

VCE Australian Politics

2012–2016

Written examination – November

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

There will be 15 minutes reading time and two hours writing time.

VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Australian and Global Politics Study Design 2012–2016* is the document for the development of the examination.

All outcomes of Units 3 and 4 of *Australian Politics* will be examined. All key knowledge and key skills underpinning the outcomes are examinable.

Format

The examination will consist of two sections.

Section A: Short-answer, multiple-part and extended-response questions

There may also be a small number of multiple-choice questions. Section A will be worth a total of 60 marks. All questions in Section A will be compulsory.

Section B: Essay questions

Students will choose **one** of four essay questions. There will be one essay topic for each area of study. Section B will be worth a total of 20 marks.

The examination will be worth a total of 80 marks.

The examination may include questions that refer to stimulus materials such as newspaper articles, pictures or cartoons.

The examination will be presented in a question and answer book.

Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the essay:

- relevance to the question and, where provided, stimulus material
- knowledge and understanding of political institutions and processes
- use of accurate terms and concepts, and relevant contemporary evidence
- development of a coherent argument or point of view
- analysis and evaluation of political institutions and processes

Relevant references

The following documents should be referred to in relation to the VCE Australian Politics examination:

- *VCE Australian and Global Politics Study Design 2012–2016* and the section ‘Advice for teachers’
- *VCE Australian and Global Politics Assessment Handbook*
- *VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET*

Advice

During the 2012–2016 accreditation period for VCE Australian Politics, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of key knowledge and key skills. The questions in the sample examination are examples and types of questions that will be found in all sections of the VCE Australian Politics examination.

The VCAA does not publish answers for sample questions.

Victorian Certificate of Education
Year

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS
Written examination

Day Date Year

Reading time: *.*.* to *.*.* (15 minutes)

Writing time: *.*.* to *.*.* (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	4	4	60
B	4	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**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Australian democracy**Question 1** (15 marks)

The following tables show the results of the 2010 federal election in the House of Representatives in the electorate of Melbourne.

FIRST PREFERENCES				
Enrolment: 102 881 Turnout: 90.09%				
Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Swing (%)
PEARSON, Georgia	Family First	1 389	1.55	+0.55
BANDT, Adam ELECTED	Australian Greens	32 308	36.17	+13.37
MURRAY, Joel	Australian Sex Party	1 633	1.83	+1.83
COLLYER, David	Australian Democrats	602	0.67	-0.76
GREEN, Penelope	Secular Party of Australia	613	0.69	+0.69
BOWTELL, Cath	Australian Labor Party	34 022	38.09	-11.42
OLSEN, Simon	Liberal	18 760	21.00	-2.49
...	Citizens Electoral Council of Australia	0	0.00	-0.67
...	Socialist Equality Party	0	0.00	-0.48
...	Other	0	0.00	-0.62
FORMAL		89 327	96.38	-0.82
INFORMAL		3 356	3.62	+0.82
TOTAL		92 683	90.09	-1.41

TWO-CANDIDATE PREFERRED					
Candidate	Party	Votes	This Election (%)	Last Election (%)	Swing (%)
BANDT, Adam ELECTED	Australian Greens	50 059	56.04	45.29	+10.75
BOWTELL, Cath	Australian Labor Party	39 268	43.96	54.71	-10.75

TWO-PARTY PREFERRED			
Coalition	Votes	%	Swing
Australian Labor Party	65 473	73.30	+1.03
Liberal/National Coalition	23 854	26.70	

- a. What is meant by the term ‘two-party preferred’? 2 marks

- b. Identify the candidate representing each of the major parties in this electorate. 2 marks

- c. Explain the process by which Adam Bandt, rather than Cath Bowtell, was elected to represent the electorate of Melbourne. Refer to the information in the table in your answer. 5 marks

d. Discuss **one** democratic strength and **one** democratic weakness of the voting method used in this election.

