



**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

**1996**

# **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.

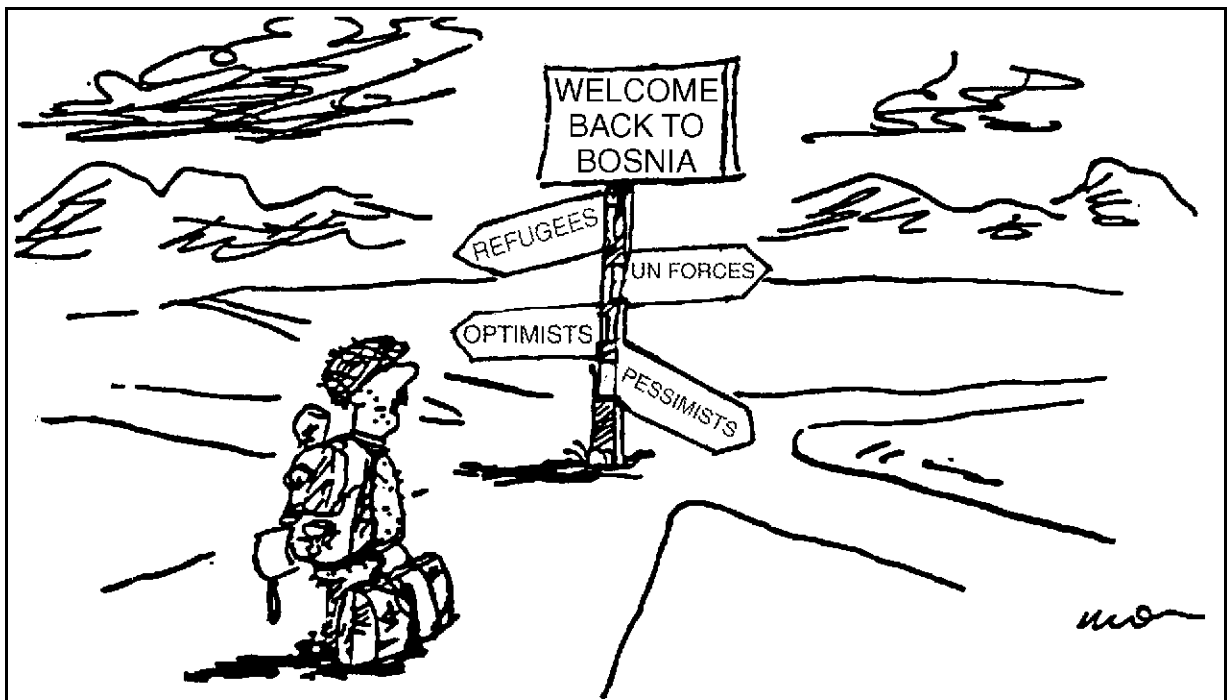
### QUESTION 1

It has been claimed that individual rights are being limited for the sake of the public good.

Examine this claim, and in your answer refer to at least TWO of the following:

- euthanasia
- compulsory wearing of seat-belts
- smoking bans in certain public areas
- control of gun ownership
- illegality of particular drugs
- alcohol-free zones.

### QUESTION 2



Alan Moir, Sydney Morning Herald November 1995

Many modern nations are divided by civil war or ethnic conflict.

Discuss the success of strategies used to resolve such conflicts.

Support your conclusions by referring to at least TWO such conflicts.

### **QUESTION 3**

Describe how television presents human communication and relationships.

How accurate are these images, and do they influence everyday life?

In your answer, refer to at least TWO of the following:

- advertising
- ‘soapies’
- current-affairs programs
- documentaries
- children’s programs
- cartoons.

### **QUESTION 4**

‘Economic development is another name for westernisation.’

Evaluate this claim in terms of the social and political consequences in developing countries.

**QUESTION 5**

Study the following table.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA

	<i>Conditions</i>	<i>Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders</i>	<i>Total population</i>
Health	Life expectancy		
	• men	57 years	74 years
	• women	65 years	80 years
	Infant mortality	17.7 per 1000 live births	6.9 per 1000 live births
Education	High school retention rate	25.2%	77.5%
Household	People per house	4.6	2.6
	Home ownership rate	28%	67%
Income	Median family income	\$24 600	\$34 800
Jobs	Jobless rate	38%	8.5%
	Percentage of jobless who are long-term unemployed	60–70%	46%
The law	In custody	1878 per 100 000	114 per 100 000

What does the table indicate about the social conditions of Australian Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders compared with the total population?

Suggest reasons for these differences.

**QUESTION 6**

1996 is the International Year for Eradication of Poverty.

What is being done to eradicate poverty in the world?

Refer to the United Nations (UN) and at least TWO other organisations.

**QUESTION 7**

Consider whether countries achieve greater national strength by emphasising cultural unity or cultural diversity.

Outline your position on this issue, giving your reasons.

**QUESTION 8**

Read the following newspaper extract.

Youth violence and lawlessness are daily occurrences in some areas.

The new Director General of the Juvenile Justice Department, Ken Buttrum, said ‘Authorities should address the cause of problems. Too often we spend our time looking at punishment rather than cause.’

‘When things like this happen we look at knee-jerk control issues rather than the social factors leading to this problem. Unemployment, family breakdowns, poverty, and drug abuse—these are the critical issues.’

Copyright © The Daily Telegraph

Outline what you think are the critical issues relating to youth violence.

What are the best ways to reduce youth violence?

**QUESTION 9**

Read the following two statements about technology.

- ‘I believe that the technology revolution is basically going to cause more problems than it solves. It isolates people.’
- ‘The technology revolution has injected a degree of optimism into the contemporary world.’

Which statement do you most support?

Give reasons for your answer and refer to recent technological advances.

**QUESTION 10**

In recent years, religion has been linked with sport.

Is sport becoming a substitute for religion in Australia today?

Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

**QUESTION 11**

At a number of recent youth forums there have been calls for lowering the voting age to sixteen.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of such a move in Australia.

**QUESTION 12**

© Buddy Ross. Cumberland Newspaper Group.

Explain what this cartoon suggests about the problems of pollution.

Who should be responsible for the control of pollution? Why?

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE