

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2016**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

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

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
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 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.

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** (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

- _____

- _____

- 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

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'. 2 marks

- 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. 4 marks

Australian system _____

Another political system _____

- c. Explain one strength and one weakness of the Senate in reflecting democratic principles in Australia.

4 marks

Strength _____

Weakness _____

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

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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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.

