



POLITICS AND LAW SAMPLE EXAMINATION STAGE 3

Section 7 of the *New WACE Manual: General Information 2008 Revised Edition* outlines the policy on WACE examinations.

Further information about the WACE Examinations policy can be accessed from the Curriculum Council website at <http://curriculum.wa.edu.au>

The purpose for providing a sample examination is to provide teachers with an example of how the course will be examined. Further finetuning will be made to this sample in 2008 by the examination panel following consultation with teachers, measurement specialists and advice from the Assessment, Review and Moderation (ARM) panel.



Western Australian Certificate of Education, Draft Sample Examination Question/Answer Booklet

POLITICS AND LAW WRITTEN PAPER STAGE 3

Please place your student identification label in this box

Student Number: In figures

Grid for student number in figures

In words

Lines for student number in words

Time allowed for this paper

Reading time before commencing work: Ten minutes
Working time for paper: Three hours

Material required/recommended for this paper

To be provided by the supervisor
This Question/Answer Booklet

To be provided by the candidate

Standard items: Pens, pencils, eraser, correction fluid, ruler, highlighter

Important note to candidates

No other items may be taken into the examination room. It is your responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised notes or other items of a non-personal nature in the examination room. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor before reading any further.

Structure of this paper

Section	Suggested working time	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be attempted	Marks
One: Short answers	45 minutes	5	3	30 (30%)
Two: Source analysis	35 minutes	2	1	20 (20%)
Three: Essays	100 minutes	5	2	50 (50%)
			[Total marks]	100

Instructions to candidates

1. The rules for the conduct of Curriculum Council examinations are detailed in the *Student Information Handbook*. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.

SECTION ONE: SHORT ANSWERS

30 marks

In this section there are **FIVE (5)** questions. Answer **THREE (3)** questions only. Each question is worth 10 marks.

Suggested working time 45 minutes

Question 1

(a) Define the term 'rule of law'. *[2 marks]*

(b) Outline the **THREE** roles of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. *[3 marks]*

(c) Evaluate ONE argument for and ONE argument against the practice of 'open government'. [5 marks]

Additional lines — Question 1, part (...)

Question 2

(a) What is meant by the 'vertical fiscal imbalance'?

[2 marks]

(b) Outline **THREE** ways the Commonwealth Government distributes money to the states and territories.

[3 marks]

Question 3

(a) Define the term bicameralism.

[2 marks]

(b) Outline THREE roles of political parties in the legislative process in Australia.

[3 marks]

- (c) Briefly describe ONE way elected leaders are accountable. Evaluate how well this accountability is achieved. *[5 marks]*

Additional lines — Question 3, part (...)

Question 4

(a) What is meant by a ‘Dorothy Dix’ question?

[2 marks]

(b) Outline THREE roles of Cabinet in Australia.

[3 marks]

- (c) Explain TWO reasons why it is common to speak of 'Prime Ministerial Government' rather than 'Cabinet Government' when describing Australia's political system.

[5 marks]

Additional lines — Question 4, part (...)

Question 5

(a) Define the term 'Westminster convention'.

[2 marks]

(b) Outline THREE methods of constitutional change in Australia, other than a referendum.
[3 marks]

SECTION TWO: SOURCE ANALYSIS**20 marks**

Answer Question 6 OR Question 7

Suggested working time 35 minutes

Question 6

Read the document below and answer the questions that follow.

