

### 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

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
А	5	4	40
В	10	1	40
			Total 80

### 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.

### **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.

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

SECTION A – Question 1 - continued

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



Total 10 marks

4

### **Question 2**

### Parliament and the Executive

**a.** What is meant by the term frontbenchers?

**b.** Briefly describe three parliamentary roles of backbenchers.

3 marks

2 marks

SECTION A – Question 2 – continued

c.	Evaluate the	effectiveness	of the	Speaker	of the	House	of Repre	sentatives.
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	5 marks
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Total 10 marks

### **Question 3**

### Voting and elections

**a.** Distinguish between a 'donkey vote' and an informal vote.

**b.** Briefly describe three functions of an election.

3 marks

2 marks

SECTION A – Question 3 – continued

Evaluate the argument that by-elections have little significance in the Australian political system. c.

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.

3 marks

SECTION A – Question 4 – continued

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



Total 10 marks

### **Question 5**

### **Foreign policy**

**a.** What is meant by the term globalisation?

2 marks

**b.** Briefly describe three ways in which Australian Governments have supported the United Nations.

3 marks

SECTION A – Question 5 – continued

**c.** Evaluate the argument that the Australian Government does not give sufficient consideration to human rights issues in the formulation of foreign policy.



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.

Students should spend approximately 1 hour on this section.

### 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

### OR

### **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.'

OR

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

40 marks

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?

OR

### **Question 4**

'Cabinet dominates the ministry and the parliament.' To what extent do you agree?

OR

### SECTION B – continued

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### Voting and elections

### **Ouestion 5**

**Question 6** 

Australia.'

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

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To what extent do you agree?

### 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.'

OR

To what extent do you agree?

### **Question 8**

'The Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party are becoming increasingly similar in their policies and philosophies.'

OR

To what extent do you agree?

Australian foreign policy

To what extent do you agree?

### **Ouestion 10**

**Question 9** 

policy.'

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

40 marks

40 marks

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### OR

'There is little doubt that economic issues, above any other issues, determine how the electorate votes in

### 40 marks

40 marks

### 40 marks

### 40 marks

### OR

'Regional security issues and relations with the United States still remain the focus of Australian foreign

OR

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		

**TURN OVER** 



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### **TURN OVER**

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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.