

# Victorian Certificate of Education 2018

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STUDENT NUMBER					

# **AUSTRALIAN POLITICS**

## Written examination

**Thursday 15 November 2018** 

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

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	11	11	60
В	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, including assessment criteria for Section B on page 24
- 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.
- The focus of your responses must be on contemporary examples and case studies from within the last 10 years.
- 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.

## **Question 1** (5 marks)

Sovereignty of the people and democratic government lie at the heart of Australia's Constitution. But ... There are limits. The Parliament cannot do just anything, or pass just any kind of Act, simply because it was elected ...

Democratic sovereignty also rests upon the rule of law.

Source: H Irving, Five Things to Know About the Australian Constitution, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004, p. 47

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Describe <b>one</b> way in which the Australian Constitution protects the rights of citizens.	2:
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Explain how sovereignty of the people in a democracy 'rests upon the rule of law'.	2

<b>Question 2</b> (3 marks Explain <b>one</b> democr	atic strength or <b>one</b> democratic weakness of Australian federalism.
Question 3 (4 marks) Discuss the impact of	s) of the Senate voting system on the composition of the Australian Parliament.

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in the American system of government.	

Question 5 (4 marks)
Discuss <b>one</b> way in which the American Constitution is ineffective in the protection of democratic rights ar freedoms.

Question 6 (5 marks)					
Analyse the roles of committees in the Congress of the United States of America.					

Outline <b>one</b> way in which opinion polls may influence Australian domestic policy.	2 n
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Describe how the Australian judiciary may influence the implementation of an Australian	
domestic policy.	3 r
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Explain the role of the Cabinet in the formulation and/or implementation of Australian domestic policy.	4 1

## **Question 8** (6 marks)

• international influences

With reference to **one or more** domestic policies that you have studied this year, discuss **two** elements from the list below that may influence the development of Australian public policy in a way that may contradict democratic principles:

	opinion polls
	the media
•	interest groups

Question 9 (3 marks) Explain the concept of 'national interest' as it applies to <b>one</b> specific Australian foreign policy.
Question 10 (5 marks)  Identify one formal agreement, treaty or alliance that seeks to promote Australia as a good global citizen and
analyse its effectiveness in achieving that objective.

Question 11 (7 marks) Analyse the influence of the public service on the formulation and/or implementation of Australian foreign policy.

#### **SECTION B**

#### **Instructions for Section B**

Write an essay on **one** of the following questions in the space provided.

Your response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria set out on page 24.

#### Question 1 (20 marks)

'The democratic operation of the Australian Parliament is hindered by political parties and executive dominance.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

OR

#### Question 2 (20 marks)

'The American electoral system is in need of significant reform.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

OR

## Question 3 (20 marks)

'The formulation of Australian domestic policy can be difficult, lengthy, highly politicised and uncertain.'

To what extent do you agree that the process of formulating Australian domestic policy is subject to many challenges? In your response, refer to **one or more** domestic policies that you have studied this year.

OR

## Question 4 (20 marks)

'Multilateral approaches are required in order to successfully meet the challenges of contemporary Australian foreign policy.'

Discuss this statement with reference to **two** of the following key challenges facing contemporary Australian foreign policy:

- global and regional conflicts
- humanitarian crises and natural disasters
- the threat of global terrorism
- climate change and environmental issues
- the economic development of the region
- refugees, people smuggling and trafficking in persons

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# Extra space for responses

Clearly number all responses in this space.	
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An answer book is available from the supervisor if you need extra paper to complete an 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.** 

## Assessment criteria for Section B

The essay in Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- development of a coherent and relevant argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of political knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- accurate use of key political terms and concepts
- use of contemporary examples and case studies to support explanations, points of view and arguments

END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

