accepted. As they are raised in a household where crime is accepted the young person grows up believing there is nothing wrong with stealing, taking drugs, etc. For example a young person who is brought up in a chaotic household involving drug misuse may end up consuming illegal substances in the future.

### Question 2

Describe, **in detail**, two crimes most commonly committed by young people.

One crime commonly committed by young people is theft. Young people will often commit small thefts from local convenience stores due to peer pressure or poverty. Peer pressure is often put on young people to steal small items from convenience stores by other young people. Poverty could also play a role in this as poorer children can not afford what other children can, therefore adding to the pressure. For example in 2012 there were 26,449 incidents of shoplifting in Scotland.

Another crime commonly committed by young people is vandalism. Young people will often commit vandalism due to either peer pressure or to be rebellious. Vandalism is often seen as a cool, rebellious activity among young people. With famous artists such as Banksie in recent years it has become increasingly popular to express yourself via vandalism. However under law it is illegal to do this to property you do not own. For example there were 56,413 cases of vandalism in 2012.

### Question 3

Explain, **in detail**, why in some areas community policing is the better way to tackle crime, while in others the use of CCTV cameras is better.

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Question 4

Describe, **in detail**, at least two ways in which the police try to reduce crime levels.

One way the police try to reduce crime levels is by forming a positive relationship with local communities. This is achieved by having police on the street and on bikes to give communities a sense of safety and allowing officers to chat with locals of the community therefore building a relationship. For example community policing is where community police officers get involved with public groups such as the Midnight League Football to help build positive relationships with local young people.

Another way the police try to reduce crime levels is by using mounted police. Mounted police ride horses as manage crowd control and the monitoring of large crowds to ensure violence does not outbreak. They are often at protests and other public events to ensure peace. For example mounted police are used for European football matches in Glasgow to ensure rival supporters do not engage in violence.

Question 5

Describe, **in detail**, two roles of the police in Scotland.

One role of the police in Scotland is to enforce the law. The police in Scotland's main aim is to maintain and enforce the law. They have the power to arrest individuals who break the law and take them to court. For example the police have the power to arrest someone who has been drink driving at the road side and take them to the police station. They may then be sent to court to be sentenced.

One role of the police in Scotland is to counter and respond to terrorism. The police in Scotland also aim to make Scotland a safe place by having counter terrorist measures in place. They will often do investigations into potential terrorist plots and in the event of an attack will respond in line with the severity. For example during the Glasgow Airport Suicide Bombing the police force in Scotland closed bridges and increased presence at public tourist attractions.

Question 6

Describe, **in detail**, the changes that have been made to laws in Scotland regarding alcohol in recent years.

One change that has been made to the laws in Scotland regarding alcohol in recent years is the

'Challenge 25' initiative brought in by the Scottish Government. 'Challenge 25' requires all licensed premises to ask anyone suspected of being younger than 25 to provide identification, if they do not provide identification then the sale should not legally take place. For example if someone is trying to buy a six-pack of beer in a supermarket and the cashier suspects the customer to be under 25 he/she must ask for identification, if the customer fails to provide identification they will not be allowed to purchase the alcohol.

Another change that has been made to the laws in Scotland regarding alcohol in recent years is newly passed legislation by the Scottish Government outlining a new minimum price for alcohol. This new legislation is designed to reduce the sale of cheap alcohol and in turn reduce the levels of heavy binge drinking. For example under the new legislation 2 for the price of 1 deals will no longer be possible, therefore people are more likely to consume less alcohol as they are not enticed to drink more alcohol.

#### Question 7

Describe, **in detail**, the reasons for **and** against raising the alcohol age to 21.

One reason for raising the age of alcohol consumption to 21 is that it will reduce the number of alcohol related youth crimes. Most crimes committed by those ages 16 to 18 are committed under the influence of alcohol. By increasing the age barrier this will reduce the number of 16 to 18 year olds drinking. For example those aged 17-20 are most likely to be convicted of drink driving.

Another reason for raising the age of alcohol consumption to 21 is that it will help to reduce the negative impact on physical development as there would be less chance of young people drinking. Drinking damages brain cells and binge drinking can lead to serious medical problems especially in young people. The use of Challenge 25 along with 21 being the legal drinking age would reduce the number of young people drinking therefore reducing damage to young people.

However one reason against raising the age of alcohol consumption to 21 is that it would lead to more young people drinking illegally in parks and streets. Increasing the drinking age would potentially only increase the levels of alcohol fuelled crime and become an even more rebellious act for young people. For example a 19 year old who under the current law would drink safely within a licensed premises such as a pub or a club would instead be more likely to drink illegally in social areas such as parks or streets.

