

BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1999
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.

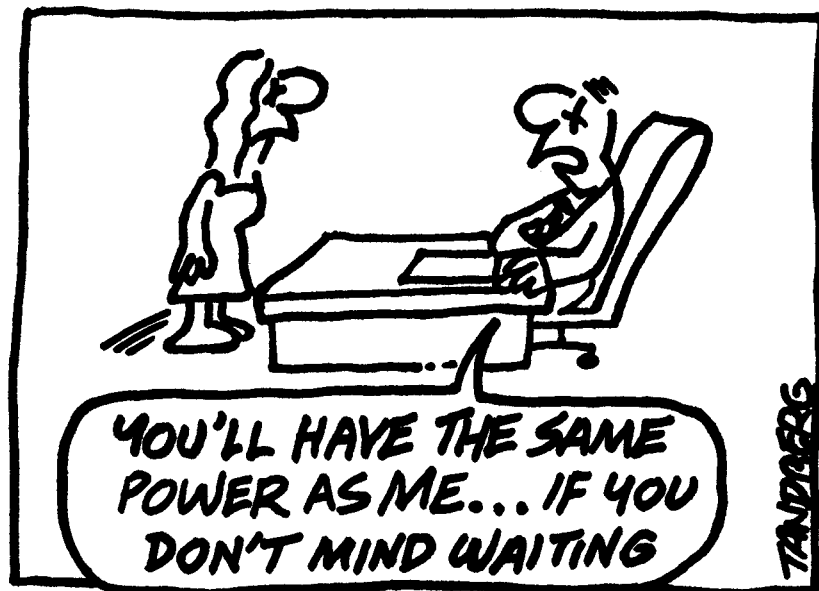
QUESTION 1

'The mass media is more concerned with marketing and advertising than presenting information and entertainment.'

Is this statement an accurate description of the role of today's mass media?

QUESTION 2

Approximately seventy years ago, a famous Australian opera singer, Dame Nellie Melba stated: 'Woman never has and woman never will be man's equal'.



Do you believe the statement by Melba and the cartoon apply to the current status of women?

Support your answer with relevant examples.

QUESTION 3

‘Technological change has had minimal impact on both the nature and the purpose of work in our society.’

Do you agree? Support your answer with relevant examples.

QUESTION 4

‘As the world community becomes more global, obstacles to development for many poorer countries become even greater.’

Evaluate this statement and discuss the main obstacles to the development of poorer countries.

QUESTION 5

‘People, purely because of the colour of my skin and people who I have had no interaction with whatsoever, will refuse to get into a lift with me.’

CATHY FREEMAN, *The Daily Telegraph*, 20 November 1998

- (a) What issues are raised in the quotation?
- (b) To what extent has Australia been successful in dealing with the issues of racism?

QUESTION 6

How effective has negotiation been in recent years in helping to resolve international conflicts?

QUESTION 7

‘Our increasing appetite for graphic depictions of violence in films, videos and computer games leads to greater feelings of aggression in individuals and the desire to act violently.’

Is this an accurate portrayal of today’s society?

QUESTION 8

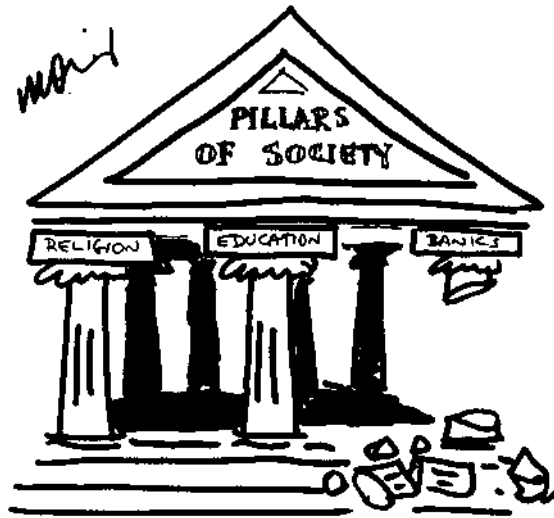
‘Australia does not possess an identifiable culture. Sadly, we borrow too much from other countries.’

Do you agree with this statement? In your response, refer to at least TWO of the following:

- multicultural influences
- sporting events
- indigenous culture
- community celebrations.

Support your response with appropriate examples.

QUESTION 9



- (a) In what ways can religion be regarded as a pillar of society?
- (b) Can religion satisfy the spiritual needs of a materialistic society?
- Support your response with appropriate examples.

QUESTION 10



- (a) What issues are raised in the cartoon?
- (b) Should individuals or politicians have the right to make life and death decisions?
- Support your response with appropriate examples.

QUESTION 11

‘No government can be secure without a formidable opposition.’

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Do you agree with this statement?

Support your answer with relevant examples.

QUESTION 12

- (a) What are the key issues presented by the cartoonist?
- (b) What roles do governments have in addressing national and global environmental problems?

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