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E.P.S.-8

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA

By: Simantini Nigam

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of the
Solved
Sample Question
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QUESTION PAPER

(June – 2019)

(Solved)

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA

Time: 3 hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Notes: Section – I – Any two questions to be answered. Section – II – Any four questions to be answered.
Section – III – Any two short notes to be answered.

SECTION-I

Answer the following questions:

Q. 1. Describe the salient features of the Constitution of Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 48, 'Salient Features of the Constitution'.

Q. 2. Account for the reorientation of Australia's foreign policy since the 1970s.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-18, Page No. 119, 'Towards a More Independent Foreign Policy' and Page No. 120, Foreign Policy in 1990.

Q. 3. Examine the impact of colonisation on the socio-economic and cultural life of aboriginal population.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 38, Q. No. 1

Also Add: Evolution of Colonial Rule: The aborigines lived a dreamtime life before the colonization for many thousand years without any change in the system as it was their main objective to follow their ancestors. The government of Arthur Philip was the first to disrupt the aborigine society set-up in January 1788 when they first reached New South Wales in Australia to start the systematic colonization. The changes started in 1790s, the first change happened in the present day Sydney and Parramatta districts. The other parts such as Cow Pasture areas the settlement started in 1800s which continued till 1880 with an increasing speed. An effort was made to encourage the aborigines to adopt the new society formed by the Europeans. Their way of life changed drastically as few of the aborigines did not like the traditional ways. The aboriginals obeyed their elders and considered them as their leaders while the Europeans awarded brass plates to some of them to be called the kings. Those who were impressed by the new European way of living were awarded these titles and to lead the

exploration parties in the country. these new kings broke the traditional ways of life and walked into the other tribes' lands. It was not all that easy as many of them faced massacres and epidemics and got killed. The major social change was faced by the aborigines. The land was conquered by the European intruders. The basic change in their lifestyle was their dependency on alcohol and tobacco and handouts for food and clothing to separation from families. The remnants of these tribes were managed by the white managers and they were sent to Reserves and Missions. They were not allowed to teach their children of their language or customs. The separation policy continued till 1900s when the children would be separated from their families and sent to the homes and mission. Many aborigines today don't even know their tribe from which they had descended or the parents or grandparents. Europeans confiscated the Great South Land or Australia driving the aboriginal from their land, introduced many diseases for them to succumb to it and disturbing the balance of nature created by them. They dominated the way of life which was more complex for the simple living aboriginals.

British Policy towards the Aboriginal Population

The Europeans entry into Australia made the detached existence of the aboriginals into an altogether difficult situation. The Europeans shattered the ecological and spiritual balance created by the aborigines. The community waste was more than the clash of arms. Europeans entered the continent with an intention of exploiting economic opportunity. Secondly, the conservative aborigines could not survive the new dominant situation. The Europeans were not interested in understanding the needs of aborigine society as their only interest was economics. The initial settlement of Europeans was equally disastrous as an outrage which

happened in the history of man against man. The early contact of Europeans made exposure to many diseases which took its immediate toll on the aborigines, they were also forced to live in the public environment which was away from their original nutritionally balanced regions. They were now living in a new restrictive environment causing communicable diseases. The result of the Europeans entry into Australia was drastic as within 100 years the aborigines were wiped out. The left over natives were forced to shift to the furthest of the colonies. The new legislature had the lowest budget for social and demographic situations. Australian colonies began to operate in 1854 where the aristocratic governors were representing the imperial authorities. The missionary societies also got attracted to reform during the same time and started working for the mainland Australia as these were less hostile and more fertile, just appropriate in spreading Gospel. The aborigines were provided sponsored protection which worked negatively for the societies, adding more trouble in the form of coercion of the Black Police. The aborigines used to be housed in camps to protect themselves or in the other words this was to protect the broader community from racism.

The European Response

The aboriginal population pattern of distribution was almost settled by 1900. They were settled in the administrative areas responsible for the landmass ahead of the tropic of Capricorn consisting of 90% full blood population and 75% partly aboriginals. Most of the aboriginals were removed from the temperate and perennially watered regions the only problem region left was tropical Australia. This tropical region was the most difficult part for developing a viable economy. The protectionist policies further isolated the aborigine community in Australia. The belief of this policy was that the Aboriginal race was doomed and needs to be considered before its formal termination. According to Elkin "Protection policies not only failed to ensure the survival of the Aborigines: they also failed to protect them from harsh treatment". During the development stages of aborigine government administration issued blankets and food to them through the agencies of law. A separate institution of six official mission was set up for the aboriginal society in Victoria with special reserves and institutions spread to every state turn wise. Further there officer responsible for the administrative activities of the native aboriginals was introduced with a measure to control the charges of aboriginals. The aboriginal would

declare its ward of state and later on removal from the normal process of the law. The aborigines were declared by the departmental officers from time-to-time as wards of the state. In this way the aboriginals were removed from the rest of the community by the authorities because the ward was not considered as a legally existing person unless presented through the legal court by its protector. The reserves were the final solutions for the aborigines as they were unequally distributed all over where they actually confined. In these settlement homes education training was provided to the occupants to live in a protected environment so that they can move out and survive the competitive world as a broader community. The government could not provide necessary facilities for the economic social and educational development of the aborigines creating a greater gap between two societies. There was not much of a change in the aborigine administrative policies even after the outbreak after World War II. The local native had the potential for the development which was quite visible. The final outcome was a new emerged Australia as a nation changing rapidly without the prejudices of the past. The settlement system, missions, reserves and institutions for the aborigines remained as a major characteristic of the government's administrative policy. The community containment amongst aboriginals was very strong in the Queensland and the Northern Territory of Australia as the area was occupied by a large number of aboriginals. In the year 1952 the administrative authority of Western Australia attacked racially segregated institutions and services. They widened the participation in the state community of the aborigine by removing the legislative distinction. The opinions were finally changing since 1930 amongst the European Australians about the aborigines due to the commonwealth constitution which was given to the Federal Government in 1967. The aim to provide the authority to the Federal government was to enable the government to take the responsibility of the aboriginals in the whole nation. In the same year the aboriginals were given the citizenship of Australia, but the voting rights were given only in 1960. In just three decades of time people started considering aboriginals as people who can contribute in Australian society. The policy administration remained in the same framework.

