

2012 AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Wednesday 14 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.

SACE
BOARD
OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

SECTION A: AUSTRALIAN POLITICS (Questions 1 to 8)

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

The Australian Constitution and Federalism

1. 'The Australian Constitution needs revision because it is out of date.'
Evaluate this claim.
2. Critically assess the idea that the division of power is no longer fundamental to Australian federalism.

Political Representation, Parliament, and the Executive

3. 'In Australian parliaments, the executive dominates the legislature.'
Critically examine this claim.
4. Assess the idea that parliaments are more about show than substance.

Voting and Elections

5. 'Voting systems have a significant impact on electoral outcomes.'
Is this so? Argue your case.
6. Analyse the view that the popularity of a leader ensures electoral success.

Political Parties

7. 'For the major parties, politics is primarily a numbers game — ideology and policy are less important.'
Assess this statement.
8. Evaluate the view that minor parties and independents in Australia are increasingly shaping politics.

SECTION B: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (Questions 9 to 29)

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

Global Citizenship

9. 'The Occupy Movement is a grassroots attempt at global citizenship.'
Analyse this claim.
10. Assess the view that domestic politics, not global citizenship, governs Australia's response to global events.
11. 'International migration encourages global citizenship.'
Do you agree? Argue your case.

Global Media

12. Evaluate the view that media owners have always been concerned with political power and influence.
13. 'The major responsibility of all media is to create informed citizens.'
Critically assess this statement.
14. Assess the claim that alternative media responds to, rather than creates, political change.

Australian International Relations

15. Evaluate the claim that, as a successful middle power, Australia is now less dependent than in the past on 'great and powerful friends'.
16. 'Economic self-interest is the major motivation for Australia to be involved in bilateral and multilateral agreements.'
Critically assess this statement.
17. To what extent has Australia played a decisive role in recent world events?
Argue your case.

The United Nations and Human Rights

18. 'The intentions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have proven unworkable in practice.'
Is this so? Argue your case.
19. Critically assess the view that war is a barrier to the spread of human rights.
20. Analyse the claim that the United Nations has successfully protected the rights of minorities.

The Politics of the Asia–Pacific Region

21. Examine the claim that stable democracy is the exception rather than the rule in the Asia–Pacific region.
22. ‘Diversity is the basis of political and economic integration in the Asia–Pacific region.’
Critically assess this view.
23. Analyse the view that Australia’s role is more significant in some nations than in others in the Asia–Pacific region.

The United States of America and World Affairs

24. ‘The era of America’s global domination is at an end.’
Critically examine this claim.
25. Critically assess the view that American foreign policy has succeeded more often than it has failed.
26. ‘America is our key strategic partner.’
How accurately does this describe the relationship between Australia and America?

Comparative Political Systems

27. Compare and contrast the extent to which the origins of the political systems of two countries have influenced their long-term development.
28. ‘Effective political change requires political consensus.’
Critically examine this claim, comparing and contrasting the political systems of two countries.
29. ‘Globalisation benefits all citizens.’
Evaluate this claim, comparing and contrasting the political systems of two countries.