

B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1998
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

Australia Day, Anzac Day and the Melbourne Cup are seen by many Australians as significant occasions on our national calendar.

How do public holidays and major sporting events assist in defining Australian culture?

QUESTION 2

Some police forces say they cannot stop the illegal drug trade. Others say the fight must go on. Different responses to the problem have included:

- total prohibition and stiffer penalties
- decriminalisation
- drug education
- medical treatment.

Assess the effectiveness of at least TWO of these responses.

QUESTION 3

People are only interested in environmental issues when their quality of life is threatened.

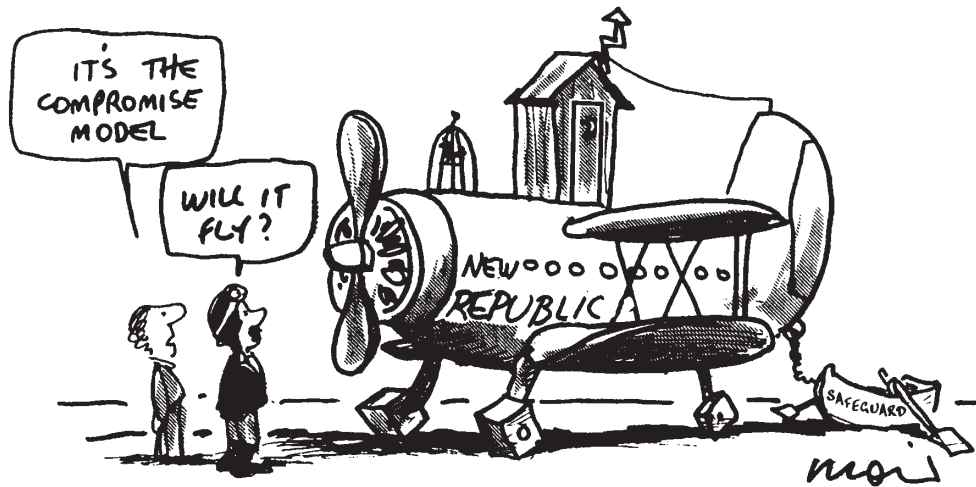
Do you agree? Support your response with appropriate examples.

QUESTION 4

Since the United Nations was established in 1946 there have been over 150 international conflicts in countries from Korea and Cambodia to Somalia and Serbia.

Is this a fair measure of the success of the United Nations as an international peace-keeping body? Justify your response with relevant evidence.

QUESTION 5



Alan Moir Sydney Morning Herald

- (a) What issues are raised in the cartoon?
- (b) What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of Australia becoming a republic?

QUESTION 6

Scientists use technology to develop solutions for problems. However, they often take no responsibility for whether the solutions are good or bad.

Discuss this approach with reference to at least TWO of the following:

- communication satellites
- military weapons
- irrigation
- cloning
- woodchipping
- electricity generation.

QUESTION 7

The media has become increasingly interested in the lives of high-profile individuals, sensational events and trivia.

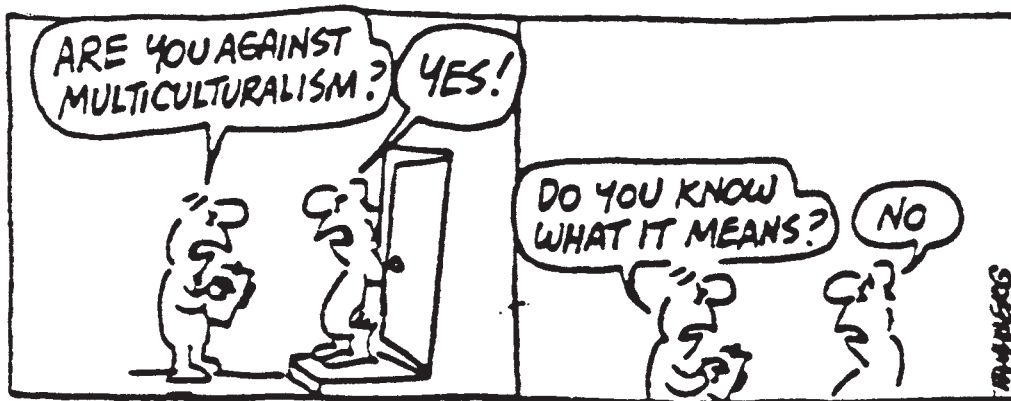
Should there be a balance between the public's *right to know* and the individual's *right to privacy*? Support your response with appropriate examples.

