



Victorian Certificate of Education

2009

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

--

SOCIOLOGY

Written examination

Wednesday 4 November 2009

Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)

Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 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	2	2	20
B	1	1	20
C	1	1	20
D	1	1	20
			Total 80

- 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 20 pages.
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra paper to complete an answer.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

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

SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

Examine the representations and answer the following questions.

Australia's national culture and identity are celebrated on Australia Day. Historically, 26 January 1788 is the date on which the first European settlers arrived at Botany Bay in New South Wales.

Below are two representations which comment on the suitability of 26 January as the appropriate date on which to celebrate Australia Day.

No change in national day date, says Rudd

PM rejects plea over 'Invasion Day'

By Dan Harrison and Sarah Smiles
Canberra

"TO OUR indigenous leaders, and those who call for a change to our national day, let me say a simple, respectful, but straightforward no."

So said Prime Minister Kevin Rudd yesterday, as he stared down Australian of the Year Mick Dodson, rejecting his call to move Australia Day to a date indigenous Australians could also celebrate . . .

"We are a free country and it is natural and right from time to time, that there will be conversations about such important symbols for our nation," he said. "It is equally right as a free country that those of us charged with [responsible for] political leadership provide a straightforward response."

Just minutes after receiving his honour on Sunday night, Professor Dodson said the day of national celebration should be shifted because many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people regarded January 26 as "Invasion Day".

"To many indigenous Australians, in fact, most indigenous Australians, it really reflects the day in which our world came crashing down [changed forever in negative ways]," he said.

But, echoing his predecessor, John Howard, Mr Rudd told yesterday's gathering it was more important to focus on practical measures to close the gap [provide more equality] between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians . . .

Afterwards, Professor Dodson told journalists he was not worried by the Prime Minister's remarks, but urged him not to "close the door to having a conversation about this".

Speaking earlier on radio, he said not allowing a dialogue about a new date would be "another act of exclusion" towards indigenous people.

"We haven't (had) a role in deciding it was going to be January 26," he said.

"Who made that decision?

It didn't include us. Let's have a talk about it and let's settle it once and for all."

Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull backed the Government, saying Australia Day should not be moved. Former indigenous affairs minister Mal Brough accused Professor Dodson of being "divisive" and said he should use his award to address indigenous disadvantage over [rather than] pursuing "symbolistic" causes.

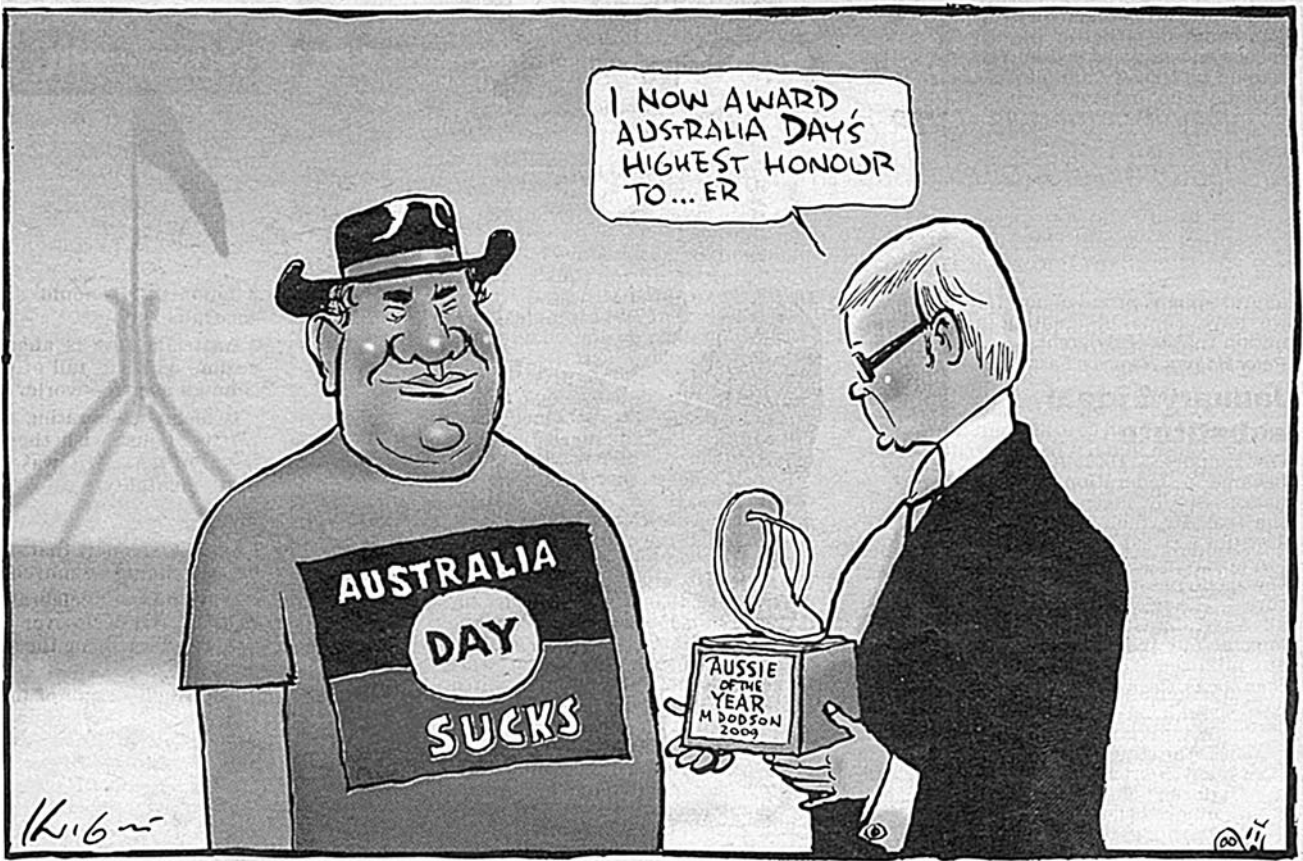
"(Aborigines) have far more pressing [urgent] matters to do with their health, their wellbeing and drug and alcohol abuse," he said.

