

# 2013 AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Wednesday 20 November: 9 a.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. 'Democratic values underpin the Australian Constitution.'  
Do you agree with this statement? Argue your case.
2. Evaluate the view that federalism has served Australia well.

### **Political Representation, Parliament, and the Executive**

3. Critically assess the idea that a bicameral system is essential for effective representative government in Australia.
4. 'Responsible government relies on orderly, adversarial parliamentary practices.'  
Evaluate this statement.

### **Voting and Elections**

5. 'Proportional representation is the only electoral system that effectively represents the diversity of the electorate.'  
Critically assess this statement.
6. Analyse the view that oppositions do not win elections; rather, governments lose elections.

### **Political Parties**

7. Critically assess the view that the pursuit and maintenance of power always override the ideology of the major parties.
8. 'Minor parties and independents are essential for Australian democracy.'  
Do you agree with this statement? Argue your case.

## **SECTION B: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS** (Questions 9 to 29)

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

### **Global Citizenship**

9. 'In the Internet age, the concept of global citizenship is being redefined.'  
Do you agree with this statement? Argue your case.
10. Evaluate the claim that Australia is interested more in global trade than in global citizenship.
11. 'WikiLeaks displays the best qualities of global activism.'  
Critically assess this idea.

### **Global Media**

12. Is political success determined by those who own the media? Argue your case.
13. 'With the right to report goes the responsibility to act in the public interest.'  
Evaluate this claim.
14. 'Alternative media reinforce, rather than challenge, existing political views.'  
Analyse this idea.

### **Australian International Relations**

15. 'Rather than attempting to strengthen its regional role, Australia remains obsessed with its long-established international alliances.'  
Critically assess this statement.
16. Evaluate the view that it is in the national interest for Australia to maintain a careful balance between bilateral and multilateral agreements.
17. 'Now more than ever before, Australia has a powerful role to play in international disputes.'  
Do you agree with this statement? Argue your case.

### **The United Nations and Human Rights**

18. 'The United Nations is too divided to achieve the aims of its charter.'  
Critically assess this statement.
19. Evaluate the claim that, on balance, the United Nations has prevented wars from escalating.
20. 'The United Nations is making real progress in advocating rights for all people.'  
Critically assess this view.

### **The Politics of the Asia–Pacific Region**

21. 'The Asia–Pacific region is too diverse to be united.'  
Critically assess this claim.
22. 'The countries of the Asia–Pacific region are concerned more with internal stability than with regional integration.'  
Do you agree with this statement? Argue your case.
23. Critically assess the claim that Australia is irrelevant in the Asia–Pacific region.

### **The United States of America and World Affairs**

24. 'America has been the only true global power since the end of the Cold War.'  
Do you agree with this statement? Argue your case.
25. Evaluate the view that American foreign policy significantly advances the interests of the global community.
26. 'Since 11 September 2001, Australia has been a servant of America.'  
Critically assess this claim.

### **Comparative Political Systems**

27. 'A successful country does not lose sight of its founding values.'  
Critically assess this claim by comparing and contrasting the political systems of *two* countries.
28. Compare and contrast the ways in which external forces have influenced the evolution of the political systems of *two* countries.
29. 'Popular citizen movements are powerful forces for change.'  
Evaluate this claim by comparing and contrasting the political systems of *two* countries.