6 marks

Australian democracy in perspective

Question 2 (15 marks)

The following article appeared after the 2010 federal election.

Julia Gillard sworn in as Australian PM

Julia Gillard was sworn in as Australia’s prime minister Tuesday, faced with leading a fragile coalition government after scraping back into power in the wake of a cliff hanger election.

Gillard, Australia’s first woman prime minister, formally returned to office nearly a week after cobbling together a wafer-thin majority with the backing of Greens and independent MPs.

“I, Julia Eileen Gillard, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will loyally serve the Commonwealth of Australia in the office of prime minister,” she told Governor-General Quentin Bryce.

The ceremony caps weeks of drama after Gillard deposed ex-leader Kevin Rudd in a party revolt and called elections that produced the first hung parliament in decades, leaving her relying on Greens and independent MPs for support . . .

. . . Gillard’s first cabinet as an elected leader, which was due to be sworn in later, contains potential divisions with Rudd sitting alongside party powerbrokers credited with orchestrating his sudden and surprising demise.

The prime minister was forced into a late change just hours before the oath-taking by announcing a minister for Aboriginal health, following strong complaints when the post was left out of the original line-up . . .

. . . Disillusionment with the major parties was blamed for creating Australia’s first minority government since World War II, despite strong economic growth and low unemployment underpinned by buoyant mining exports to Asia.

Gillard has promised to introduce a new tax on resources profits and measures to ease pollution, while maintaining an eclectic coalition which groups an environment-minded MP with two conservative-leaning independents.

Gillard controls just 76 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives, meaning a single defection or absence could produce stalemate in the lower house.

Analysts say the new government is a “delicate” arrangement which will require constant negotiation.

© sbs news, 14 September 2010

a. What is meant by the term ‘head of state’?

2 marks

b. Identify **two** constraints on the power of Prime Minister Gillard outlined in the article.

2 marks

- c. Explain **two** key powers of the head of government in the political system other than Australia that you have studied this year.

6 marks

Selected political system _____

Domestic policy

Question 3 (15 marks)

‘In simplest terms, Cabinet meets to decide on policy. However, as part of the process, Cabinet is furnished with advice from the relevant ministerial departments via the responsible minister.’

Source: *Australian Politics for Dummies* (2010)

a. What is meant by the term ‘Cabinet’?

2 marks

b. Name **one** Australian (Commonwealth) ministerial department and the minister who is responsible for it.

2 marks

d. Discuss the Commonwealth Government’s response to a contemporary Australian domestic policy issue.

7 marks

Foreign policy

Question 4 (15 marks)

Foreign policy needs to be informed by interests and values. Grounded in realities but equally grounded in a vision for the future. Expressed also in a practical record of achievement. This is the way this government makes foreign policy. Confident of our outward orientation, confident of our place in this dynamic region, and confident also of the new directions of our global engagement. This is what guides us.

Kevin Rudd, *The Australia we can all be proud of*, Charteris Lecture, Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA), Sydney, 24 November 2011
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- a. Explain **one** interest and **one** value that influence Australian foreign policy. 4 marks

b. What does Kevin Rudd mean when he states that Australian foreign policy should be ‘grounded in realities’?

3 marks

c. Outline **one** ‘reality’ that contemporary Australian foreign policy has dealt with.

3 marks

- d.** Explain **one** achievement of Australian government foreign policy in ‘this dynamic region’ in recent years. 5 marks

SECTION B – Essay questions**Instructions for Section B**

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

The Australian political system is effective in protecting the democratic rights and freedoms of its citizens.

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

The minor political parties in Australia have greater influence over the legislative branch than is the case in other political systems.

To what extent do you agree? Refer to **one** political system other than Australia in your answer.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

The most significant influence on domestic public policy is the mandate the government received at the most recent federal election.

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 4 (20 marks)

Unlike domestic policy, foreign policy tends to be bipartisan in nature.

To what extent do you agree?

