

2002 School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship Specimen Test

Introduction

This booklet contains the test specifications and the specimen test for the 2002 School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship test. A mapping grid is also included, showing how each question in the test relates to the syllabus outcomes and content, and to the performance bands.

The specimen test shows the format of the School Certificate test. Actual test papers will be produced as A4 booklets stapled together.

The 2002 School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship specimen test has been produced in accordance with the Board's *Principles for Setting School Certificate Tests and Developing Marking Guidelines in a Standards-Referenced Framework*, published in Board Bulletin Vol 10, No 1, March 2001. Questions are closely related to the outcomes of the courses, and the paper as a whole is structured to allow for appropriate differentiation of student performance at all levels on the performance scale.

The test has been designed so that students have a clear understanding of what they are required to do in each question and in working through the paper. Instructions have been standardised, and the demands of the questions have been made explicit. Key words in questions, such as 'discuss', 'analyse', and 'explain', have been used consistently in accordance with the Glossary of Key Terms published in Board Bulletin Vol 8, No 5, July 1999.

This specimen test is an example of the type of test that could be prepared within the test specifications included in this package. Tests will be based on the mandatory Stage 5 courses in the History and Geography syllabuses, and will test a representative sample of syllabus outcomes. The range and balance of outcomes tested in the School Certificate test in 2002 and subsequent years may differ from those addressed in the specimen test.

The mapping grid is an important feature of the development of the test. It aids in ensuring that the test as a whole has a representative sample of content and outcomes, and allows all students the opportunity to demonstrate their level of achievement.

There are a number of points to note in considering the School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship specimen test:

- There is a variety of question types. Some questions have parts while others ask a single question that requires an integrated response. Together, these question types provide candidates with opportunities to demonstrate a range of skills across different levels of the performance scale.
- The number of short-answer questions and the marks allocated to these questions in Section 1 Parts A, B and C, and Section 2 Parts D, E and F, may vary from year to year.

- All question parts are out of whole marks. This will assist candidates in determining the relative value of questions and parts, and in allocating their time appropriately.
- The number of lines provided for answers to questions may vary from year to year, reflecting the allocated marks and the scope of the question.
- The test may utilise a variety of stimulus material, which will generally be included immediately above the question(s) that directly relate to it. Separate source material may be included if appropriate.
- Questions are drawn from the mandatory syllabus content of the Stage 5 History and Geography syllabuses (1998). In History, topics are nominated for Part A and B to enable the choice of appropriate source material, however, as for Geography, all topics in the mandatory part of the syllabus must be studied.
- The mandatory site study in the Stage 5 History syllabus may be incorporated by students in an answer to a question(s) on the paper. There will not be a separate question on a site study in the test.
- Nominated topics for Section 1 – History, Parts A and B, for the 2002 Specimen Test and the 2002 School Certificate test are:
Topic 1: Australian Social and Political Life to 1914
Topic 5: Post-war Australia to the 1970s.