

2011 AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Wednesday 16 November: 1.30 p.m.

Time: 2 hours

Pages: 5
Questions: 29

Examination material: one 5-page question booklet
one 16-page script book
one SACE registration number label

Approved dictionaries may be used.

Instructions to Students

1. You will have 10 minutes to read the paper. You must not write in your script book or question booklet during this reading time but you may make notes on the scribbling paper provided.
2. This paper is in two sections:
Section A: Australian Politics (Questions 1 to 8)
You must answer **one** essay question from this section.
Section B: International Politics (Questions 9 to 29)
You must answer **one** essay question from this section.
3. All questions are of equal value.
4. Do not repeat in one answer detailed material that you have already used in the other.
5. Write your answers in the script book provided.
6. Attach your SACE registration number label to the box on the front cover of your script book.
7. Write the numbers of the questions you have answered in the box on the front cover of your script book.

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SECTION A: AUSTRALIAN POLITICS (Questions 1 to 8)

Answer **one** essay question from this section.

The Australian Constitution and Federalism

1. 'Although the centralisation of power appears to be unstoppable, the states are still vital to federalism.'
Assess this statement.
2. Critically examine the claim that the High Court is the only effective method of reforming the Constitution.

Political Representation, Parliament, and the Executive

3. 'In parliament, the government and the opposition have different aims and therefore use different tactics.'
Discuss this statement.
4. Evaluate the view that a hung parliament is a responsible parliament.

Voting and Elections

5. Critically examine the view that preferential voting is more likely than other electoral systems to ensure majority government.
6. 'The increasing electoral volatility makes elections more unpredictable.'
Assess this statement.

Political Parties

7. 'Successful political parties never sacrifice principles for power.'
Critically examine this statement.
8. Evaluate the view that the impact of minor parties and independents is overstated.

SECTION B: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (Questions 9 to 29)

Answer **one** essay question from this section.

Global Citizenship

9. 'Global citizenship is irrelevant to Australians.'
Evaluate this claim.
10. To what extent is global activism advancing democracy?
11. 'The true test of its global citizenship is in the way a nation treats its refugees.'
Assess this claim.

Global Media

12. 'Major media owners have great power, but do not act with great responsibility.'
Critically analyse this claim.
13. 'Only public broadcasters can be trusted to report the truth responsibly.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?
14. Assess the claim that, increasingly, alternative media are driving the political agenda.

Australian International Relations

15. Evaluate the challenges brought by Australia's relationship with the major powers.
16. 'To be effective on the international stage, Australia must always balance bilateral and international agreements.'
Critically analyse this claim.
17. 'Australia's world view is determined more by national interest than by idealism.'
Critically examine this statement.

The United Nations and Human Rights

18. 'The United Nations successfully defends human rights.'
Evaluate this claim.
19. Critically examine the view that the United Nations has prevented regional conflict.
20. 'The United Nations has greatly enhanced women's rights.'
How accurate is this statement?

The Politics of the Asia–Pacific Region

21. Does cultural diversity enhance unity in the Asia–Pacific region?
Argue your case.
22. ‘Democracy in the Asia–Pacific region is in retreat.’
Critically examine this statement.
23. ‘Australia should become fully integrated with the nations of the Asia–Pacific region.’
Critically analyse this claim.

The United States of America and World Affairs

24. ‘America’s global leadership is yet to be seriously challenged.’
Critically examine this claim.
25. Assess the impact of the events of 11 September 2001 on the foreign policy of the United States of America.
26. ‘Australia has been dependent on America for too long.’
Critically analyse this statement.

Comparative Political Systems

27. Compare and contrast the underpinning principles of the political systems of two countries.
28. ‘Globalisation undermines established power structures.’
Evaluate this claim, comparing and contrasting the political systems of two countries.
29. ‘Lasting political change comes from the bottom up.’
Critically examine this view, comparing and contrasting the political systems of two countries.