



ATAR course examination, 2024

Question/Answer booklet

POLITICS AND LAW

Place one of your candidate identification labels in this box.
Ensure the label is straight and within the lines of this box.

WA student number: In figures

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In words

Time allowed for this paper

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time: three hours

Number of additional
answer booklets used
(if applicable):

Materials required/recommended for this paper

To be provided by the supervisor

This Question/Answer booklet

To be provided by the candidate

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener, correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: nil

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 material. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.



Structure of this paper

Section	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be answered	Suggested working time (minutes)	Marks available	Percentage of examination
Section One Short answer	4	3	45	30	30
Section Two Source analysis	2	1	35	20	20
Section Three Essay					50
Part A: Unit 3	2	1	50	25	
Part B: Unit 4	2	1	50	25	
Total					100

Instructions to candidates

- The rules for the conduct of the Western Australian external examinations are detailed in the *Year 12 Information Handbook 2024: Part II Examinations*. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.
- Answer the questions according to the following instructions.

Section One: Consists of four questions. You must answer three questions. Write your answers in this Question/Answer booklet preferably using a blue/black pen. Do not use erasable or gel pens.

Section Two: Consists of two questions. You must answer one question. Write your answers in this Question/Answer booklet preferably using a blue/black pen. Do not use erasable or gel pens.

Section Three: Consists of two parts each with two questions. You must answer one question from each part. Write your answers in this Question/Answer booklet preferably using a blue/black pen. Do not use erasable or gel pens.
- You must be careful to confine your answers to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.
- Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

See next page

Section One: Short answer**30% (30 Marks)**

This section has **four** questions. You must answer **three** questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 45 minutes.

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See next page

Question 1

(10 marks)

- (a) Outline what is meant by a 'pressure group' in the Australian political and legal system. (2 marks)

- (b) Explain **one** way an individual can influence the lawmaking process in Australia. (3 marks)

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(c) With reference to **one** example, discuss how a particular pressure group has influenced the Commonwealth Parliament's lawmaking process in recent years. (5 marks)

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Question 2

(10 marks)

(a) Outline what is meant by 'Cabinet' in the Australian political system.

(2 marks)

(b) Explain **one** way Cabinet dominates the House of Representatives.

(3 marks)

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- (c) Discuss **two** sources of prime ministerial power in Australia. (5 marks)

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Question 3

(10 marks)

- (a) Outline what is meant by a 'censure motion' in the Commonwealth Parliament. (2 marks)

- (b) In terms of parliamentary accountability, explain what is meant by 'naming a member of parliament' by the Speaker. (3 marks)

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- (c) With reference to **two** judgments, discuss how the High Court of Australia (HCA) promotes parliamentary accountability. (5 marks)

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Question 4

(10 marks)

(a) Outline what is meant by a 'common law right' in Australia.

(2 marks)

(b) Explain **one** difference between an economic right and a political right.

(3 marks)

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- (c) Discuss **two** international covenants, protocols and/or treaties that protect human rights in Australia. (5 marks)

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End of Section One

See next page

Section Two: Source analysis**20% (20 Marks)**

This section has **two** questions. You must answer **one** question. Write your answer in the spaces provided.

Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 35 minutes.

Question 5**(20 marks)**

Read **Source 1** and answer **all** the question parts that follow.

Source 1

The following is an edited extract from an online article by Paul Karp published in *The Guardian* (11 May, 2023) entitled 'No love lost between Greens and Labor as standoff over housing bill boils over'.

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See next page

- (a) Outline what is meant by the term ‘guillotine’ as it applies to the legislative process in the Commonwealth Parliament. (2 marks)

- (b) With reference to **Source 1** discuss, in your own words, how minor parties in the Senate exercise political power. (4 marks)

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Question 5 (continued)

- (c) Discuss **two** ways in which the Australian Senate promotes good government. (6 marks)

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Question 6**(20 marks)**

Read **Source 2** and answer **all** the question parts that follow.

Source 2

The following is an edited extract from an online article by Tory Shepherd published in *The Guardian* (19 July, 2023) entitled 'Governor general planned to tell Queen about controversial charity awarded \$18m grant under Coalition'.

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See next page

(a)

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(b)

With reference to **Source 2** discuss, in your own words, why the government's grant to the Australian Future Leaders Foundation was seen as controversial. (4 marks)

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Section Three: Essay**50% (50 Marks)**

This section has **four** questions. Answer **one** question from Part A: Unit 3 and answer **one** question from Part B: Unit 4. Write your answers on the pages following Question 10.

Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 100 minutes.

Part A: Unit 3

Answer **one** question from a choice of **two**.

Question 7**(25 marks)**

The process of formal constitutional change is a strength of Australia's political and legal system.

Evaluate this claim with reference to both successful and unsuccessful referendums since Federation.

or

Question 8**(25 marks)**

The executive and judicial powers in the Commonwealth Constitution are very similar to the executive and judicial powers in the national constitution of a non-Westminster political and legal system.

Evaluate this claim.

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Part B: Unit 4

Answer **one** question from a choice of **two**.

Question 9**(25 marks)**

Evaluate the extent to which Australia and **one** other country uphold the democratic principles of popular participation and judicial independence.

or

Question 10**(25 marks)**

Both statutes and court judgments have led to an improvement in the political and legal rights of Australians.

Evaluate this claim with reference to a particular group in Australian society.

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End of questions

Question number: _____

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Question number: _____

Lined area for writing answers.

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Question number: _____

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Source 1 Adapted from: Karp, P. (2023, May 11). No Love Lost Between Greens and Labor as Standoff Over Housing Bill Boils Over. *The Guardian*. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/may/11/no-love-lost-between-greens-and-labor-as-standoff-over-housing-bill-boils-over>

Source 2 Adapted from: Shepherd, T. (2023, July 19). Governor General Planned to tell Queen About Controversial Charity Awarded \$18m Grant Under Coalition. *The Guardian*. Retrieved April, 2024, from <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jul/19/australian-future-leaders-foundation-governor-general-18m-grant-tell-queen-coalition>

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