#### Question 8

Describe, **in detail**, the adult court system in Scotland

One of the adult courts in Scotland is the High Court. The High Court has unlimited sentencing powers. It uses a jury of 15 people and a judge for all cases. The High Court will deal with serious crimes such as rape, terrorism and murder. They are located in major cities. For example both Glasgow and Edinburgh have a High Court which will deal with incidents such as the Glasgow Airport Attack.

Another one of the adult courts in Scotland is the Sheriff Court. There are 49 Sheriff Courts in Scotland. In a solemn procedure both a judge and a jury of 15 people is used. In Summary Procedure only a judge is present. Summary cases are less serious than Solemn cases. The Sheriff Court will deal with medium level crimes such as drug dealing and assault. For example Dumbarton has it's own sheriff court which will deal with incidents of assault in Clydebank.



Another adult court in Scotland is the Court of Session. It is the main civil court in Scotland and mainly deals with cases where people are suing others for large sums of money. For example Tommy Sheridan won £200,000 in the Court of Session for the defamation of character against the News of the World newspaper.

### Question 9

Describe, **in detail**, the sentences criminal courts in Scotland can give to those found guilty of crimes.

One sentence that courts in Scotland can issue is community service. Community Service (Also known as community payback) is a non-custodial sentence that the courts will issue to those who have committed smaller crimes such as vandalism. It makes the offender work to make the community a better place. They may repair the damage they have done to the area or do community work like install flowerbeds and landscape gardens.

Another sentence that courts in Scotland can issue is electronic tagging. Electronic tagging is a non-custodial sentence where the offender is placed on a curfew and restricted to a named place (usually home) for 12 hours a day. They can also be excluded from certain areas for up to a year. The offender wears a transmitter on their ankle or wrist that alerts the control room if the offender is outside the permitted zone. For example in 2005 Jermain Pennant wore a tag play football due to driving offences.

Another sentence that courts in Scotland can issue is prison. Prison is a custodial sentence that is issued when a person is found guilty of a substantial crime. The length of the prison sentence is down to the severity of the offence. For example in 2013 Mark Bridger was given a life sentence to serve in prison for murdering 5 year old April Jones.

### Question 10

Explain, **in detail**, why the use of the prison system has been criticised in recent years.

One reason the prison system has been criticised in recent years is poor reoffending rates. This means the number of criminals convicted that re-offend once out of prison is quite high. Critics of the prison system claim that the prison service is failing to meet the needs of the prisoners therefore leading to high reoffending rates. For example Barlinnie prison in Glasgow has relatively high reoffending rates.

Another reason the prison system has been criticised in recent years is due to the poor quality of conditions that the prisoners live in. Common issues that occur in prisons is overcrowding requiring prisoners to share cells. Prisons often have poor quality of food and low hygiene levels. For example a recent inspection of Pentonville Prison in North London revealed that it was dirty, overcrowded and understaffed.

### Question 11

Explain, **in detail**, why Scottish Courts often use alternative punishments to prison when dealing with offenders.

One reason the Scottish Courts use alternative punishments to prison is due to overcrowding. Scottish Prisons are extremely overcrowded, nationwide Scotland is holding more prisoners than it can hold in prisons suitably. Overcrowding leads to a poorer standard of care and rehabilitation causing more reoffences. Alternative punishments are used to ease overcrowding. For example Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow is overcrowded.

Another reason the Scottish Courts use alternative punishments to prison is that it saves money. In 2013 the Scottish Government estimates it will spend £486 million on maintaining prison services nationwide. Compared to other sentences such as electronic tagging and community service which this is extremely cost expensive. Especially when compared to Community Service which provides free labour for community projects.

### Question 12

Describe, **in detail**, at least two ways in which the Children's Hearing System in Scotland can support children and young people.

One way the Children's Hearing System in Scotland can support children and young people is by contacting social worker. If the Children's Hearing Panell believes there is trouble at home that is causing issues for a child, they will be assigned a social worker by the Children's Hearing System who will regularly visit the child to make sure everything at home is ok. This is done as a first step and may be used to work out how complicated problems at home really are before taking further steps. For example the Children's Hearing System may assign a social worker to a child who is failing to attend school regularly with the hope of working out why they are failing to do so and rectify the problem.

Another way the Children's Hearing System in Scotland can support children and young people is by assigning foster care. Removing a child from their home is a final step taking by the Children's hearing system used in extreme cases. When removed from their home a child will often be put in the care of a a foster parent who will look after them and live with them until such time as the Children's Hearing Panel believe it is correct to reintegrate the child with their family. For example if a parent is an alcoholic who is incapable of caring for a baby then they may be put in foster care while the parent goes to rehabilitation with the aim of reuniting the child and parent when the parent is capable of looking after the child.

