

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



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

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A	5	4	40
B	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.

3 marks

Question 2

Parliament and the Executive

a. What is meant by the term frontbenchers?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three parliamentary roles of backbenchers.

3 marks

Question 3

Voting and elections

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

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three functions of an election.

3 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

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 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.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

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

OR

Question 4

‘Cabinet dominates the ministry and the parliament.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

SECTION B – continued

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?

40 marks

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?

40 marks

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?

40 marks

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?

40 marks

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?

40 marks

OR**Question 10**

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

40 marks

TURN OVER

Rough work only

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