



**Victorian Certificate of Education
2008**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

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NATIONAL POLITICS

Written examination

Thursday 13 November 2008

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)

Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A	12	12	40
B	2	1	20
C	2	1	20
			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

- Question and answer book of 20 pages.
- 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.

SECTION A – Short answer questions

Instructions for Section A
Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Units 3 and 4

Washington to Canberra

Question 1

With reference to the United States of America’s electoral system, what is meant by the term **primary election**?

2 marks

Question 2

Describe **two** ways in which the roles of the President of the United States of America and the Australian Prime Minister are similar.

4 marks

Question 3

Discuss **two** constraints on the power of the legislative branch of federal government in the United States of America.

4 marks

Continuity and change

Question 4

With reference to the Australian federal parliament, what is meant by the term **backbencher**?

2 marks

Question 5

Describe **two** powers of the Governor General as outlined in the Australian Constitution.

4 marks

Question 6

Discuss **two** changes that could be made to improve Australia's federal voting system.

4 marks

SECTION A – continued

People and policy

Question 7

What is meant by the term **party discipline**?

2 marks

Question 8

Describe **two** ways in which the Prime Minister can play a role in the formulation of Australian federal domestic policy.

4 marks

Question 9

Discuss **two** ways in which minor parties can influence the formulation of Australian federal domestic policy.

4 marks

Contemporary foreign policy

Question 10

What is meant by the term **regional security**?

2 marks

Question 11

Describe **two** roles of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

4 marks

Question 12

Discuss **two** ways in which international human rights issues can have an impact on Australian foreign policy objectives.

4 marks

Total 40 marks
END OF SECTION A

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**

‘The federal voting system of the United States of America and the Australian federal voting system both accurately reflect the wishes of voters.’ To what extent do you agree?

20 marks

OR

Question 2

Describe and discuss changes that could be implemented to help ensure the Australian federal parliament fulfils its functions.

20 marks

Working space

SECTION C – Extended response questions**Instructions for Section C**

Answer **one** of the following two questions in the space provided.

Unit 4 – The challenge of power**Question 1**

Identify and discuss the key differences between the federal government and the opposition on one Australian federal domestic policy issue in the past five years.

20 marks

OR**Question 2**

‘Australia’s relationship with the United States of America remains the most important influence on Australian foreign policy.’ 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.

Ruled writing area with 26 horizontal lines.