## USA

### Question 1

Describe, **in detail**, **two** ways in which citizens from a world power you have studied can participate in Politics.

One way American citizens can participate in politics is by voting in elections. Citizens of the United States of America can vote in elections at county, state and federal level. At county level they may elect a local dog catcher, at state level they may elect a Senator or Congressmen and at federal level they can vote in the Presidential elections voting for the president. For example citizens in the USA had the opportunity to vote for either Barack Obama or Mitt Romney in the 2012 US Presidential election.

Another way that US citizens can participate in politics is by joining an interest group. An interest group puts pressure on the government to make changes or introduce laws to support them. Members of interest groups may participate in demonstrations and campaigns to gain support for their cause. For example the National Rifle Association (NRA) campaign on a regular basis against the introduction of Anti-gun legislation.

### Question 2

Explain, **in detail**, why social **and** economic inequalities exist in a World Power you have studied.

One reason social inequality exists in the USA is healthcare. Citizens of America are not equal in regards to medical care. Unlike the UK which has free healthcare provided by the NHS, America has no nationalised health service and instead Americans must pay for healthcare through private medical insurance. Medical insurance is very expensive and not all Americans can afford it therefore many Americans go without healthcare entirely. For example in 2010 there were 49.9 million Americans with no medical insurance meaning that 16.3% of the American Population had no healthcare in 2010.

Another reason that social inequality exists in the USA is poorer standards of education for some ethnic groups. In America location is an important factor in the quality of education a child receives. The suburbs as well as rural areas tend to have higher quality schools than schools located in the inner city. For example most Blacks and Hispanics are located in inner cities where the poorer schools are most likely to be located.

One reason economic inequality exists in the USA is down to employment and unemployment.

There are many reasons that an American citizen may face inequality in employment such as recession and discrimination. The recent recession that took place between 2008 and 2011 had a significant effect on unemployment particularly for ethnic minorities. This could be down to factors such as discrimination as Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans are paid lower wages, given less opportunity to advance in the work place or in some case not hired at all. For example in 2013 the national unemployment rate in the USA was above 8% however the unemployment rates for Hispanics and Blacks were 12.5% and 16% respectively which is much higher than the national unemployment rate.

### Question 3

Describe, **in detail**, at least **two** main political institutions of the government of a world power you have studied.

Of political institution of the American Government is the executive branch also known as the office of the President. The president is elected for a term of four years and can only be elected into office twice. The president has the power to introduce legislation which is implemented by Congress, deploy the US Armed forces and they are also the American Head of State which means they are the public representative for the USA. For example in 2011 President Barack Obama represented the US when he made a state visit to the UK and met the Queen.

Another political institution of the American Government is the Legislative Branch also known as Congress. Congress is made up of two houses, the lower house known as the House of Representatives and the upper house known as the Senate. There are 435 congressmen and women which is based upon the population of each state as well as 100 senators which is made up of two senators per state. Congress scrutinises and implements legislation. It also has the power to declare war on other countries as well as the power to approve or reject the budget proposed by the President. For example in 2013 the Federal Government had to be shut down as Congress failed to agree on Barack Obama's proposed budget.

A final political institution of the American Government is the Judiciary Branch also known as the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the United States highest legal institution and decides whether the actions of the president, congress or even individual citizens are constitutional. It is made up of 9 Supreme Court Justices who are appointed by the President and serve on the bench. For example in 2012 the Supreme Court ruled that Obamacare formally known as the Affordable Healthcare Act that was proposed by Barack Obama and passed by congress was constitutional.

### Question 4

Poor Education

Health Inequalities

Fear of Crime

Poor Housing

Choose one of the above

Explain, **in detail**, why this issue continues to be a problem in a world power you have studied.

One social problem in the USA is poor housing. Many ethnic minorities in the US live in the inner city. These areas are commonly known as Ghettos if predominantly populated by Blacks and Barrios if predominantly populated by Hispanics. Most Barrios and Ghettos are very poor and

suffer from poor, low quality housing. For example in New York the Bronx area is filled with run down housing which the government has not invested in meaning that it has not been updated for a long time. This has had a considerable effect on ethnic minorities as Black and Hispanics make up over 80% of the Bronx Population.

Another reason poor housing exists is due to the presence of violence, gang culture and illegal substances. Both Ghettoes and Barrios are crime hotspots where murder and drive by shootings often take place. In both areas the use of illegal substances such as heroin take place commonly. Housing is damaged due to the violence and the conditions scare away possible investment. For example in the Bronx in 2011 over 500 people were the victims of gun shootings.

