



**Victorian Certificate of Education
2004**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Letter

Figures

Words

--

POLITICAL STUDIES

Written examination

Thursday 18 November 2004

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>	<i>Suggested times (minutes)</i>
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 residual powers?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three reasons why the six self-governing colonies agreed to federate.

3 marks

c. Evaluate the argument that an Australian head of state should be elected.

5 marks

Total 10 marks

Question 2

Parliament and the Executive

a. What is meant by the term double dissolution?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three reforms that could improve the operation of the Australian Federal Parliament.

3 marks

Question 3

Voting and elections

a. What is meant by the term one vote one value?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three key characteristics of the Australian federal electoral system.

3 marks

c. Evaluate the argument that marginal seats determine Australian federal election results.

5 marks

Total 10 marks

Question 4

Political parties and pressure groups

a. What is meant by the term Caucus?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three organisational differences between the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party.

3 marks

- c. Evaluate the argument that pressure groups have too much influence on the Australian political system.

5 marks

Total 10 marks

Question 5

Australian foreign policy

a. What is meant by the term multilateral relationships?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three ways in which the Prime Minister can influence Australian foreign policy.

3 marks

- c. Evaluate the argument that Australia has neglected its relationships with its regional neighbours.

5 marks

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.

The Australian Constitution**Question 1**

‘The failure of referendums suggests that the High Court will continue to be the key mechanism for constitutional change.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 2

‘The strengths of the Australian Constitution outweigh its weaknesses.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Parliament and the Executive**Question 3**

‘The Australian Senate frustrates good government.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 4

‘The convention of ministerial responsibility is only effective if the Prime Minister is willing to uphold it.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Voting and elections**Question 5**

‘The Australian federal electoral system delivers high levels of participation but does not fulfil key democratic values.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 6

‘In the last 10 years, federal elections have demonstrated a change in traditional patterns of party identification.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Political parties and pressure groups**Question 7**

‘In order to be successful, minor parties need dynamic leadership.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 8

‘Interest groups can make a significant contribution to the formulation of government policy.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Australian foreign policy**Question 9**

‘The formulation of Australian foreign policy is dominated by domestic political considerations.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 10

‘Australia is now a more effective global citizen due to the Howard government’s foreign policy initiatives.’

To what extent do you agree?

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

Rough work only

Rough work only

