



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1997
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

The strength of democracy is that the majority view should prevail. The weakness is that the individual may not be heard. Comment on the place of individual rights in a democracy, with reference to at least TWO of the following:

- gun control
- compulsory vaccination
- the right to euthanasia
- marijuana legalisation
- freedom of speech
- capital punishment.

QUESTION 2

Is the impact of science and technology always good for everyone? Answer this question in relation to at least TWO of the following:

- military related research
- performance enhancement in sports
- genetic engineering
- vaccine development
- information technology.

QUESTION 3

Conflict resolution is most often attempted by the peaceful process of negotiation, mediation, and conciliation. But sometimes force seems to be the only solution.

Examine an example of a peaceful attempt AND an example of a non-peaceful attempt at resolving recent national or international conflicts.

QUESTION 4

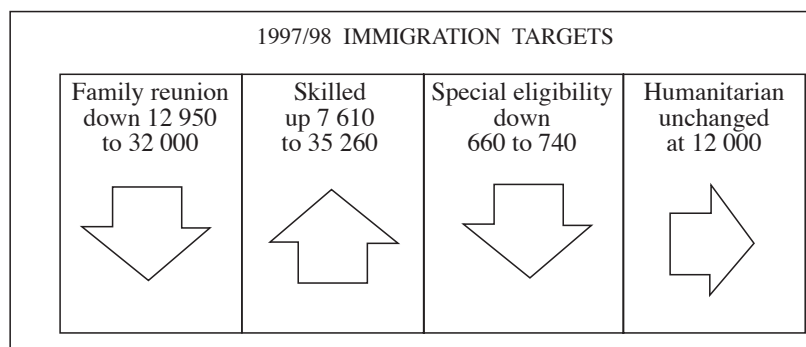
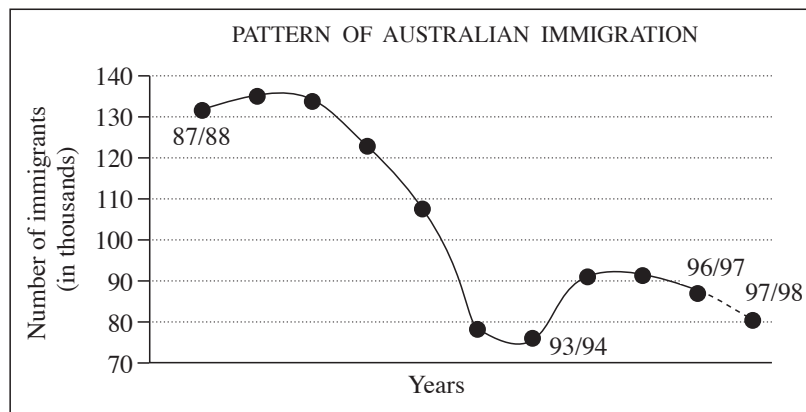
Politicians often call for a 'return to basic family values', but is this possible in today's society?

In your answer, consider factors such as:

- the changing roles of men and women
- an upsurge in domestic violence
- an aging population
- chronic unemployment
- increasing substance abuse.

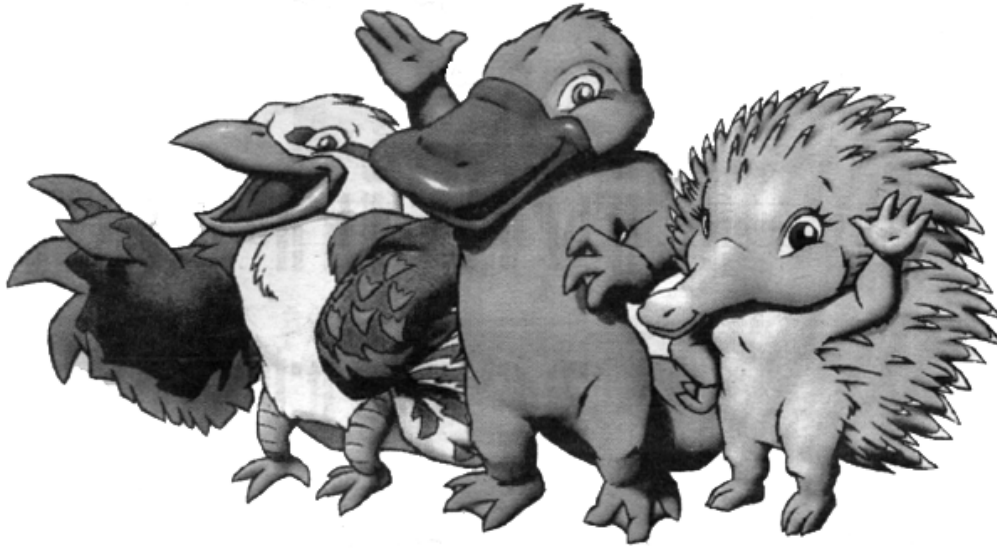
QUESTION 5

Study the following:



SMH 22 MAY 1997, P1.

- What does this information indicate about Federal Government decisions on immigration?
- Discuss some of the issues considered by the Government before making decisions on immigration.
- In your opinion, what factors should be considered when planning Australian immigration policy?

QUESTION 6

THREE MASCOTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR
THE SYDNEY OLYMPIC GAMES (OLLY, SYD, AND MILLIE)

TM © SOCOG 1996.

- (a) What image of Australia do these mascots present to the world?
- (b) Is this an appropriate image of Australia?
- (c) Does the support for the Sydney Olympic Games detract from support for other cultural activities?

QUESTION 7

Books, films and magazines are all subject to censorship laws. However, computers and the Internet allow users to find and share information on every possible subject without censorship.

Evaluate the difficulties this lack of censorship creates for at least TWO of the following:

- parents of young children
- students
- schools
- media owners
- governments
- religious institutions.

QUESTION 8

From toxic waste to plastic bags, waste disposal is a serious environmental problem.

Identify ways in which the problem can be addressed by each of the following:

- individuals
- manufacturers
- governments
- environmental organisations.

QUESTION 9

Religion provides some people with a purpose for peace; it provides others with a purpose for war.

By reference to at least TWO examples, discuss the role of religion in situations of conflict.

QUESTION 10



SMH December 1996. Courtesy Cathy Wilcox.

- (a) What are the key issues that the artist is presenting in the cartoon?
- (b) Examine how ONE of these issues has been addressed through legislation, or government action, or by education programs.

QUESTION 11

A number of international institutions and corporations claim to be working to reduce the inequality between developed and developing countries.

Identify TWO of these international institutions or corporations AND evaluate their efforts to reduce inequality between developed and developing countries.

QUESTION 12

**DUE TO COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS THIS
IMAGE COULD NOT BE REPRODUCED.**

- (a) Is the increasing use of male models an indication of changing sex roles?
- (b) Is changing of sex roles the same as sexual equality?
- (c) What do you think sexual equality means in the 1990s?

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