

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

**STUDENT NUMBER**

Figures

Words


Letter

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VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



# Victorian Certificate of Education 2001

## POLITICAL STUDIES

### Written examination

Thursday 22 November 2001

Reading time: 1.30 pm to 1.45 pm (15 minutes)

Writing time: 1.45 pm to 3.45 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	5	4	40
B	10	1	40
			Total 80

#### Materials

- 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 on the front cover of this question and answer book, 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.

**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.  
Students should spend approximately 1 hour on this section.

**Question 1**

**The Australian Constitution**

- a. Identify two powers given to the High Court.

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2 marks

- b. Briefly describe three sections of the Constitution which deal with Commonwealth–State relations.

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3 marks



**Question 2**

**Parliament and the Executive**

a. What is meant by the term frontbenchers?

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2 marks

b. Briefly describe three parliamentary roles of backbenchers.

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3 marks



**Question 3**

**Voting and elections**

a. Distinguish between a ‘donkey vote’ and an informal vote.

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2 marks

b. Briefly describe three functions of an election.

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3 marks



**Question 4**

**Political parties and pressure groups**

a. What is meant by the term pre-selection?

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2 marks

b. Briefly describe three differences between political parties and pressure groups.

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3 marks



**Question 5**

**Foreign policy**

**a.** What is meant by the term globalisation?

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2 marks

**b.** Briefly describe three ways in which Australian Governments have supported the United Nations.

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3 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.

Students should spend approximately 1 hour on this section.

**The Australian Constitution****Question 1**

‘The High Court has assumed a more political role than was intended by the Constitution.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR**

**Question 2**

‘The Governor-General has little importance or influence on Australian politics, and therefore there is no need for the position of head of state.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR**

**Parliament and the Executive****Question 3**

‘The Australian Federal Parliament has important functions to fulfil. However, in practice, few of these functions are performed effectively.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR**

**Question 4**

‘Cabinet dominates the ministry and the parliament.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR**

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

In what ways do the preferential and proportional voting systems allow minor parties and minority interests to exercise influence in the Australian political system?

40 marks

**OR****Question 6**

‘There is little doubt that economic issues, above any other issues, determine how the electorate votes in Australia.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR****Political parties and pressure groups****Question 7**

‘The problem with pressure groups in a democratic system is that some pressure groups are more powerful than others.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR****Question 8**

‘The Australian Labor Party and the Liberal Party are becoming increasingly similar in their policies and philosophies.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

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

‘Regional security issues and relations with the United States still remain the focus of Australian foreign policy.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

**OR****Question 10**

Discuss the key elements that affect the formulation and implementation of Australian foreign policy.

40 marks

**TURN OVER**

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



Rough work only