### Question 5

Describe, **in detail**, from a world power you have studied, at least **two** government's responses to social and economic problems.

One social problem in the USA is healthcare. Most Americans have little or no health care, this is especially true in relation to ethnic minorities who often can not afford private medical insurance which is required to receive healthcare in America as there is no Nationalised health service. In response the US government has introduced Obamacare formally known as the Affordable Healthcare Act. This policy aims to ensure that low income Americans receive Government funding to be put towards private insurance, it prevents large insurance companies charging the sick more and moves America one step closer to universal coverage.

One economic problem in the USA is unemployment. Since the recession that took place between 2008 and 2011 unemployment rates in America have been at a record high of 8%. In response the US government have introduced the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which has created over 3 million jobs. The president has also made serious reforms to Wall Street by putting an end to large bailouts for banks and other institutions who gamble with peoples money and put jobs at risk.

### Question 6

Describe, **in detail**, the rights **and** responsibilities of citizens from a world power you have studied.

One right citizens in the USA have is the right to vote. American citizens have the political right to vote for candidates in county, state and federal elections. At county level citizens could vote for a position such as local dog catcher, at state level they could vote for their congressmen or women and at federal level American citizens can vote in the presidential Elections. For example in the 2012 presidential elections American Voters could vote for either Barack Obama or Mitt Romney.

However the corresponding responsibility that citizens of the USA have is the responsibility to use their vote. If a citizen does not use their vote then they have no right to complain about the candidate that gets elected as they are not fulfilling their civic duty. For example in the US Presidential elections in 2012 approximately 93 million American Citizens did do vote.

Another right citizens in the USA have is the right to bear arms. The American Constitutional makes the carrying of weapons a legal, constitutional right for all Americans. This allows citizens to buy handguns, shotguns, rifles and automatic weapons legally at designated gun stores. For example if an American citizen has identification and passes the background checks they can purchase a 9mm handgun from a weapons store.

However the corresponding responsibility that citizens of the USA have is that they only use their gun in self defence or for approved sporting activities. US citizens must use their guns legally and with care as they have been given the right to carry them. This is not always the case however as many shootings have taken place resulting in the loss of innocent people. For example the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary were the shooter had legally purchased the gun from a weapon store.

### Question 7

Explain, **in detail**, why some groups from a world power you have studied experience social **and** economic inequality.

One social inequality that affects ethnic minorities in the USA is poor education. Ethnic minorities such as Blacks and Hispanics are far less likely to receive good quality education than Whites, preventing them from entering high wage jobs. One reason for the poorer education is location. The suburbs as well as rural areas tend to have higher quality schools than schools located in the inner city. Ethnic Minorities are more likely to live in inner city areas than other groups and therefore more likely to go to inner city schools receiving poorer education.

One economic inequality that affects ethnic minorities in the USA is lack of employment opportunities. A lot of Black and Hispanic Americans struggle to receive any type of job. Those in employment often work harder for less pay. One reason for this is discrimination. Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans are paid lower wages, given fewer opportunities to for advancement and are often not hired at all. For example in 2013 the national unemployment rate in the USA was above 8% however the unemployment rates for Hispanics and Blacks were 12.5% and 16% respectively which is much higher than the national unemployment rate.

### Question 8

Describe, **in detail**, **two** political rights that people have in the world power you have studied.

One right citizens in the USA have is the right to vote. American citizens have the political right to vote for candidates in county, state and federal elections. At county level citizens could vote for a position such as local dog catcher, at state level they could vote for their congressmen or women and at federal level American citizens can vote in the presidential Elections. For example in the 2012 presidential elections American Voters could vote for either Barack Obama or Mitt Romney.

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### Question 9

Describe, **in detail**, the reasons why some people have lower incomes than other people in the world power you have studied.

One reason some US citizens have lower incomes than others is due to racial discrimination. Discrimination against Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans is frequent in American as they are commonly paid lower wages, given less opportunity to advance in the work place or in some case not hired at all. For example in 2013 the national unemployment rate in the USA was above 8% however the unemployment rates for Hispanics and Blacks were 12.5% and 16% respectively which is much higher than the national unemployment rate.

Another reason some US citizens have lower income than others is due to poorer education. In America location is an important factor in the quality of education a child receives. The suburbs as well as rural areas tend to have higher quality schools than schools located in the inner city. A good education is key to getting a good job and a poorer quality of education will lead to a lower paid job. For example most ethnic minorities are likely to go to inner city schools where they will receive poorer education and ethnic minorities are statistically more likely to have lower income. Only 1% CEO's in America are African Americans.