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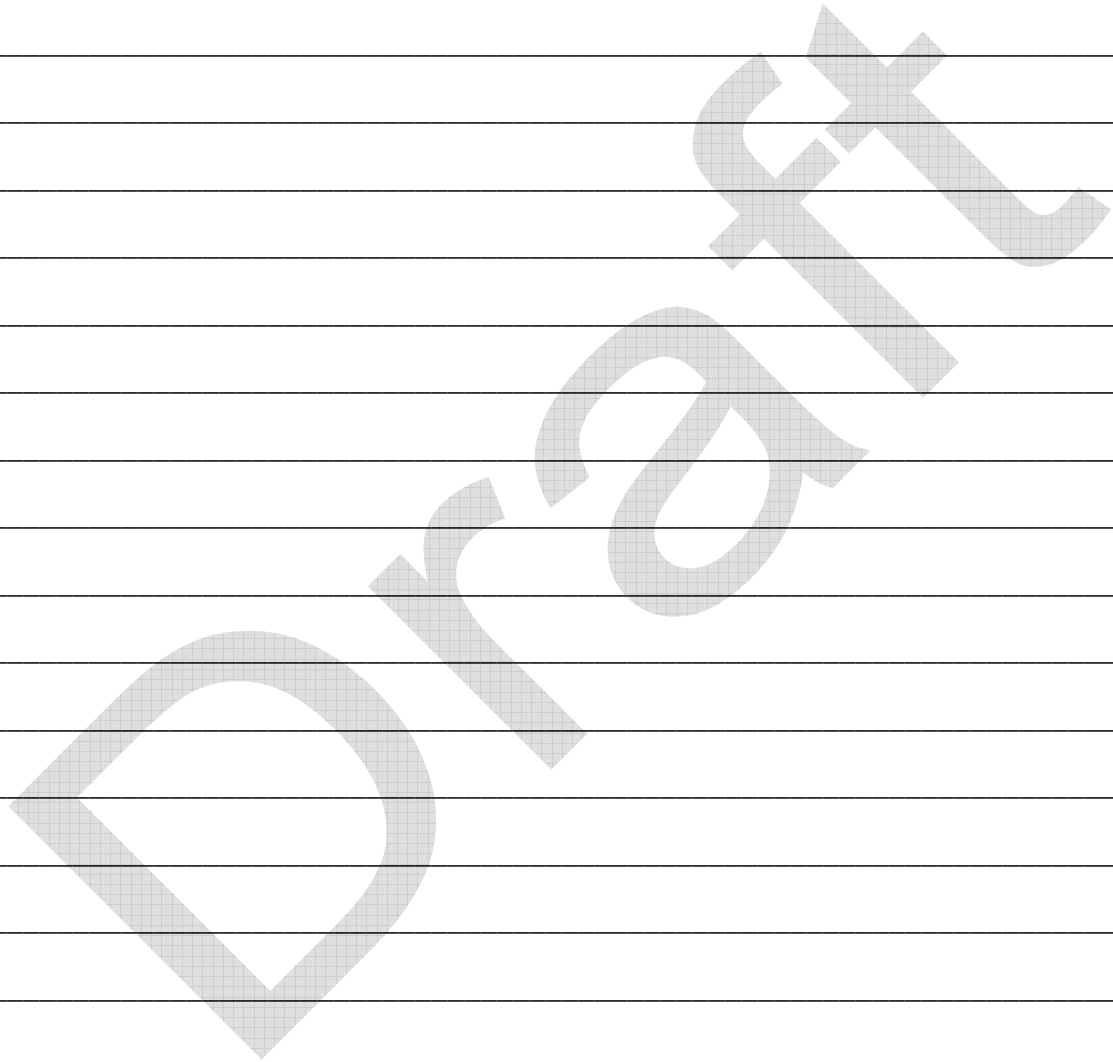
[From: Newspoll, & The Australian, 2006]

SEE NEXT PAGE

- (c) Outline TWO possible ways the media can influence public opinion. Refer to data from the *Citizenship Poll* in your answer. [4 marks]

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(d) Present a case FOR and a case AGAINST conducting a citizenship test for people seeking Australian citizenship. *[8 marks]*



Question 7

Read the document below and answer the questions that follow.

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[From: Japan-101]

SEE NEXT PAGE

(a) Explain ONE main feature of the Kyoto Protocol.

[2 marks]

(b) Explain why environmental lawmaking is considered to be constitutionally a residual power in Australia. Why then can the Commonwealth Parliament now make laws on the environment? *[4 marks]*

SECTION THREE: ESSAY**50 marks**

In this section there are **FIVE (5)** questions. Answer **TWO (2)** questions only.

Allow approximately 60 minutes for this section

Question 8

'A Corruption and Crime Commission (CCC) inquiry, or a government inquiry, can often dominate political and legal matters'.

Describe the major features and direction of at least ONE such inquiry. Analyse the impact of this inquiry on the political and legal system.

[25 marks]

Question 9

'The High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Western Australia play critical roles in the adjudication of law in Australia.'

Assess this claim with respect to at least ONE decision made by either the High Court of Australia or Supreme Court of Western Australia.

[25 marks]

Question 10

Some critics have spoken of the 'decline of parliament', while others have given focus to a 'revived parliament'. Assess the role of the Federal Parliament in modern Australian politics.

[25 marks]

Question 11

Assess the extent to which the growth of tribunals has enhanced or hindered political accountability in contemporary Australia. Refer to at least ONE state or Commonwealth tribunal in your answer.

[25 marks]

Question 12

Australia's constitutional, common law and statutory rights are said to offer better protection to its citizens than citizens' rights in other countries.'

Evaluate this claim, making reference to Australia and at least ONE other country.

[25 marks]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DOCUMENT SET ONE

Newspoll, & The Australian. (2006). *Thinking About Australian Citizenship*. Retrieved March, 2008, from:

http://www.newspoll.com.au/image_uploads/0906%20Aust%20Citizenship%20Test.pdf

DOCUMENT SET TWO

Japan-101. (n.d.) *Kyoto Protocol - Amendment to International Treaty on Global Warming*. Retrieved March, 2008, from: http://www.japan-101.com/government/kyoto_protocol.htm

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