



Victorian Certificate of Education 2011

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

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SOCIOLOGY

Written examination

Wednesday 9 November 2011

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.

New cap is not just cricket

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Adapted from *The Age*, 31 December 2010–1 January 2011

Celebration of a country that has many faces

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Adapted from *The Age*, 27 January 2011

SECTION C

Instructions for Section C

Examine the representations and answer the following questions.

Some opinions from Australian citizens 2011

1. ‘Many people view Australia as a land of opportunity. They see our society as one where people get a “fair go”* and will be treated equally. If, however, we examine statistics, our society is clearly unequal in many ways and there are obviously groups within it who do not get a “fair go”.

Aboriginal citizens, for example, do not have an equal chance of living a long life. *Closing The Gap*: Prime Minister’s Report 2011 notes a “life expectancy gap” between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians of 11.5 years for males and 9.7 years for females.’

* **fair go** – equal chance



Cartoon by Valdman for *The Advertiser*

2. ‘Back in the 1990s, researchers Birrell and Dobson noted that only about 16% of the undergraduate students at Australia’s large universities came from the “low socioeconomic area, suburbs and towns” where the average family income is low. They also noted that while there was some financial support through Austudy* for the children of poor families to attend university, similar students from less poor and middle income families “face serious financial problems”. Things have not improved much today. Social class makes a difference to people’s chances of obtaining a tertiary education.’

* **Austudy** – Centrelink payment to students



Cartoon by Nicholson from *The Australian* www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au

3. 'Australia has laws forbidding discrimination on the grounds of gender. Statistics, however, suggest that it is still more difficult for women to obtain top jobs, for example, being a member of parliament. Even though women comprise half the Australian population and we have a female Prime Minister (as at July 2011), there are currently only 37 women out of 150 members in the House of Representatives and 30 women out of 76 members in the Senate.'

Gender distribution in the Australian Federal Parliament

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www.andrewcarr.org

4. 'While we speak proudly of our tolerant multicultural values, some get little chance to experience these values. Land of equal opportunity?'

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Tandberg cartoon
www.theage.com.au/ffximage/2006/02/23

