WACE Content Grid 2015–2018 (+PLEAWA exam 2019)

**Unit 3**

| **Syllabus** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** |
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| Essential to the understanding of political and legal power is the knowledge of responsible government, representative government, separation of powers, division of powers and Westminster conventions. | **1 a**  **3 b** | **6 b d** | **3 a** |  |  |
| legislative, executive and judicial powers with reference to the Commonwealth Constitution (Australia) **and** with comparison to one non-Westminster political and legal system | **5 d** |  | **1 a c** |  |  |
| * functions of the Commonwealth Parliament in theory and in practice, including Sections 7, 24, 51, 53, and the decline of parliament thesis | **8** | **5 d** | **1 b**  **7** |  | **7** |
| * roles and powers of the Governor-General, including Sections 61, 62, 63, 64, 68, 28, 57, 72, and ‘the 1975 crisis’ | **5 a b c** | **2 a b c** |  |  | **(10)** |
| * roles and powers of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Ministry |  | **1 a b**  **8** | **8** |  | **2 a b c** |
| * roles and powers of the opposition and the shadow ministry at the Commonwealth level | **2 b** | **1 c** | **8** | **2 a b c** |  |
| * political mandates in theory and in practice, including competing mandates |  | **5 a b c** |  | **1 a b c** |  |
| * lawmaking process in parliament and the courts, with reference to the influence of * individuals * political parties * pressure groups | **2 a c** |  |  | **7** |  |
| * roles and powers of the High Court of Australia, including Sections 71, 72, 73, 75 and 76 with reference to at least one common law decision and at least one constitutional decision |  |  |  | **5 a b c** | **8** |
| Federalism in Australia with reference to:  * constitutional powers of State and Commonwealth parliaments, including exclusive, concurrent and residual powers, Sections 51, 52, 90, 107 and 109  financial powers of the Commonwealth Parliament, including taxation power, tied or special purpose grants, including Sections 51(ii), 87, 90, 92 and 96  * change in the balance of power since federation, with reference to * financial powers, including vertical fiscal imbalance and horizontal fiscal equalisation, the Grants Commission * referral of powers Section 51(xxxvii) * the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) * co-operative federalism as opposed to coercive federalism * High Court of Australia constitutional interpretation, including external affairs power Section 51(xxix), corporations power Section 51(xx), and taxation powers | **1 b c** | **7** | **2 a**  **5 a b c d** | **8** | **1a b c** |
| * formal and informal methods of constitutional change and their impact * referendums, including Section 128 * High Court of Australia decisions * referral of powers * unchallenged legislation | **7** |  | **2 b** |  | **5 a c d** |
| **Political and Legal Issues** |  |  |  |  |  |
| * at least one reform proposal to change the Commonwealth Constitution (Australia), such as * the move to become a republic * reference to Indigenous Australians in the Commonwealth Constitution (Australia) * recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution (Australia) | **7** |  | **2 c** |  | **5 b** |
| * at least one contemporary issue (the last three years) relating to political power. |  |  |  |  |  |
| * at least one contemporary issue (the last three years) relating to legal power. |  |  |  | **5 d** |  |

**Unit 4**

| **Syllabus** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Political and legal systems** |  | | | |  |
| Essential to the understanding of accountability and rights are the practices of governance, including participation, the rule of law, human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural, open government, consensus, effectiveness, accountability, natural justice and equity. | **4 a b** | **4 b** | **4 b** |  | **6 a b c d** |
| * the accountability of the Commonwealth Parliament * through elections for the House of Representatives and the Senate * through the House of Representatives and Senate Privileges Committees * within the procedures and processes of the Parliament * through judicial review | **6 a b c d**  **4 c** | **3 a b c** |  | **9** |  |
| * the accountability of the Executive and public servants * through collective and individual ministerial responsibility * through Senate Estimates and at least one other committee of the Commonwealth Parliament * through the Commonwealth Auditor General and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) * through judicial review | **3 a c** | **6 a c** | **6 a b c d** |  | **9** |
| * the extent of the accountability of the Governor-General and the Office of the Governor-General * through appointment * through removal * ‘the 1975 crisis’ and ‘the Hollingworth affair’ |  |  | **3 b c** |  | **10** |
| * the accountability of the courts * through the appeals process * through parliamentary scrutiny and legislation * through transparent processes and public confidence * through the censure and removal of judges, including Section 72 |  | **4 a c** | **9** | **6 a b c d** |  |
| * the ways human rights are protected in Australia, including in the Constitution, common law, statutory law, and charter of rights, such as the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Victoria) and the *Human Rights Act 2004* (Australian Capital Territory) | **9** | **10** | **4 a** | **10** |  |
| the ways human rights are protected in one other country |  |  |  | **10** |  |
| the status of international covenants, protocols and treaties in protecting human rights in Australia |  | **10** |  |  | **3a b c** |
| * the ways in which Australia and one other country can both uphold and/or undermine democratic principles, with reference to * political representation * popular participation * the rule of law * judicial independence * natural justice | **10** |  | **10** | **3 a b c** |  |
| **Political and legal issues** |  |  |  |  |  |
| the changing experience of a particular group with respect to their political and legal rights in Australia. |  | **9** | **4 c** |  | **4 a b c** |