VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Victorian Certificate of Education
Year

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER | | | | | | | | | | Letter | |

AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

Written examination

Day Date

Reading time: *. to *.** (15 minutes)**
Writing time: *. to *.** (2 hours)**

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	*Number of questions*	*Number of questions to be answered*	*Number of marks*
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 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.

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April 2018

SAMPLE

SECTION A

Instructions for Section A

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

Question 1 (4 marks)

a. Identify **one** function of the Commonwealth Parliament. 1 mark

b. Explain why Australia can be considered a constitutional monarchy. 3 marks

Question 2 (3 marks)

Explain **one** key principle or value that underpins a liberal democracy.

Question 3 (6 marks)

a. Identify **one** role of the Cabinet as it operates in the Australian political system. 1 mark

b. Evaluate the operation of the principle of collective ministerial responsibility in Australia. 5 marks

Question 4 (8 marks)

Analyse the role of political parties in the American electoral process.

Question 5 (5 marks)

Evaluate the effectiveness of the separation of powers in the United States of America in achieving democratic values.

Question 6 (4 marks)

Discuss **one** similarity between the way in which Australia and the United States of America protect democratic rights and freedoms.

Question 7 (5 marks)

a. Outline **one** way in which interest groups may influence public policy. 2 marks

b. Explain **one** reason why the role of interest groups is important. 3 marks

Question 8 (6 marks)

Discuss **two** factors that hinder the successful implementation of Australian public policy.

Question 9 (4 marks)

a. Outline **one** key objective of Australian foreign policy. 1 mark

b. Using a contemporary example, describe **one** way in which Australia pursues the key objective outlined in **part a.** 3 marks

Question 10 (3 marks)
Distinguish between the terms ‘asylum seeker’ and ‘refugee’.

Question 11 (4 marks)
Discuss **one** contemporary use of foreign aid in Australia’s process of making foreign policy.

Question 12 (8 marks)

Analyse the influence of elections in both the domestic and the foreign policy-making process.

END OF SECTION A

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 increasing presence of minor party representatives in the parliament hinders Australian democracy.'

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 2 (20 marks)

'The Congress of the United States of America effectively carries out its functions.'

To what extent do you agree?

OR

Question 3 (20 marks)

'Although many factors contribute to the success or failure of policy formulation, it is the role of the public service that is most critical.'

Analyse the role of the public service in policy formulation with reference to **one or more** policies that you have studied this year.

OR

Question 4 (20 marks)

'Australia's key foreign policy objectives will always remain the same but priorities will shift.'

To what extent do you agree? Discuss 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

Question no.

END OF SECTION B
TURN OVER

Extra space for responses

Clearly number all responses in this space.

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

VICTORIA State Government