AUSTRALIAN POLITICS
Written examination

Thursday 3 November 2016
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>Number of questions to be answered</th>
<th>Number of marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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• 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.
• 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.

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SECTION A

Instructions for Section A
Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

Australian democracy

Question 1 (15 marks)
Select the most appropriate answer (A.–D.) for parts a. and b., and write your answers in the boxes provided.

a. Which one of the following statements is most accurate? 1 mark
   A. A donkey vote is not counted in Australian federal elections.
   B. A political party must receive the most votes to win a federal election in Australia.
   C. Each of the two major political parties in Australia runs a candidate in all 150 House of Representatives electorates.
   D. There are no limits on how much money a candidate can spend on election expenses in Australian federal elections.

b. Which one of the following is not a role of the Australian Electoral Commission? 1 mark
   A. Set the dates of federal elections.
   B. Manage and maintain the electoral roll.
   C. Conduct elections for trade unions and employer associations.
   D. Conduct public education campaigns about elections and voting.
c. Outline two key functions of an election for the Australian House of Representatives. 4 marks

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d. Discuss the view that election campaign techniques used in Australian federal elections may not always reflect the principles and values of democracy. 4 marks

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e. Evaluate the effectiveness of the system used to elect the Australian House of Representatives in achieving the democratic principle of ‘one vote one value’. 5 marks
Australian democracy in perspective

**Question 2 (15 marks)**
A major feature of any democratic system of government is that the rights of people are protected by the three branches of government, namely the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. This feature helps distinguish democracy from other forms of government.

a. Define the term ‘judicial independence’.  

b. Outline one way in which democratic rights and freedoms are protected in the Australian system of government and one way in which they are protected in another political system you have studied this year.
c. Explain one strength and one weakness of the Senate in reflecting democratic principles in Australia.  

Strength  

Weakness
d. Discuss the way the rule of law is protected in Australia compared with another political system you have studied this year.  

5 marks
Domestic policy

**Question 3 (15 marks)**

**a. i.** What is meant by the term ‘shadow minister’? 1 mark

**ii.** Outline a key role that a shadow minister plays in the domestic policymaking process. 2 marks

**b.** Outline two global influences on the formulation of Australian domestic policy. 4 marks

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c. Explain two factors contributing to the successful implementation of Australian domestic policy.  4 marks

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d. Discuss the influence of public opinion in the domestic policy process.  4 marks

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Foreign policy

**Question 4 (15 marks)**

We must maintain a bold vision for Australian aid. Our aid program will have an unmistakable regional focus. In the past, it’s been spread far too thinly across the globe for reasons often not related to poverty alleviation, thus putting at risk our ability to achieve results in the geographic region where I believe we have a primary responsibility – the Indian Ocean Asia Pacific. We must direct our aid to where we can make the biggest difference and align it with our national interest.

Source: Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, ‘The New Aid Paradigm’ (speech), National Press Club, Canberra, 18 June 2014

a. What is meant by the term ‘foreign aid’ in the context of Australian foreign policy? 2 marks

b. Other than through foreign aid, explain two ways in which Australian foreign policy aims to achieve regional security. 4 marks

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c. Discuss the key difference between bilateral and multilateral doctrines of Australian foreign policy. 4 marks

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d. Compare the roles of the prime minister with those of the minister for foreign affairs in the formulation of Australian foreign policy. 5 marks

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SECTION B

Instructions for Section B

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

Question 1 (20 marks)
‘The practices and tactics of political parties mean that parliament is unable to perform its democratic role effectively.’

Discuss this statement with reference to relevant contemporary evidence.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)
‘The process used to appoint the head of government in Australia is more democratic than the process used in other political systems.’

To what extent do you agree? Discuss this statement with reference to one other political system you have studied this year.

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)
‘Political parties have a major influence on the formulation of Australian public policy.’

Discuss with reference to one or more Australian domestic public policy issues you have studied this year.

OR

Question 4 (20 marks)
‘Both internal and external economic factors are significant influences in shaping contemporary Australian foreign policy.’

Discuss.
Extra space for responses

Clearly number all responses in this space.
An answer book is available from the supervisor if you need extra paper to complete your answer. Please ensure you write your student number in the space provided on the front cover of the answer book.

At the end of the examination, place the answer book inside the front cover of this question and answer book.