QUESTION 8

It has been argued that religion should have no place in political and social issues in the 1990s.

What do you think? Support your opinion with reference to at least TWO examples of religious involvement in such issues.

QUESTION 9



Ron Tandberg/The Age

- (a) What does multiculturalism mean to you?
- (b) How successful is Australia as a multicultural society?

QUESTION 10

In Australia, the United States of America and many developing countries, the health and education levels of the indigenous population remain below those of the non-indigenous population.

- (a) What do you believe are the causes of these differences in living standards?
- (b) What strategies would you suggest to improve the situation?

QUESTION 11

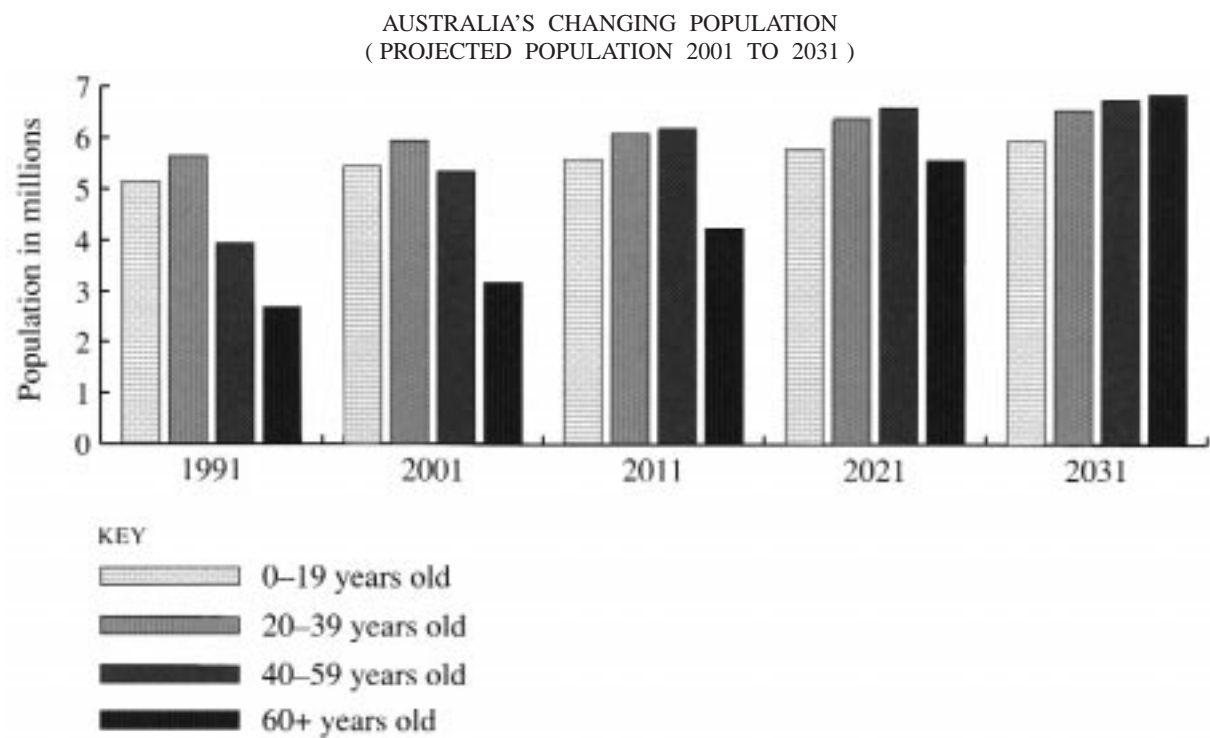


Table: Australia' Changing Population (Projected Pop'n 2001–2031)

- (a) What does the above information indicate about the changing nature of the Australian population?
- (b) What are the implications of these changes for government policies and family life?

QUESTION 12

Many inventions have influenced our lives.

Evaluate the impact of this influence by referring to at least TWO of the following:

- computers
- mobile phones
- surveillance cameras
- random-breath-testing machines
- electronic banking.

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