Victorian Certificate of Education
2001
POLITICAL STUDIES
Written examination

Thursday 22 November 2001
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

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<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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Materials
- 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 on the front cover of this question and answer book, 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.

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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.
Students should spend approximately 1 hour on this section.

Question 1

The Australian Constitution

a. Identify two powers given to the High Court.

b. Briefly describe three sections of the Constitution which deal with Commonwealth–State relations.

2 marks

3 marks
c. Evaluate the argument that the Australian system of government would operate more effectively if state and territory governments were abolished.
Question 2

Parliament and the Executive

a. What is meant by the term frontbenchers?

b. Briefly describe three parliamentary roles of backbenchers.

2 marks

3 marks
c. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Question 3

Voting and elections

a. Distinguish between a ‘donkey vote’ and an informal vote.

b. Briefly describe three functions of an election.
c. Evaluate the argument that by-elections have little significance in the Australian political system.

5 marks
Total 10 marks
Question 4

Political parties and pressure groups

a. What is meant by the term pre-selection?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three differences between political parties and pressure groups.

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3 marks
c. Evaluate the argument that pressure groups cannot be successful unless the government supports their views.

5 marks
Total 10 marks
Question 5

Foreign policy

a. What is meant by the term globalisation?

b. Briefly describe three ways in which Australian Governments have supported the United Nations.
c. Evaluate the argument that the Australian Government does not give sufficient consideration to human rights issues in the formulation of foreign policy.

5 marks

Total 10 marks
The Australian Constitution

Question 1
‘The High Court has assumed a more political role than was intended by the Constitution.’
To what extent do you agree? 40 marks

Question 2
‘The Governor-General has little importance or influence on Australian politics, and therefore there is no need for the position of head of state.’
To what extent do you agree? 40 marks

Parliament and the Executive

Question 3
‘The Australian Federal Parliament has important functions to fulfil. However, in practice, few of these functions are performed effectively.’
To what extent do you agree? 40 marks

Question 4
‘Cabinet dominates the ministry and the parliament.’
To what extent do you agree? 40 marks
Voting and elections

Question 5
In what ways do the preferential and proportional voting systems allow minor parties and minority interests to exercise influence in the Australian political system?

OR

Question 6
‘There is little doubt that economic issues, above any other issues, determine how the electorate votes in Australia.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Political parties and pressure groups

Question 7
‘The problem with pressure groups in a democratic system is that some pressure groups are more powerful than others.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 8
‘The Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party are becoming increasingly similar in their policies and philosophies.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Australian foreign policy

Question 9
‘Regional security issues and relations with the United States still remain the focus of Australian foreign policy.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 10
Discuss the key elements that affect the formulation and implementation of Australian foreign policy.

40 marks
Rough work only
Rough work only
Rough work only
Rough work only
Rough work only
Rough work only
Rough work only
Rough work only