

Victorian Certificate of Education
2018

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

Written examination

Thursday 15 November 2018

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

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	11	11	60
B	4	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 correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question and answer book of 24 pages, including **assessment criteria for Section B** on page 24
- 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.
- The focus of your responses must be on contemporary examples and case studies from within the last 10 years.
- 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 A**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (5 marks)

Sovereignty of the people and democratic government lie at the heart of Australia's Constitution. But ... There are limits. The Parliament cannot do just anything, or pass just any kind of Act, simply because it was elected ...

Democratic sovereignty also rests upon the rule of law.

Source: H Irving, *Five Things to Know About the Australian Constitution*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004, p. 47

- a. Outline **one** way in which sovereignty of the people is ensured by the Australian Constitution. 1 mark

- b. Describe **one** way in which the Australian Constitution protects the rights of citizens. 2 marks

- c. Explain how sovereignty of the people in a democracy 'rests upon the rule of law'. 2 marks

Question 2 (3 marks)

Explain **one** democratic strength or **one** democratic weakness of Australian federalism.

Question 3 (4 marks)

Discuss the impact of the Senate voting system on the composition of the Australian Parliament.

Question 4 (9 marks)

- a. Describe the process by which a president of the United States of America may be impeached. 3 marks

Question 7 (9 marks)

- a.** Outline **one** way in which opinion polls may influence Australian domestic policy. 2 marks

- b.** Describe how the Australian judiciary may influence the implementation of an Australian domestic policy. 3 marks

SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

Write an essay on **one** of the following questions in the space provided.

Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on page 24.

Question 1 (20 marks)

‘The democratic operation of the Australian Parliament is hindered by political parties and executive dominance.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

‘The American electoral system is in need of significant reform.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

‘The formulation of Australian domestic policy can be difficult, lengthy, highly politicised and uncertain.’

To what extent do you agree that the process of formulating Australian domestic policy is subject to many challenges? In your response, refer to **one or more** domestic policies that you have studied this year.

OR

Question 4 (20 marks)

‘Multilateral approaches are required in order to successfully meet the challenges of contemporary Australian foreign policy.’

Discuss this statement with reference to **two** of the following key challenges facing contemporary Australian foreign policy:

- global and regional conflicts
- humanitarian crises and natural disasters
- the threat of global terrorism
- climate change and environmental issues
- the economic development of the region
- refugees, people smuggling and trafficking in persons

Assessment criteria for Section B

The essay in Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- development of a coherent and relevant argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of political knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- accurate use of key political terms and concepts
- use of contemporary examples and case studies to support explanations, points of view and arguments

END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

