



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1995
GENERAL STUDIES

1 UNIT

*Time allowed—Two hours and a quarter
(Plus 5 minutes' reading time)*

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Attempt **THREE** questions.
- All questions are of equal value.
- Answer each question in a *separate* Writing Booklet.
- Take time to read this paper carefully and plan each of your answers before you begin to write.
- Your answers should contain reasoned argument supported by relevant evidence.
- You may ask for extra Writing Booklets if you need them.

QUESTION 1



Courtesy Alan Moir, *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Religious leaders are frequently called upon to pass opinion on issues facing society. What is the role of religion in modern Australian society?

QUESTION 2

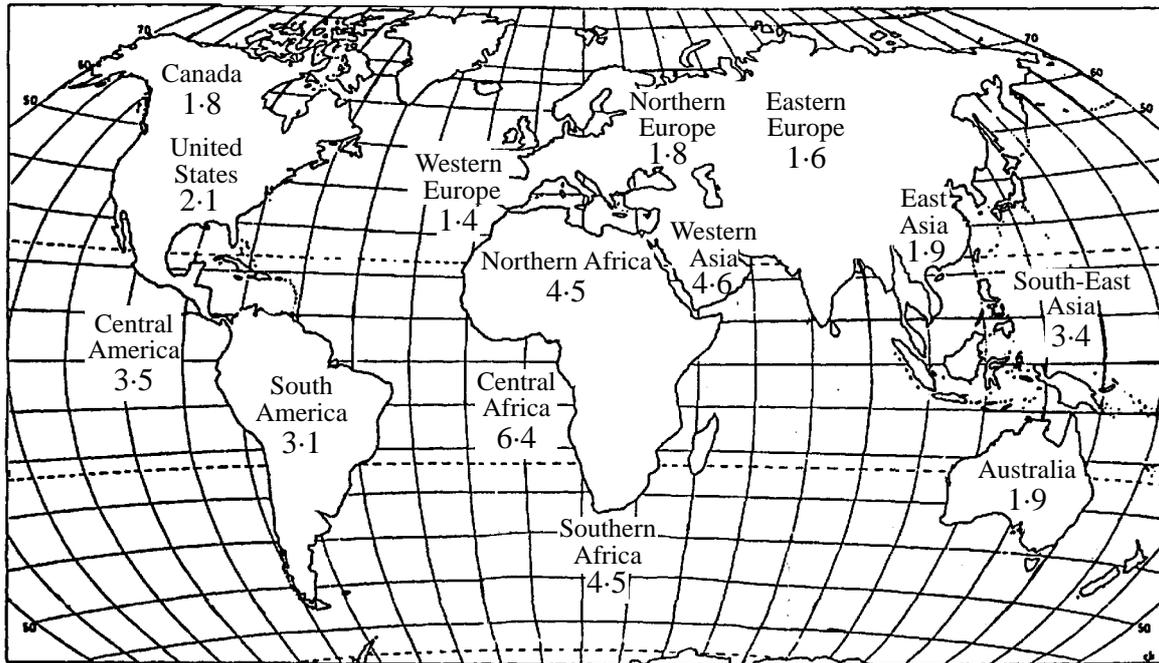
'The United Nations has become ineffective as a peace-keeping organization.'

How fair and correct is this claim?

How might conflicts between nations be better resolved?

QUESTION 3

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER FAMILY



© The Observer, 14/8/94.

What factors can you suggest to account for the differences shown by the figures above?

What are some social and political consequences of these differences?

QUESTION 4

‘The beach, the outback, television programs, and sport define Australian national culture as much as literature and the visual and performing arts.’

Discuss this claim.

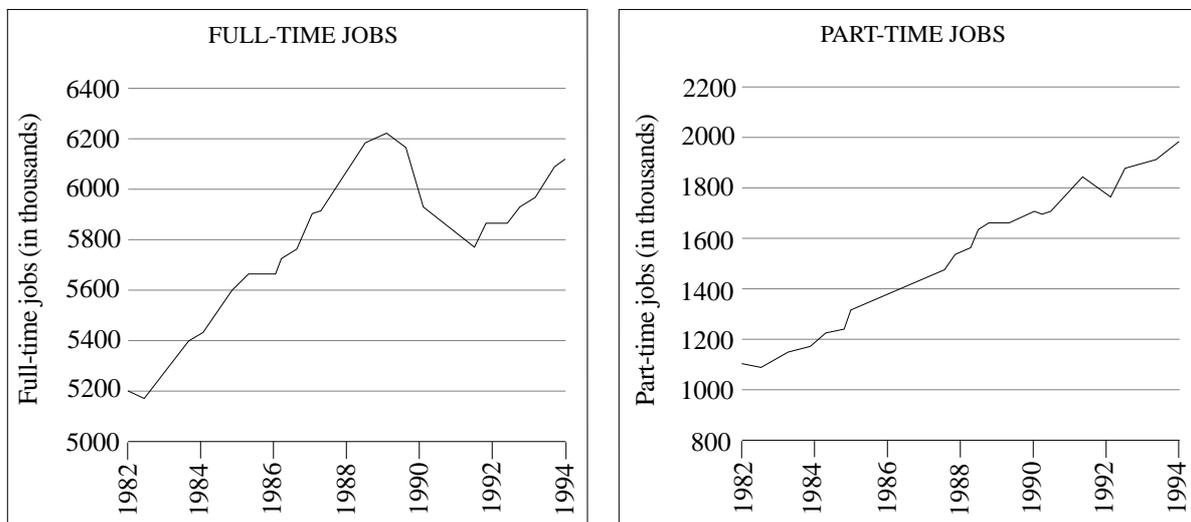
QUESTION 5

‘Civilization is to be judged by its treatment of minorities.’

How tolerant of minority groups is Australian society? In your answer consider AT LEAST TWO minority groups.

QUESTION 6

AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 1982-94



The Sydney Morning Herald, 8/12/94, p 15.

Give possible reasons for the employment patterns indicated in the graphs above.

What are some of the consequences of these employment trends in Australia?

QUESTION 7

In his 1995 Australia Day speech, the Governor-General, Mr Hayden, referred to communication technology. He said that the information super-highway is being over-hyped and exaggerated. This could lead to unrealistic expectations and disappointments.

Do you agree with the Governor-General?

What are possible benefits and problems of current communication technology? In your answer, refer to AT LEAST TWO of the following:

- privacy
- copyright
- cultural identity
- the Internet
- marketing
- education
- leisure.

QUESTION 8

‘Good Government requires an effective Opposition.’

Do you agree with this claim? Support your answer with relevant examples.

QUESTION 9

A parliamentary inquiry into youth violence was told that teachers are being distracted from teaching by having to deal with a range of social issues.

These issues include family problems, violence, and even making sure students are properly fed, clothed, and have a place to sleep at night. Many parents are creating false expectations of what teachers should do by neglecting their own parenting obligations.

Schools are not capable of being total welfare agencies.

Has the school replaced the family in the role of parenting?

What do you consider to be the main role of the school in the education of a young person?

Explain your point of view.

QUESTION 10

‘There are advantages and disadvantages of languages other than English becoming commonly used in Australia.’

Discuss this statement.

QUESTION 11

Trounce, Sunday Telegraph, 1/1/1995.

‘Governments are being faced with more and more policy decisions where there is conflict between environmental and other interests.’

How successful have Australian Governments been in addressing environmental concerns in recent years?

Discuss specific examples in your answer.

QUESTION 12

‘The media’s disregard of the right to privacy has reached unacceptable proportions. Individuals have a right to a private life.’

Do you agree with these statements? Support your viewpoint with examples.

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