



Victorian Certificate of Education 2002

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

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| Figures | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Letter |
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POLITICAL STUDIES

Written examination

Thursday 21 November 2002

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> | <i>Suggested times (minutes)</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A | 5 | 4 | 40 | 60 |
| B | 10 | 1 | 40 | 60 |
| | | | Total 80 | 120 |

- 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 33 pages.
- A script book is available from the supervisor if required.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page 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.

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

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.

Question 1

The Australian Constitution

a. What is meant by the term exclusive powers?

2 marks

b. Briefly provide three reasons why referendums are usually unsuccessful.

3 marks

Question 2

Parliament and the Executive

a. What is meant by the term parliamentary privilege?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three parliamentary roles of ministers.

3 marks

Question 3

Voting and elections

a. What is meant by the term marginal seat?

2 marks

b. Briefly provide three reasons why voters may identify with and support a particular political party.

3 marks

Question 4

Political parties and pressure groups

a. What is meant by the term party discipline?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three tactics that a pressure group can use to further its aims.

3 marks

Question 5

Australian foreign policy

a. What is meant by the term bilateral relationship?

2 marks

b. Briefly describe three roles of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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.

The Australian Constitution**Question 1**

‘Since 1901, the Commonwealth Government has increased its dominance over the States in a variety of ways. As a result, Commonwealth–State relations have worsened.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 2

‘The Australian Constitution remains largely unaltered and therefore is in need of significant change.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Parliament and the Executive**Question 3**

‘There are a number of factors which prevent the House of Representatives and the Senate from performing their roles effectively.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 4

‘The Australian Prime Minister has considerable power, however there are a number of ways in which this power can be constrained.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Voting and elections**Question 5**

‘The two voting systems used at Federal elections ensure that key democratic values are upheld.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 6

Discuss the factors that influenced the result of a recent (in the last ten years) Federal election.

40 marks

OR

Political parties and pressure groups**Question 7**

‘Minor parties play an influential role in parliament and elections.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 8

‘Pressure groups have a positive and negative impact on democratic processes in Australia.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Australian foreign policy**Question 9**

‘The Prime Minister is, compared with other factors, the most significant influence on the formulation of Australian foreign policy.’

To what extent do you agree?

40 marks

OR

Question 10

‘National security and the promotion of economic interests have dominated Australian foreign policy at the expense of Australia’s reputation as a good global citizen.’

To what extent do you agree?

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

