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PROCESSING LABEL HERE

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Write your **student number** in the boxes above.

Letter

Politics

Question and Answer Book

VCE Examination – Friday 14 November 2025

- Reading time is **15 minutes**: 11.45 am to 12 noon
- Writing time is **2 hours**: 12 noon to 2.00 pm

Materials supplied

- Question and Answer Book of 24 pages

Instructions

- Use the additional space at the end of this book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

Students are **not** permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

Contents	pages
Section A (11 questions, 45 marks) _____	2–10
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Section A

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
- Write your responses in English.
- The focus of your responses must be on contemporary examples and case studies from within the last 10 years.

Select **one** of the following global issues as the focus for Questions 1–4.

- climate change
- global economic instability
- development
- weapons of mass destruction

Selected global issue: _____

Question 1 (4 marks)

Describe two short-term causes (within the last 10 years) of your selected global issue.

- _____

- _____

Do not write in this area.

Select **one** of the following contemporary crises as the focus for Questions 5–7.

- human rights crises
- armed conflict
- mass movement of people

Selected contemporary crisis: _____

Question 5 (2 marks)

Outline **one** consequence of your selected contemporary crisis.

Question 6 (3 marks)

Explain using **one** example how the process of diplomacy has been used to attempt to resolve your selected contemporary crisis.

Do not write in this area.

Select **one** of the following Indo-Pacific states as the focus for Questions 8–11.

- People’s Republic of China
- Japan
- Republic of India
- Republic of Indonesia
- United States of America

Selected state: _____

Question 8 (2 marks)

Outline **one** example of the use of cultural power by this Indo-Pacific state.

Question 9 (3 marks)

Describe **one** consequence of this Indo-Pacific state’s use of foreign aid.

Do not write in this area.

Question 10 (3 marks)

Explain **one** challenge to this Indo-Pacific state's pursuit of regional standing.

Do not write in this area.

Section B

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
 - Write your responses in English.
 - Read the following sources provided.
 - Respond to the questions, referring to the provided sources when required by the question.
 - The focus of your responses must be on contemporary examples and case studies from within the last 10 years.
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Source 1: Examples of Australia's pursuit of national interests in the Indo-Pacific region**Image 1****Image 2****Image 3**

Image 1: Iron ore carrier *China Enterprise* enters a port in Western Australia, 23 August 2018.

Source: Paul Mayall Australia/Alamy Stock Photo

Image 2: A resident in Papua New Guinea helps to unload emergency supplies from a Royal Australian Air Force aircraft, 11 December 2023, following a volcanic eruption.

Source: LACW Maddison Scott/Australian Defence Force, Radio Free Asia, 11 December 2023, <www.rfa.org/english/pacific/2025/03/27/australia-foreign-aid/>, image © Commonwealth of Australia/Department of Defence

Image 3: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attending the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meeting in Tonga, 27–29 August 2024.

Source: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, '53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting', 10 September 2024, <www.pmc.gov.au>, image © Commonwealth of Australia 2023; licensed [CC-BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Source 2: Extract from ‘Australia and China should cooperate for the security of Pacific Island Countries’, an article discussing the role of Australia and China in helping to address security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region

As sovereign [states], most Pacific Island countries have the legal right to be free from interference from other countries – including Australia and China – and to choose with whom they make treaties.

...

If Australia and China both truly want to help Pacific Island countries tackle their key security challenges, they should work together to maximise the outcomes of their assistance to the region.

This means shared assessments¹ of their respective resources and capabilities in the region, a forum for coordination of their financial and technical support for countries, and joint research programs on key scientific and technical challenges.

Should both parties² be willing, cooperation between Australia and China on the shared challenge of supporting the security aspirations of Pacific Island countries would not only better serve those countries, it would also help neutralise³ the rising geopolitical tensions in the region.

This would provide an important basis for cooperation and confidence building that can help reduce military spending and the risk of future armed conflict.

Source: Adapted from J Barnett, M Wang and T Tanielu, ‘Australia and China should cooperate for the security of Pacific Island Countries’, *Pursuit*, University of Melbourne, 7 May 2024, <<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au>>; licensed [CC-BY-ND 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/)

¹**assessments** – measurements

²**parties** – actors

³**neutralise** – lessen

Question 1 (3 marks)

Outline the perspective on Australia’s pursuit of regional relationships in the Indo-Pacific region presented in Source 2. Refer to information from Source 2.

Do not write in this area.

Question 2 (5 marks)

- a. Identify two types of foreign policy instruments used by Australia in the Indo-Pacific region that are shown in Source 1. 2 marks

- b. Explain how Australia has used **one** of the types of foreign policy instruments identified in **part a** to pursue either security or economic prosperity. 3 marks

Do not write in this area.

Do not write in this area.

Assessment criteria for Section C

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
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