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M.P.S.E.- 12

State and Society in Australia

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By: Gaurav Sahni



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Content

STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

Question Paper–June-2023 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–December-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—Exam Held in March-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—Exam Held in February-2021 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—December, 2019 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—June, 2019 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—December, 2018 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—June, 2018 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—December, 2017 (Solved)	1
Question Paper—June, 2017 (Solved)	1-2

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	Australia: Land and People	1
2.	Aboriginals People and European Settlers' Colonization	10
3.	Immigrants	18
4.	Identity and Citizenship	27
5.	Constitutional Development—A Historical Perspective	36
6.	Federalism in Australia	51
7.	Political Parties and Pressure Groups in Australia	62
8.	Australian Nationalism	77

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
9.	Development Strategies	85
10.	Socio-Economic Impact of Developmental Strategies	91
11.	Australia in The World Economy	99
12.	Current Debates on Aborigines	107
13.	Immigration and Ethnicity	117
14.	Australian Multiculturalism	128
15.	Gender and Women Issues	135
16.	Indians in Australia	145



**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

M.P.S.E.-12

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Attempt five questions in all, selecting at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-I

Q. 1. Discuss Australian identity and imagination.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 6-7, 'Australian Identity and Imagination'.

Q. 2. How was Australia colonised? Elaborate.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 15, Q. No. 2.

Q. 3. Examine the role of immigrants in Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, 'Immigrants and Australian Society'.

Q. 4. Discuss ethnic and racial differences in Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 27, 'Introduction', Page No. 31, 'Political Representation and Participation of Ethnic and Racial Minorities'.

Q. 5. Explain the Australian Constitutional Crisis of 1975.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 39, 'Constitutional Crisis of 1975'.

SECTION-II

Q. 6. What is new federalism during the rule of Fraser and Hawke?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 56, 'New Federalism'.

Q. 7. Explain the changing dynamics of party system in Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 62, 'Introduction', 'Antecedents of the Australian Party System', 'Compulsory Voting and Party System'.

Q. 8. Discuss Australia's development strategy since World War II.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 85, 'Post-Second World War Development Strategy'.

Q. 9. Explain Australian government's policies towards Aborigines.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 108, 'Debates and Issues in Australia'.

Q. 10. Discuss the status of women in Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 135, 'Women in Australian Society', Page No. 137, 'Women in Employment' and Page No. 139, 'Women in Politics and Government'.

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QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

M.P.S.E.-12

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Attempt five questions in all, selecting at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION – I

Q. 1. Explain geographical features of Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 7, Q. No. 1 and Q. No. 2.

Q. 2. Describe the ethnic and cultural complexities in Australian society.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, 'Culture and Lifestyle'.

Q. 3. What is White Australian Policy and how did it decline?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 18, 'White Australian Policy' and Page No. 20, 'Decline of the White Australia Policy'.

Q. 4. How Australian minorities are politically represented?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 29, 'Politics of Recognition' and Page No. 34, Q. No. 2.

Q. 5. Describe the making of the Australian Constitution.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 36, 'Making of the Constitution and Constitutional Principles'.

SECTION – II

Q. 6. Explain the division of powers in Australian Federation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 52, 'Division of Powers'.

Q. 7. Describe the role of intergovernmental bodies and leaders' forum.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 56, 'The Significance of Intergovernmental Bodies' and Page No. 57, 'The Leaders' Forum'.

Q. 8. Discuss the rise of nationalism in Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 77, 'Rise of Nationalism'.

Q. 9. How is Australia engaged with world economy? Discuss

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 102, 'Australia's Engagement with the World Economy' and 'Prospects of Australia in the World Economy'.

Q. 10. 'Immigration policies have led to economic prosperity in Australia'. Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 25, Q. No. 1 and Chapter-13, Page No. 122, 'Ethnicity, Immigration and Globalization'.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

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STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA



Australia: Land and People

INTRODUCTION

Australia officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a country comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania and numerous smaller islands. It is the world's sixth-largest country by total area. It is considered to be land of cultural and topographical unity. Australia is also the only continent that is governed as a single country. It is sometimes informally referred to as an 'island' continent, surrounded by oceans. For at least 40,000 years before the first British settlement in the late 18th century, Australia was inhabited by indigenous Australians, who belonged to one or more of roughly 250 language groups. After discovery by Dutch explorers in 1606, Australia's eastern half was claimed by Great Britain in 1770 and settled through penal transportation to the colony of New South Wales from 26 January, 1788. The population grew steadily in subsequent decades; the continent was explored and an additional five self-governing Crown Colonies were established. Throughout the history of the continent, there have been many different Aboriginal groups, each with its own individual language, culture and belief structure. At the time of British settlement, there were over 200 distinct languages.

