



Victorian Certificate of Education 2002

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

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POLITICAL STUDIES

Written examination

Thursday 21 November 2002

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	Suggested times (minutes)
A	5	4	40	60
B	10	1	40	60
			Total 80	120

- 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 33 pages.
- A script book is available from the supervisor if required.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page 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.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other electronic communication devices into the examination room.

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.

Question 1

The Australian Constitution

a. What is meant by the term exclusive powers?

2 marks

b. Briefly provide three reasons why referendums are usually unsuccessful.

3 marks

Question 2

Parliament and the Executive

a. What is meant by the term parliamentary privilege?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three parliamentary roles of ministers.

3 marks

Question 3

Voting and elections

a. What is meant by the term marginal seat?

2 marks

b. Briefly provide three reasons why voters may identify with and support a particular political party.

3 marks

Question 4

Political parties and pressure groups

a. What is meant by the term party discipline?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three tactics that a pressure group can use to further its aims.

3 marks

Question 5

Australian foreign policy

a. What is meant by the term bilateral relationship?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three roles of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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.

The Australian Constitution**Question 1**

‘Since 1901, the Commonwealth Government has increased its dominance over the States in a variety of ways. As a result, Commonwealth–State relations have worsened.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 2

‘The Australian Constitution remains largely unaltered and therefore is in need of significant change.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Parliament and the Executive**Question 3**

‘There are a number of factors which prevent the House of Representatives and the Senate from performing their roles effectively.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 4

‘The Australian Prime Minister has considerable power, however there are a number of ways in which this power can be constrained.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

SECTION B – continued

Voting and elections**Question 5**

‘The two voting systems used at Federal elections ensure that key democratic values are upheld.’
To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR**Question 6**

Discuss the factors that influenced the result of a recent (in the last ten years) Federal election.

40 marks

OR**Political parties and pressure groups****Question 7**

‘Minor parties play an influential role in parliament and elections.’
To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR**Question 8**

‘Pressure groups have a positive and negative impact on democratic processes in Australia.’
To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR**Australian foreign policy****Question 9**

‘The Prime Minister is, compared with other factors, the most significant influence on the formulation of Australian foreign policy.’
To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR**Question 10**

‘National security and the promotion of economic interests have dominated Australian foreign policy at the expense of Australia’s reputation as a good global citizen.’
To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

TURN OVER

Rough work only

Rough work only

Rough work only

Rough work only

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