POLITICAL STUDIES
Written examination

Friday 11 November 2005
Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)
Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>Number of questions to be answered</th>
<th>Number of marks</th>
<th>Suggested times (minutes)</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>B</td>
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• 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 unauthorised electronic 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 concurrent powers?

b. Briefly describe three successful referendum proposals.

2 marks

3 marks
c. Evaluate the argument that the Federal Government dominates the federal system.

5 marks
Total 10 marks
Question 2

Parliament and the Executive

a. What is meant by the term backbencher?

b. Briefly describe three functions of the Senate.
c. Evaluate the argument that federal ministers have limited power.

5 marks
Total 10 marks
Question 3

Voting and elections

a. What is meant by the term safe seat?

b. Briefly describe three key characteristics of the proportional voting system used to elect the Australian Senate.
c. Evaluate the argument that Australia should adopt fixed-term federal elections.
Question 4

Political parties and pressure groups

a. What is meant by the term lobbyist?

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2 marks

b. Briefly describe three functions performed by pressure groups.

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3 marks
c. Evaluate the argument that minor parties exert little influence on the Australian political system.

5 marks
Total 10 marks
Question 5

Australian foreign policy

a. What is meant by the term free trade?

2 marks

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

3 marks
c. Evaluate the argument that the Prime Minister plays a key role in the formulation of Australian foreign policy.

5 marks
Total 10 marks
SECTION B – Essay questions

The Australian Constitution

Question 1
‘The Australian Constitution encourages conflict between State and Federal Governments.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 2
‘The major weakness of the Australian Constitution is that it fails to mention key political institutions such as Cabinet and the Prime Minister.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Parliament and the Executive

Question 3
‘A strong opposition is crucial to the effective functioning of the Federal Parliament.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 4
‘The main factor determining the power of Australian prime ministers is their leadership style.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR
Voting and elections

Question 5
‘The Australian federal electoral system delivers democratic outcomes.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 6
‘In the last ten years, economic issues have been the key influence on voter behaviour in Australian federal elections.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Political parties and pressure groups

Question 7
‘There are significant differences between the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party at the federal level in terms of philosophy, policies and leadership.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 8
‘Interest groups use a variety of tactics to influence government policy; most of these tactics are ineffective.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Australian foreign policy

Question 9
‘Australian foreign policy is formulated in response to international issues and events.’
To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 10
‘The promotion of economic interests dominates Australian foreign policy.’
To what extent do you agree?
Rough work only
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

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