

**Victorian Certificate of Education
2020**

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER Letter

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS
Written examination

Tuesday 17 November 2020

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	12	12	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, including **assessment criteria for Section B** on page 24
- Additional space is available at the end of the book if you need extra space 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.

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SECTION A

Instructions for Section A

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Question 1 (1 mark)

Outline **one** role of an Australian federal minister that is not a role carried out by an Australian federal backbencher.

Question 2 (2 marks)

Describe **one** constitutional power of the Australian governor-general.

Question 3 (2 marks)

Describe **one** way in which the rights and freedoms of people are protected in the Australian system of government.

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Question 5 (5 marks)

a. Outline how the American Constitution establishes an independent judiciary. 2 marks

b. Using **at least one** contemporary example, explain the meaning of the term ‘checks and balances’ in the political system of the United States of America. 3 marks

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Question 8 (8 marks)

- a. Select one of the following elements outside the formal institutions of government:
- international influences
 - opinion polls
 - the media
 - interest groups

Element _____

Explain **one** influence of this element on domestic public policy making. 3 marks

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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)

‘There are few opportunities for citizens to participate in the Australian political process.’

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

‘There are a number of effective constraints on the power of the president of the United States of America.’

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

‘Australian federal governments are faced with many difficulties when formulating and implementing domestic policy.’

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 4 (20 marks)

‘The formulation of Australian foreign policy is too heavily influenced by the executive and the bureaucracy.’

Evaluate this statement with reference to **one** 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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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