The country of Australia is popularly known as down under throughout the world. Australia's size gives it a wide variety of landscapes, with sub-tropical rain forests in the north-east, mountain ranges in the south-east, south-west and

east and dry desert in the centre. It is the flattest continent, with the oldest and least fertile soils; desert or semi-arid land commonly known as the outback makes up by far the largest portion of land. It is located in Oceania between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean at 27°S 144°E. It is the sixth largest country in the world with a total area of 7,686,850 square kilometers (2,967,909 sq. mi) (including Lord Howe Island and Macquarie Island), making it slightly smaller than the contiguous 48 states of the United States and 31.5 times larger than the United Kingdom. Australia comprises six states and various territories; the Australian mainland is made up of five states and two territories, with the sixth island state of Tasmania to the south of the mainland. In addition, there are six island territories, known as external territories and Australian Antarctic Territory. All states and two of the three internal territories have their own Parliaments and administer themselves; all remaining territories are administered by the Federal Government.

In this chapter, we will learn about the land and people of Australia. We will also learn about the various features related with the topography of Australia and its climate.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

TOPOGRAPHY

The Coastal Plains are a narrow strip of land along the eastern coast of Australia that extends from Queensland to Victoria. This area is flat and has

2 / NEERAJ : STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

relatively high rainfall. Australia can be regarded as a landscape of broad swells varied by a number of sedimentary basins (Murray, Gippsland, Eucla, Carpentaria, Lake Eyre and others). These slowly filled up and some are now sources of coal or oil. Most of the Eastern Highlands were uplifted at about this time, although a few parts were still experiencing uplift as recently as one million years ago. The Central Australian region was also uplifted and then eroded, leaving remnant mountains and individual peaks such as Uluru (Ayers Rock), which was exposed about 65 million years ago. Another feature of this era is the Nullarbor Plain, an uplifted limestone sea floor dating to about 25 million years ago. The Queensland coast is bounded by a broad plateau which has been exposed during the various glacial periods. Coral reefs have grown on this plateau at various times during the last 700,000 years when it has been submerged, although the present Great Barrier Reef, which did not start to form until after the last glaciation, is only a few thousand years old.

Australia is the lowest, flattest and apart from Antarctica, the driest of the continents. Unlike Europe and North America, where some landscapes date back to only around 10-20,000 years ago, when great ice sheets retreated, the age of landforms in Australia is generally measured in many millions of years. This gives Australia a very distinctive physical geography. Much of the Western Plateau is relatively flat. There are, however, numerous more rugged areas near the coastal boundaries of the Plateau, including the Kimberley region and Hamersley Ranges in Western Australia, as well as a number of relatively isolated ranges in central Australia (such as the Macdonnell and Musgrave Ranges) and individual mountains, of which Uluru (Ayers Rock) is probably the best known.

River erosion has been important in carving the detail of much of the Australian landscape. Those rivers which flow directly to the sea have dissected a broad near-coast region into plateaus, hills and valleys. Other rivers drain inland and while they may be eroding the valleys near their highland sources, their lower courses are filling up with alluvium. Most rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin reach the sea, but many elsewhere either end in salt lakes which are dry for most of the time (such as Lake Eyre), or terminate on the plains of the Central Lowlands (such

as the Paroo). Many of the features of the drainage patterns of Australia have a very long history and some individual valleys have maintained their position for hundreds of millions of years. The salt lakes of the Yilgarn Plateau in Western Australia are the remnants of a drainage pattern that was active before continental drift separated Australia from Antarctica.

On a global scale, the last few million years were notable for the Quaternary ice age. There were many glacial and interglacial periods during this time, with the last ending about 12,000 years ago. As in the rest of the world, Australia's climate during this time was much cooler (and probably generally drier) than it is today, but only small parts of the continent were glaciated—the Central Plateau of Tasmania and an area of about 25 sq km around the summit of Mount Kosciuszko, above 1,800 metres elevation.

