

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

**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

**2000**

# **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 is extremely difficult for governments to legislate in a way that satisfies most people.’

Do you agree with this view?

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

- Taxation
- Internet content
- Social security
- Gambling
- Human cloning

**QUESTION 2**

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- (a) In what ways does language contribute to the process of human communication and social interaction?
- (b) Will new and emerging forms of communication make traditional forms obsolete?

**QUESTION 3**

‘The family is in a state of decline and the question is posed: Can the family survive?’

What is your opinion? Support your answer with relevant examples.

#### QUESTION 4

'Prejudice and discrimination are frequently seen in today's society.'

- (a) Do you agree? Support your answer with relevant examples.
- (b) How effective are at least TWO of the following in addressing these issues?
- Television
  - Political parties
  - Religions
  - Schools
  - Governments
  - Community groups

#### QUESTION 5



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- (a) What issues are raised in the cartoon?
- (b) What roles does the international community have in the prevention and resolution of national and international conflicts?

Support your answer with relevant examples.

**QUESTION 6**

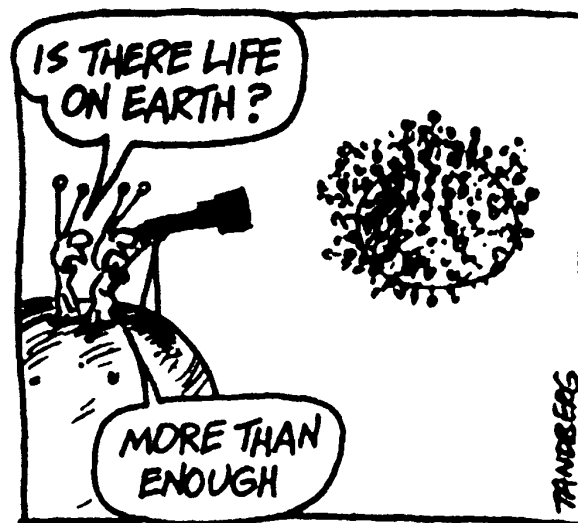
'Religion serves no function in today's society.'

Do you agree? Support your answer with relevant examples.

**QUESTION 7**

For a number of years, the minds of Australians have been focused on the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Do you believe that hosting the Olympic Games has assisted in generating a stronger sense of cultural identity? Give reasons to support your answer.

**QUESTION 8**

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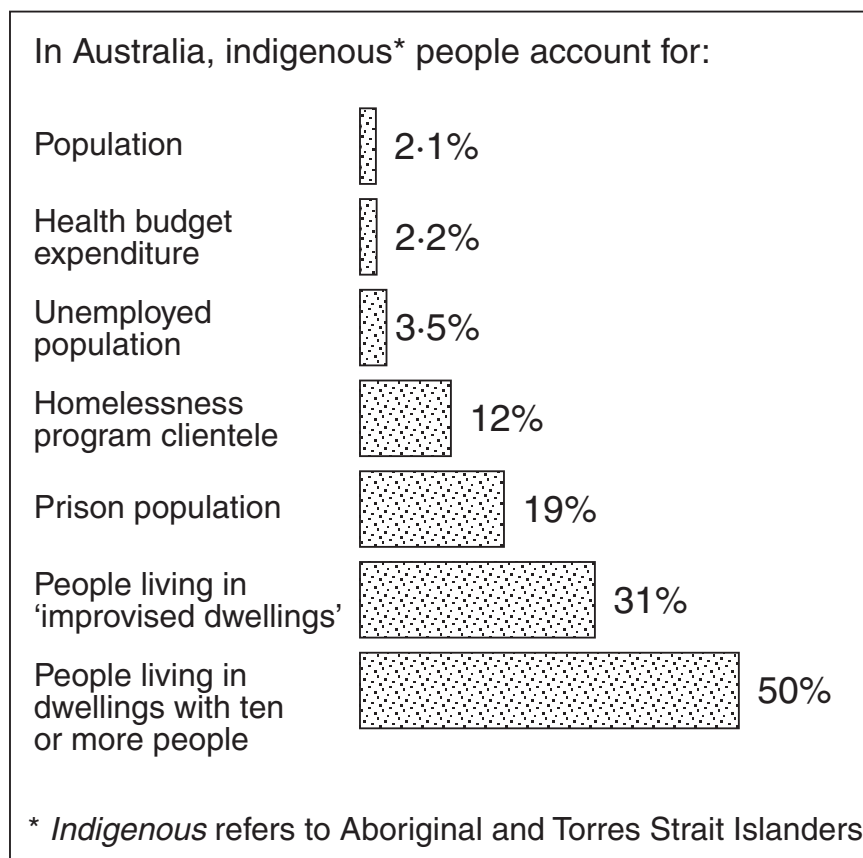
- (a) What environmental and social implications for Earth and its inhabitants are presented by the cartoonist?
- (b) What roles do governments, organisations and individuals have in dealing with environmental issues?

