

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2017**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

**AUSTRALIAN POLITICS
Written examination**

Thursday 16 November 2017

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)

Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 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)

a. Describe **one** of the major principles of Australian democracy. 2 marks

b. Outline **two** features of a free and fair electoral system. 2 marks

- c. i.** Provide the name of a backbencher in the current federal parliament. 1 mark

- ii.** Outline **one** role of a backbencher. 1 mark

- d.** Discuss **one** challenge facing democracy in Australia today. 4 marks

- e. 'The reality is that political circumstances will determine what's required of a minister, and the consequences for not meeting expectations.'

Source: Ryan Goss (Australian National University), 'How unwritten rules shape ministerial accountability',
The Conversation (website), 16 December 2015

Evaluate the effectiveness of the principle of individual ministerial responsibility as it operates in the Australian system of government.

5 marks

Australian democracy in perspective

Question 2 (15 marks)

a. What is meant by ‘universal franchise’? 1 mark

b. Describe **two** key differences between the electoral system used in Australia and that used in another political system you have studied this year. 4 marks

- c. Discuss **two** constraints on the power of a head of government in a political system you have studied this year, other than the Australian political system.

4 marks

d. ‘Different political systems use different methods of holding the executive accountable.’

Critically compare **one** method of accountability used by the legislative branch in the Australian political system with **one** method of accountability used by the legislative branch in another political system you have studied this year.

6 marks

Domestic policy

Question 3 (15 marks)

a. What is meant by the term ‘minor party’? Provide an example. 2 marks

b. Discuss **two** examples of the extent to which the media can influence the formulation of domestic policy. 4 marks

c. Compare the influence of the prime minister and the leader of the Opposition on the formulation of domestic policy.

4 marks

d. Evaluate the success of **one** domestic policy you have studied this year in terms of its:

- formulation

OR

- implementation.

5 marks

Foreign policy

Question 4 (15 marks)

- a. Explain the distinction between domestic policy and foreign policy. 2 marks

- b. Promoting Australia as a good global citizen is a key objective of Australian foreign policy.
What is meant by the term 'good global citizen'? 2 marks

- c.** Explain the importance of the Australian Government’s key foreign policy objective of expanding regional and global links.

3 marks

- d.** Discuss the extent to which public opinion influences the formulation of Australian foreign policy.

4 marks

e. Evaluate **one** agreement, treaty or alliance that Australia has entered into.

4 marks

SECTION B**Instructions for Section B**

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

Question 1 (20 marks)

‘The Australian Senate has been variously described as a “house of obstruction”, “unrepresentative”, “too powerful” or as “a democratic safeguard” in the parliamentary system.’

Evaluate the extent to which the Australian Senate effectively upholds democratic principles.

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

‘The political system of the other country you have studied this year is more effective at delivering democratic principles and values than the Australian political system.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

‘Members of parliament are the most critical influence on the formulation of Australian domestic policy.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Discuss with reference to **one or more** Australian domestic policy issues you have studied this year.

OR

Question 4 (20 marks)

‘Global terrorism is the most significant challenge facing Australian foreign policy today.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question no.

Extra space for responses

Clearly number all responses in this space.

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