



South Australian
Certificate of Education

Australian and International Politics

2020

Question booklet

- **Section A: Australian politics** (Questions 1 to 8) 15 marks
Answer **one** question from Section A
- **Section B: International politics** (Questions 9 to 29) 15 marks
Answer **one** question from Section B
- Write your answers in the separate script book
- Allow approximately 65 minutes to answer **each** question

Examination information

Materials

- Question booklet
- 16-page script book
- SACE registration number label

Instructions

- Use black or blue pen
- Attach your SACE registration number label to the separate script book

Total time: 130 minutes

Total marks: 30

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Government
of South Australia

SECTION A: AUSTRALIAN POLITICS (Questions 1 to 8)

Answer **one** essay question from this section.

The Australian Constitution and federalism

1. Critically assess the view that the Australian Constitution comprehensively incorporates democratic values.
2. 'Imperfect but practical.'
Is this description of Australian federalism accurate? Argue your case.

Political representation, parliament, and the executive

3. Evaluate the view that the dominance of the executive prevents the effective operation of government.
4. 'The separation of powers ensures responsible government.'
Critically assess this statement.

Voting and elections

5. 'Proportional voting is the cornerstone of democracy.'
Critically assess this statement.
6. Analyse the view that the personality of a party's leader is the main factor that determines the party's electoral success.

Political parties

7. 'An overemphasis on pragmatism has weakened the traditional ideology of the major parties.'
Critically assess this statement.
8. Evaluate the view that minor parties and independents are essential to Australian democratic processes.

SECTION B: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (Questions 9 to 29)

Answer **one** essay question from this section.

Global citizenship

9. Critically assess the view that, to be good global citizens, Australians should participate more in international affairs.
10. Examine the claim that active global citizenship is essential to solving global problems.
11. 'The manner in which a country responds to migration issues is the most significant test of its attitude to global citizenship.'
Evaluate this statement.

Global media

12. 'An unregulated media helps strengthen democracy.'
Is this so? Argue your case.
13. 'Global media filters, rather than reflects, political reality.'
Critically assess this statement.
14. Evaluate the claim that alternative media is no longer a force for positive change.

Australian international relations

15. 'Australian foreign policy should be totally focused on regional neighbours.'
Critically assess this statement.
16. 'Australian international relations have exhibited more continuity than change.'
Is this so? Argue your case.
17. Evaluate the claim that Australia has played a positive role in *one or more* recent international disputes.

The United Nations and human rights

18. 'The United Nations has maintained international peace and security.'
Is this so? Argue your case.
19. 'The United Nations is more a promoter of human rights than a protector of human rights.'
Critically assess this statement.
20. Evaluate the claim that the United Nations only advocates gender equality.

Section B continues on page 4.

The politics of the Asia–Pacific region

21. ‘Democracy is the central unifying factor in the Asia–Pacific region.’
Is this so? Argue your case.
22. Examine the claim that there is minimal cultural integration within the Asia–Pacific region.
23. Critically assess the claim that Australia plays a pivotal role in the Asia–Pacific region.

The United States of America and world affairs

24. Evaluate the claim that there have been no successful challenges to American global supremacy.
25. ‘Defensive actions are the main focus of American foreign policy.’
Is this so? Argue your case.
26. ‘America continues to provide security for Australia.’
Critically assess this statement.

Comparative political systems

27. Examine the role that economic factors have played in the evolution of the political systems of *two* countries.
28. ‘Globalisation brings a new set of political problems.’
Critically assess this statement, referring to the political systems of *two* countries.
29. ‘Political systems that have developed from “people power” are successful.’
Evaluate this claim, comparing the political systems of *two* countries.