### QUESTION 9

‘The point of aid is to tackle poverty. But it has failed to do so. Targets have been missed and promises have been broken—and now world aid is being cut back to the lowest level in twenty years.’

To what extent does the reduction of poverty in less developed countries depend upon effective assistance from developed countries?

### QUESTION 10



Data from *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, August 1999

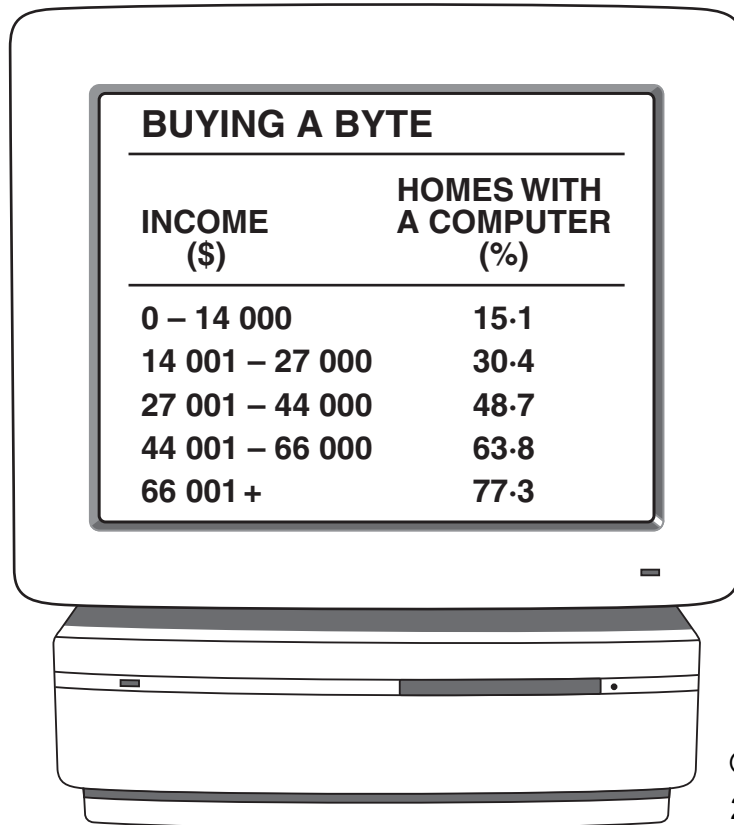
- What issues are raised by the data in the graph?
- Suggest ways of improving the living conditions of indigenous Australians. Support your answer with relevant examples.

## QUESTION 11



'In a world first operation, doctors have restored fertility in a woman after menopause, raising the prospect that women will be able to conceive naturally into their 60s or older.'

- (a) What social, political and ethical questions do the above cartoon and statement raise?
- (b) What are the possible implications for quality of life for future generations?

**QUESTION 12**

- (a) What do the above figures reveal about computer accessibility in Australia?
- (b) What are the implications for Australian society if basic access to computers and other modern technologies is dependent largely on income?

**End of paper**

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