Indigenous leader and former ALP national president Warren Mundine said that while it was a "typical Dodson thing . . . to focus on the symbolism", it was a worthwhile debate to have.

"I think we can chew gum and breathe [focus on more than one issue] at the same time," he said. "The date is not a very good day, Mick's right in that regard."

. . .

Adapted from *The Age*, Tuesday 27 January 2009



Herald Sun, Tuesday 27 January 2009

Question 3

a. Why does Prime Minister Rudd appear shocked in the cartoon?

2 marks

SECTION C**Instructions for Section C**

Section C comprises 2 representations. Examine the representations and answer the following questions.

GetUp! is an independent, community advocacy organisation. In 2009 GetUp! has been promoting a campaign for a Human Rights Act. The material below is an extract from GetUp's web page.

Your Rights, Your Say

This government consultation is a **once in a lifetime chance to call for a Human Rights Act** to permanently protect human rights in Australia.

Make your submission below – it can be as long or as short as you wish. We have included some handy [useful] talking points below to help you out, but try to put your thoughts in your own words, and feel free to talk about how human rights protection might affect you.

You might not consider everyday issues like education, health and housing as human rights issues – but they can all be protected under a Human Rights Act, and more (see below for further suggested talking points).

Here are a few points you may like to mention in your email submission:

1. A Human Rights Act is an essential part of a democracy. In fact, every other democratic nation in the world already has human rights protection.
2. A Human Rights Act will protect the rights of all Australians, including marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable minorities.
3. It will give Australians the chance to set down our values and our vision for our society, and make sure that the values that we hold dear – freedom, dignity, respect, equality and fairness – apply to every person in Australia.
4. It will encourage better decision making by requiring government to take human rights into account when making decisions. After all, we shouldn't have to wait until human rights are violated before we can take action.
5. It will work to protect human rights regardless of who is in government, regardless of the politics of the day, and even in an environment of fear or upheaval.
6. It will ensure that Parliament can't overlook human rights considerations if it wants to pass controversial laws on areas like police powers, voting, sedition, workplace relations, privacy, freedom of speech, the rights of Indigenous people, counter-terrorism or internet censorship.
7. It will help Australia meet its obligations under the UN treaties we have signed, and give us credibility when we talk about international human rights issues.
8. It will create a human rights 'culture' by giving us a standard to judge the way decisions are made in all areas, and by promoting a climate of mutual respect and understanding in Australia.
9. It will remind all of us that in a strong democratic society, human rights also entail responsibilities: to respect the rights of others, to observe the law, and to live our lives mindful of our common humanity.

What rights might be protected by Australia's Human Rights Act?

The right to:

- Education;
- Freedom of expression;
- Freedom from interference with privacy;
- Freedom from discrimination;
- Right to equality before the law;
- Right to education;
- Right to adequate living standards;
- Freedom of association;
- Right to just and favorable conditions of work;
- Freedom of thought, belief and religion;
- Protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and
- Rights of children to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.

Citizens gained

ON A warm November night, a large group of Port Phillip residents file [enter] in to the St Kilda town hall. Some are alone, but most are flanked [surrounded] by family and friends, grinning and linking arms. As their names are checked off a list, they take a seat and wait expectantly.

Tonight they become

Australian citizens. For those raised here since childhood, it's a formality. But for others who have fled war and persecution, leaving loved ones behind, it is a momentous occasion.

Refugees, students, families and ambitious career types decide to become citizens for a variety of reasons:

Australia's lifestyle, political stability, democratic society, tertiary education and employment all play a part.

The largest citizenship ceremonies take place on Australia Day, but councils stage smaller events throughout the year. After reciting a pledge to Australia and

its people, the newly conferred [new citizens] are presented with a certificate, plastic flag and native plant. The national anthem is played, refreshments served and photographs taken.

On this long weekend, when Australians pause to reflect on the nation's rich multicultural history and identity . . .

Adapted from *The Age*, Saturday 24 January 2009

Question 4

- a. Explain the concept of democracy.

2 marks

