NATIONAL POLITICS

Written examination

Thursday 15 November 2007

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)
Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>Number of questions to be answered</th>
<th>Number of marks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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Total 80

- 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
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra paper to complete an answer.

Instructions
- Write your student number in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

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

Question 1

a. With reference to the United States of America’s system of government, what is meant by the term separation of powers?

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2 marks

b. Describe two characteristics of a federal system of government.

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4 marks
c. Discuss two factors that contribute to the low voter turnout in presidential elections in the United States of America.
Continuity and change

Question 2

a. What is meant by the term informal vote?

b. Describe two functions of Australian federal elections.

c. Discuss two ways in which the functions of the House of Representatives fulfil democratic values.
People and policy

Question 3

a. What is meant by the term cabinet?

b. Describe two ways state governments can influence Australian federal domestic policy making.

c. Discuss two tactics that interest groups can use to influence public opinion.
Contemporary foreign policy

Question 4

a. What is meant by the term foreign aid?

b. Describe two objectives of contemporary Australian foreign policy.

c. Discuss two constraints on the policy-making power of an Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs.
SECTION B – Extended response questions

Instructions for Section B
Answer one of the following two questions in the space provided.

Unit 3 – Democracy in the making

Question 1
‘There are fewer constraints on the power of the President of the United States than there are on the Australian Prime Minister.’ To what extent do you agree? 20 marks

OR

Question 2
‘Constitutional change in Australia has been difficult to achieve.’ To what extent do you agree? 20 marks

Working space
Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.
Enter the number of the question you are answering in the box provided.
UNIT 4 – THE CHALLENGE OF POWER

QUESTION 1
Describe and analyse aspects of a contemporary federal domestic policy that have been subject to public debate.

20 marks

OR

QUESTION 2
Evaluate the key challenges facing Australia’s relations with its near neighbours.

20 marks

Working space
Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.
Enter the number of the question you are answering in the box provided.
Extra space for responses

Clearly number all responses in this space.

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