



# Victorian Certificate of Education 2005

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

**STUDENT NUMBER**

Figures  
Words


Letter

## 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**

<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 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?

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2 marks

**b.** Briefly describe three successful referendum proposals.

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3 marks

- c. Evaluate the argument that the Federal Government dominates the federal system.

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5 marks  
Total 10 marks

**Question 2**

**Parliament and the Executive**

a. What is meant by the term backbencher?

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2 marks

b. Briefly describe three functions of the Senate.

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3 marks

c. Evaluate the argument that federal ministers have limited power.

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5 marks  
Total 10 marks

**Question 3**

**Voting and elections**

a. What is meant by the term safe seat?

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2 marks

b. Briefly describe three key characteristics of the proportional voting system used to elect the Australian Senate.

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3 marks

- c. Evaluate the argument that Australia should adopt fixed-term federal elections.

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5 marks

Total 10 marks

**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.

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5 marks

Total 10 marks

**Question 5**

**Australian foreign policy**

a. What is meant by the term free trade?

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2 marks

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

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3 marks

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

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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 Australian Constitution encourages conflict between State and Federal Governments.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**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?

40 marks

**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?

40 marks

**OR**

**Question 4**

‘The main factor determining the power of Australian prime ministers is their leadership style.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR**

**Voting and elections****Question 5**

‘The Australian federal electoral system delivers democratic outcomes.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**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?

40 marks

**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?

40 marks

**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?

40 marks

**OR**

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

‘Australian foreign policy is formulated in response to international issues and events.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR**

**Question 10**

‘The promotion of economic interests dominates Australian foreign policy.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

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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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



