VCE Politics (From 2025)

# Written examination – End of year

## 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). [VCAA examination rules](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/Pages/ExaminationRules.aspx) will apply.

There will be 15 minutes of reading time and 2 hours of writing time.

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

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

### Content

The *VCE Politics Study Design (From 2025)* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

### Format

The examination will be in the form of a Question and Answer Book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

**Section A** will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions and may include questions with multiple parts. The questions in this section will draw from Unit 3 Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 2 and Unit 4 Area of Study 1. Section A will be worth a total of 45 marks.

**Section B** will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions and may include questions with multiple parts. The questions in this section will draw from Unit 4 Area of Study 2 and will be an analysis of political sources. Section B will include questions that refer to stimulus materials, including case studies, data, images and/or media text. Section B will be worth a total of 15 marks.

**Section C** will consist of two extended-response questions worth 10 marks each. These questions will not be multiple-part questions. One question will cover Unit 3 Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 2, and one question will cover Unit 4 Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 2. Section C will be worth a total of 20 marks.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 80.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the Question and Answer Book.

### Assessment criteria

The two extended-response questions in Section C will be assessed against the following criteria:

* balanced exploration of the two areas of study within the specified unit
* development of a coherent and relevant argument that addresses the question
* demonstration of accurate and appropriate key knowledge
* application of relevant political thinking concepts such as cause and consequence, political interests and perspectives, political stability and change, and political significance
* use of contemporary examples and case studies (within the last 10 years) as evidence to support explanations, points of view and/or arguments.

### Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

### Relevant references

The following resources should be referred to in relation to the VCE Politics examination:

* VCE Politics Study Design (From 2025)
* [VCE Politics – Support materials](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/politics/Pages/Index.aspx)
* [*VCAA Bulletin*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/bulletins-and-updates/bulletin/Pages/index.aspx)
* [Notices to Schools](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/schooladministration/notices/Pages/index.aspx)

### Advice

From 2025, VCE Politics examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4. This includes the characteristics of the study that introduce the central concepts and skills underpinning the study of VCE Politics found in the study design (pages 12 to 14).

Examination questions may relate to one or more areas of study. The weighting of examination questions will reflect approximately the weighting of the outcomes in the study design.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination will be published on the VCE Politics [‘Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports’](https://vcaa.edugate-cms.eduweb.vic.gov.au/assessment/vce-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/Politics.aspx) page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.