The offshore shape of Australia, revealed in isobath contours, results mainly from the pattern of break-up of the super-continent of which Australia was once a part. The continental shelf around Australia varies greatly in width; in some areas it is several hundred kilometres wide, while in other areas, such as off far south-eastern New South Wales and much of Tasmania, it is less than 40 km in width. In South Australia, the continental shelf is cut by submarine canyons up to 4,600 metres deep offshore from the mouth of the Murray River.

The landforms of Australia that travellers like to visit include some pretty spectacular outback gorges, many of which are to be found in Western Australia. The Kimberley region in particular has a great many gorges to visit including Windjana Gorge, Geikie Gorge and Cathedral Gorge. The mainland continent can be divided into three large areas:

- The Great Western Plateau.
- The Central Lowlands.
- The Eastern Highlands.

The Great Western Plateau

Much of the Western Plateau is relatively flat. There are, however, numerous more rugged areas near the coastal boundaries of the Plateau, including the Kimberley region and Hamersley Ranges in Western Australia, as well as a number of relatively isolated ranges in central Australia (such as the Macdonnell and Musgrave Ranges) and individual mountains, of which Uluru (Ayers Rock) is probably the best known. Western Plateau consists of about

60 per cent of the continent, more than 4,500,000 sq km of central and western Australia. The Western Plateau contains some of the world's oldest rocks and substantial mineral deposits. The flat, treeless Nullarbor Plain of south central Australia is the southern edge of the plateau. Erosion of the plateau's thick sandstones has produced mesas and buttes in Arnhem Land in the north and in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of the northwest. In the centre of the continent rise the MacDonnell Ranges, carved out of ancient sediments and deformed by open folding. They culminate in Mount Zeil, at 1,150 m, the highest point in the Western Plateau. Ayers Rock is to the south of this area. The landscape is the sand ridge desert occurs in the great sandy, Gibson and Simpson desert in central low land Australia.

The Western Plateau is marked by aridity and its desert and semi-desert lands are extensive. The soils are generally thin and of little or no value for agriculture or grazing. Much of this area is covered with sand ridges. Sand-ridge country accounts for nearly a quarter of Australia's total land area. Other large portions of the continent's desert and semi-desert country consist of gibber (stony desert), formed by the breakup of surface rocks.

The Central Eastern Lowlands

The Central Lowlands stretch from the Gulf of Carpentaria through the Great Artesian Basin to the Murray-Darling Plains. Most of this area is flat and low-lying. The main exception occurs in South Australia, where relatively recent faulting has occurred and the area takes the form of a number of blocks which have been moved up to form a series of ranges (e.g. the Flinders Ranges and Adelaide Hills), with the down-faulted blocks in between forming plains, some of them submerged (e.g. Spencer Gulf). Much of the Central Lowlands is occupied by the Great Artesian Basin, which consists of sedimentary rocks which hold water that enters in the wetter Eastern Highlands.

Between the two ridges is a lowland carved out by the glaciers of the last ice age. The lowland includes the Green Bay, Lake Winnebago and several other small rivers and lakes. While there are some escarpments along the ridges, the region is primarily flat and the changes in elevation are usually gradual. The flatness of the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands region makes it especially suitable for agriculture. The majority of the region is covered by farmland.

Forests are scarce except for in the far northern part of the region. Besides farmland, the area includes a significant amount of urban and sub-urban development and a large proportion of Wisconsin's population. Many of Wisconsin's largest cities are located in the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands region, including Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha, Racine, Appleton and others. The abundance of cities in the area make it Wisconsin's most populous region.

The Eastern Highlands

The Eastern Highlands, stretching along most of the length of the east coast, are characterised over much of their length by a steep escarpment on the coastal side, a series of high plateaus and then more gentle sloping towards the inland. While the highest elevations (over 1,800 metres) are found in the Snowy Mountains and Victorian Alps, many of the plateaus further north in New South Wales exceed 1,000 metres elevation. In Queensland, however, 1,000 metres is only reached in a few locations and the highlands are generally less pronounced.

The coastal escarpment is particularly marked along much of the New South Wales and southern Queensland coast, as well as more isolated ranges further north, such as those around Cairns. Australia's highest waterfalls occur where rivers flow over this escarpment. In the Victorian part of the highlands, the old plateau has been eroded into separate ranges and high plains and is relatively steep on both the coastal and inland sides. Between the escarpment and the coast lies a coastal strip, sometimes flat but quite hilly in many places and rarely more than 100 km wide.

