

Marking Instructions for Study Theme 3C

STUDY THEME 3C: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Question

Assess the importance of the minority ethnic vote to the Democratic and Republican parties. (15 marks)

Developed, exemplified, balanced and analytical answers may refer to:

- ◆ the significance of the minority vote at all electoral levels (local, state, federal)
- ◆ the consequences of redistricting
- ◆ Blacks vote for Democrats (circa 90%) – but turnout is low
- ◆ Hispanics also tend to vote for Democrats – higher turnout
- ◆ tactics used by Democrats to get out the minority vote – ‘love offerings’, ‘walking around money’, ‘flushing and hauling’
- ◆ Republicans accused of using ‘dirty tricks’ to stop black voters getting to the polls
- ◆ Bush’s commitment to winning the black vote one of the most consistent themes of his presidency – aim is to improve chances of Republican electoral success at all levels by making inroads into the black vote
- ◆ the Democratic Party’s identification with black causes has given it voter appeal to moderates; if its grip on the black vote can be loosened its ‘virtuous’ sheen may fade and this makes all sorts of things possible – from further inroads into the white vote (white women are a particular target) to a more sympathetic consideration for Republican market-based solutions to urban problems
- ◆ Bush’s proposals for amnesty for immigrants are aimed at gaining Hispanic vote
- ◆ Republicans have almost doubled their share of the Hispanic vote in less than a decade
- ◆ the importance of the (largely white) religious right, especially to Republicans; however Blacks are one of the most religious groups in America – the support of the black clergy in Ohio helped Bush increase his margin of victory there in 2004
- ◆ the failure of the Democrats to connect with the ‘exurbs’
- ◆ the appeal of Republicans to the ‘ownership society’
- ◆ Republicans traditionally the party of big business, and Democrats of farmers and the working class
- ◆ other relevant points