



VCE Australian Politics

Written examination – November

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and two hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the Study Score.

Content

The *VCE Australian and Global Politics Study Design 2012–2016* is the document for the development of the examination.

All outcomes of Units 3 and 4 of *Australian Politics* will be examined. All key knowledge and key skills underpinning the outcomes are examinable.

Format

The examination will consist of two sections.

Section A: Short answer, multiple part and extended response questions. Total 60 marks

All questions in Section A will be compulsory.

Section B: Essay questions. Total 20 marks

Students will choose one out four essay questions.

There will be one essay topic for each area of study.

The total marks allocated for the examination will be 80.

The examination paper may include questions which refer to stimulus materials such as newspaper articles, pictures or cartoons.

The examination will be in a question and answer book.

Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the essay.

- Relevance to the question and, where provided, stimulus material
- Knowledge and understanding of political institutions and processes
- Use of accurate terms and concepts and relevant contemporary evidence
- Development of a coherent argument or point of view
- Analysis and evaluation of political institutions and processes

Advice

During the 2012–2016 accreditation period for the *VCE Australian and Global Politics Study Design*, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of key knowledge and key skills. The questions in the sample paper are examples and types of examination questions which will be found in all sections of the Australian Politics examination paper.

The VCAA does not publish answers for sample questions.

The following documents should be referred to in relation to the VCE Australian Politics examination.

- *VCE Australian and Global Politics Study Design and Advice to Teachers 2012–2016*
- *VCE Australian and Global Politics Assessment Handbook*
- *VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET*



Victorian Certificate of Education

Year

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Figures

Words

Letter

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AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

Written examination

Day Date Year

Reading time: *.*.* to *.*.* (15 minutes)

Writing time: *.*.* to *.*.* (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	4	4	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 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 A**Instructions for Section A**

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

Australian democracy**Question 1**

The following tables show the results of the 2010 federal election in the House of Representatives in the electorate of Melbourne.

FIRST PREFERENCES				
Enrolment: 102 881 Turnout: 90.09%				
Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Swing (%)
PEARSON, Georgia	Family First	1 389	1.55	+0.55
BANDT, Adam ELECTED	Australian Greens	32 308	36.17	+13.37
MURRAY, Joel	Australian Sex Party	1 633	1.83	+1.83
COLLYER, David	Australian Democrats	602	0.67	-0.76
GREEN, Penelope	Secular Party of Australia	613	0.69	+0.69
BOWTELL, Cath	Australian Labor Party	34 022	38.09	-11.42
OLSEN, Simon	Liberal	18 760	21.00	-2.49
...	Citizens Electoral Council of Australia	0	0.00	-0.67
...	Socialist Equality Party	0	0.00	-0.48
...	Other	0	0.00	-0.62
FORMAL		89 327	96.38	-0.82
INFORMAL		3 356	3.62	+0.82
TOTAL		92 683	90.09	-1.41

TWO CANDIDATE PREFERRED					
Candidate	Party	Votes	This Election (%)	Last Election (%)	Swing (%)
BANDT, Adam ELECTED	Australian Greens	50 059	56.04	45.29	+10.75
BOWTELL, Cath	Australian Labor Party	39 268	43.96	54.71	-10.75

TWO PARTY PREFERRED			
Coalition	Votes	%	Swing
Australian Labor Party	65 473	73.30	+1.03
Liberal/National Coalition	23 854	26.70	

Australian democracy in perspective

Question 2

The following article appeared after the 2010 federal election.

Julia Gillard sworn in as Australian PM

Julia Gillard was sworn in as Australia’s prime minister Tuesday, faced with leading a fragile coalition government after scraping back into power in the wake of a cliff hanger election.

Gillard, Australia’s first woman prime minister, formally returned to office nearly a week after cobbling together a wafer-thin majority with the backing of Greens and independent MPs.

“I, Julia Eileen Gillard, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will loyally serve the Commonwealth of Australia in the office of prime minister,” she told Governor-General Quentin Bryce.

The ceremony caps weeks of drama after Gillard deposed ex-leader Kevin Rudd in a party revolt and called elections that produced the first hung parliament in decades, leaving her relying on Greens and independent MPs for support . . .

. . . Gillard’s first cabinet as an elected leader, which was due to be sworn in later, contains potential divisions with Rudd sitting alongside party powerbrokers credited with orchestrating his sudden and surprising demise.

The prime minister was forced into a late change just hours before the oath-taking by announcing a minister for Aboriginal health, following strong complaints when the post was left out of the original line-up . . .

. . . Disillusionment with the major parties was blamed for creating Australia’s first minority government since World War II, despite strong economic growth and low unemployment underpinned by buoyant mining exports to Asia.

Gillard has promised to introduce a new tax on resources profits and measures to ease pollution, while maintaining an eclectic coalition which groups an environment-minded MP with two conservative-leaning independents.

Gillard controls just 76 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives, meaning a single defection or absence could produce stalemate in the lower house.

Analysts say the new government is a “delicate” arrangement which will require constant negotiation.

© sbs news, 14 September 2010

a. What is meant by the term ‘head of state’?

2 marks

b. Identify two constraints on the power of Prime Minister Gillard outlined in the article.

2 marks

Domestic policy

Question 3

‘In simplest terms, Cabinet meets to decide on policy. However, as part of the process, Cabinet is furnished with advice from the relevant ministerial departments via the responsible minister.’

Source: *Australian Politics for Dummies* (2010)

- a. What is meant by the term ‘Cabinet’?

2 marks

- b. Name one Australian (Commonwealth) ministerial department and the minister who is responsible for it.

2 marks

SECTION B – Essay questions**Instructions for Section B**

Answer **one** of the following four questions in the space provided.

Question 1

The Australian political system is effective in protecting the democratic rights and freedoms of its citizens. To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 2

The minor political parties in Australia have greater influence over the legislative branch than is the case in other political systems.

To what extent do you agree? Refer to one political system other than Australia in your answer.

OR

Question 3

The most significant influence on domestic public policy is the mandate the government received at the most recent federal election.

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 4

Unlike domestic policy, foreign policy tends to be bipartisan in nature.

To what extent do you agree?

20 marks

