

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Victorian Certificate of Education 2003

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

	STUDENT NUMBER								Letter
Figures									
Words									

POLITICAL STUDIES

Written examination

Thursday 20 November 2003

Reading time: 1.30 pm to 1.45 pm (15 minutes) Writing time: 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks	Suggested times (minutes)
A	5	4	40	60
В	10	1	40	60
			Total 80	120

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 33 pages.
- A script book is available from the supervisor if required.

Instructions

- Write your student number in the space provided above on this page and on the front cover of any script book used.
- All written responses must be in English.

At the end of the examination

If a script book is used, place it inside the front cover of this question and answer book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other electronic communication devices into the examination room.

SECTION A – Short-answer questions

Instructions for Section A

Answer four questions from this section.

Parts a., b. and c. of each question chosen must be answered.

Question 1

10	e Australian Constitution	
	What is meant by the term convention in relation to the Australian Constitution?	
		2 marks
		2 mark
) .	Briefly describe three exclusive powers of the Commonwealth Government.	

3 marks

c.	Evaluate the argument that Australia should retain its federal system of government.

5 marks

Total 10 marks

POLSTUD EXAM

Question 2

Parliament and the Executive a. What is meant by the term conscience vote? 2 marks b. Briefly describe three roles of the Australian federal cabinet.

3 marks

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5 marks

Total 10 marks

POLSTUD EXAM

Question 3

vot	ing and elections
1.	What is meant by the term electoral redistribution?
	2 marks
).	Briefly describe three key differences between the preferential and proportional voting systems as used in Australian federal elections.

3 marks

Evaluate the argument that voting in Australian federal elections should remain compulsory.						

5 marks

Total 10 marks

POLSTUD EXAM

Question 4

Pol	itical parties and pressure groups	
ì.	What is meant by the term faction as applied to a political party?	
		2 marks
L	Dei affer describe three verses that min an neutice contribute to the democratic masses	
b.	Briefly describe three ways that minor parties contribute to the democratic process.	

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3 marks

ne union movemen	ıt.		

5 marks

Total 10 marks

Question 5

Au	stralian foreign policy	
a.	What is meant by the term regional security?	
		2 marks
b.	Briefly describe three ways that Australia meets its obligations as a global citizen.	
		3 marks

Evaluate the argur	nent that the pro	notion of trad	le should be a	priority of A	ustralia's for	eign policy

5 marks

Total 10 marks

SECTION B – Essay questions

Instructions for Section B

Answer **one** question from this section.

Begin your answer on page 15 of this question and answer book.

The Australian Constitution

Question 1

'The Australian Constitution gives too much power to the High Court and the Governor General.' To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 2

'The division of powers as set out in the Australian Constitution is the main reason for conflict between Commonwealth and state governments.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Parliament and the Executive

Question 3

'The House of Representatives and the Senate are only a rubber stamp for cabinet decisions.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 4

'Backbenchers have little influence in the federal parliament, the electorate and the party room.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Voting and elections

Question 5

'The Australian federal electoral system delivers both majority rule and the opportunity for minority interests to be represented.'

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To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 6

'Leadership and economic performance are the most important factors that influenced the result of a recent (in the last 10 years) federal election.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Political parties and pressure groups

Question 7

'At the federal level, the major differences between the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party are in key policies and leadership.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 8

'Not all pressure groups have equal access to government.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Australian foreign policy

Question 9

'Foreign policy is formulated by the government, with little influence from public opinion and the opposition.'

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 10

'Australia lacks an independent foreign policy as a consequence of its relationship with the United States.' To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

TURN OVER

Students should answer Section B on the following pages A script book is available from the supervisor if you require extra paper to complete your answer. **Essay question number**

15

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END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

A script book is available from the supervisor if you require extra paper to complete your answer.

Please ensure that you write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover of the script book.

At the end of the examination, place the script book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.