As a result of the plateau-like nature of much of the Eastern Highlands, the Great Dividing Range, which separates rivers flowing to central Australia or the Murray-Darling Basin from those flowing to the Pacific Ocean or Bass Strait, is not very pronounced in most locations. In some places, such as the northern Snowy Mountains and Brindabella Ranges, the highest ranges do not coincide with the Great Dividing Range (which in that area is east of Canberra).

CLIMATE

If we went through the pages of the history we will find that Australia was drifted across the surface of the earth like a plate, moving in north direction. Previously it was positioned near Antarctica. Due to

4 / NEERAJ : STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

that very reason there are number of changes occurs in the climate of the country. Compared to other continents, Australia causes little obstruction to the atmospheric systems which control the climate. A notable exception is the eastern uplands which modify the atmospheric flow, sometimes causing the 'Easterly Dip' which is evident in some surface pressure charts. The climate of eastern and northern Australia is influenced by the Southern Oscillation (SO), a see-sawing of atmospheric pressure between the northern Australian-Indonesian region and the central Pacific Ocean. This oscillation is one of the most important causes of climatic variation after the annual seasonal cycle over eastern and northern Australia.

Temperature

Australia experiences temperate weather for most of the year but the climate can vary due to the size of our continent. The northern states typically experience warm weather much of the time, with the southern states experiencing cooler winters. Australia is also one of the driest continents on earth with an average annual rainfall of less than 600 millimetres. Like all countries in the southern hemisphere, Australia's seasons are opposite to those in the northern hemisphere. Since it is a small continent separated from Polar Regions by the Southern Ocean, Australia does not get the harsh snaps of polar air that swarm over Northern Hemisphere continents during winter. The continents in the Northern Hemisphere have a considerable temperature contrast between summer and winter, whereas in Australia the temperature contrast is small. In many parts of the country, seasonal high and lows can be great with temperatures ranging from above 50 °C (122 °F) to well below zero. Minimum temperatures are moderated by the lack of mountains and the influence of surrounding oceans.

July is the month with the lowest average temperature in all parts of the continent. The months with the highest average temperature are January or February in the south and December in the north (except in the extreme north and north-west where it is November). The slightly lower temperatures of mid-summer in the north are due to the increase in cloud during the wet season.

Precipitation

Australia is a vast continent with huge extremes of rainfall. There is great variation between the areas

that receive the highest and lowest amounts. Nearly 40 per cent of the continent receives below 10 inches of rain, on the other hand the remaining 9 per cent receives more than 40 inches of rainfall. The region with the highest median annual rainfall is the east coast of Queensland between Cairns and Cardwell, where Happy Valley has a median of 4,436 mm (43 years from 1956 to 2000 inclusive) and Babinda a median of 4,092 mm (84 years from 1911 to 2000 inclusive). The mountainous region of western Tasmania also has a high annual rainfall, with Lake Margaret having a median of 3,565 mm (76 years to 1987 inclusive). The frequency of rain days exceeds 150 per year in much of Tasmania (with a maximum of over 250 in western Tasmania), southern Victoria, parts of the north Queensland coast and in the extreme south-west of Western Australia. Over most of the continent the frequency is less than 50 rain days per year. The area of low rainfall with high variability, extending from the north-west coast of Western Australia through the interior of the continent, has less than 25 rain days per year. In the high rainfall areas of northern Australia, the number of rain days is about 80 per year, but heavier falls occur in this region than in southern regions.

The area of lowest rainfall is in the vicinity of Lake Eyre in South Australia, where the median annual rainfall is only about 100 mm. Another very low rainfall area is in Western Australia in the region of the Giles-Warburton Range, which has a median annual rainfall of about 150 mm. A vast region, extending from the west coast near Shark Bay across the interior of Western Australia and South Australia to south-west Queensland and north-west New South Wales, has a median annual rainfall of less than 200 mm. This region is not normally exposed to moist air masses for extended periods and rainfall is irregular, averaging only one or two days per month.

AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

Emergence and Evolution of Population Policies

The defining feature of today's Australia is not only the cultural diversity of its people, but the extent to which they are united by an overriding and unifying commitment to Australia. Australia is a multicultural nation. In all, since 1945, seven million people have migrated to Australia. Today, one in four of Australia's 22 million people were born overseas, 44 per cent were born overseas or have a parent who was and four million speak a language other than