Q. 4. Write an essay on the working of Federalism in Australia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 66, 'The Working of Federalism in Australia'.

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCING AUSTRALIA



Physical Settings

INTRODUCTION

Australia is one nation spread in an entire continent with 7,682,300 sq.km. of area claiming to be the sixth nation in the world. If compared with India it is just double in size. On the globe it falls between longitude 113°9' and 153°39' in the east and south latitude of 10°41' and 43°39' with tropic of Capricorn passing through the centre of the continent. The coastline is spread over 36735 km. The continent is spread from Papua New Guinea in north to Tasmania in the south with a variety in the width from 30 km. to eastern coast spreading approximately 2000 km. the Great Barrier Reef from Southern Queensland to the Papua Gulf. This plays an important role in the marine ecosystem containing coral reefs and many rare life forms. Australia is approximately more than 3 billion years old land mass which makes it the flattest continent with a mean of annual rainfall 465 mm with vast acid or semi-acid areas

usually not suitable for settlement. While the average mean elevation is approximately 700 mm. in Australia it is less than 300 mm. which consists of Alps in the southeast of Australia, where highest mountain peak is Mount Kosciusko about 2228 m. high. The Great Western Plateau is spread over most of Western Australia along with the Northern Territory and South Australia and Western Queensland. Ayers Rock known as Uluru changes colour with the direction of the Sun with circumference of 8k. and 335 m. above the Australian Desert is also quite significant. Most of the Australia lies in the temperate zone and a third of it in the tropic zone. South eastern corner of mainland are the coldest with regular snowfall.

In Australia, there are six states as Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia and two self-governing Territories—Northern territory and Australian Capital Territory. Population as per the territory and state is given in the following table:

State/Territory	Area in km.sq.	Population	Capital (m)
Queensland	1730648	3.34m	Brisbane (1.52)
New South Wales	800642	6.20m	Sydney (3.88)
Victoria	227416	4.56m	Melbourne (3.28)
Tasmania	68401	0.47m	Hobart (0.20)
South Australia	983482	1.47m	Adelaide (1.08)
Western Australia	2529875	1.77m	Perth (1.30)
Northern Territory	1349129	0.18m	Darwin (0.08)
Australian Capital Territory	2431	0.31m	Canberra (0.13)
AUSTRALIA	7692024		

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

The existence of Australia came into light in recent few centuries only. The Australian landmass resembles more with Asia European and African countries more closely and is different from American landmass. The structural parts of Australia consist of Western Australian Shield which is strong and stable, Eastern Fold Mountain Belt suffered erosion and is uplifted with Central Plains lying between east and west like a platform. There are some oldest rocks of the continent on the south-west part of the Western Australian shield which are around 3 billion years old and are unfolded from the time of Precambrian age and looked different from what we can see them today. There are some younger rocks (2-2.5 billion years old) in the west and south coast of western Australia. Central Australian rocks are approximately 2.25 billion years old but some old rocks are also found on Kimberley block border, Darwin regions of Northern Territory and in the Run Jungle.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Although Australia is dry and flat but there is no consistency in the landscape. Australia is a parched land where one third of the contingent gets only up-to 20 mm. rainfall annually, only eastern Australia and Tasmania have rivers which are permanent. Australian weather is an important element in formation of soil and its composition.

Landforms

Australia is a most dry continent while there are some landscape in the Europe and America and some of them are as recent as 20,000 years ago, while in Australia it is many million years old. This distinct continent is divided into three parts:

1. The Western Plateau
2. The Central Lowland
3. The Eastern Highland

1. The Western Plateau: It is a vast plateau covering almost 75% of the continent with very old rocks, and landmass for over 500 million years. There are many individual plateaus with names like Kimberley, Hammersley, Arnhem Land. The coastal area of Perth is separated by the Darling Fault escarpment and the Nullabor plain looks like an uplifted sea floor which is a limestone plain about 25 million years old (Miocene age), most of them are desert either fully or semi-desert with small shrubs.

2. Central Lowlands: From Gulf of Carpentaria through the Great Artesian Basin and up-to the Murray-Darling Plain these plains are stretched. The sedimentary rocks of the Great Artesian Basin holds the water to enter into more wetter Eastern Highlands. With number of ranges all through the centre of Australia most of the area is flat. A series of ranges has been formed in the southern Australian part of central lowland due to fault

movements which are more recent such as Mt. Lofty, Flinders Ranges. The elevation is less than 150 metres and 12 metres below sea level. As there is scanty rainfall the lowland is very dry but some of the water come from the Artesian wells, which when dug gives continuous flow of water but the rivers of this land does not reach sea.

3. The Eastern Highland: It is spread in a series of plateau with Mt. Kosciuszko is also a part of the plateau range spread over the east coast from Cape York in north to Tasmania in the south. Near Canberra and Sydney there are small faults and folds. Some of them due to erosion are dissected into rugged hills making high escarpments into the eastern edges which spread from northern Queensland to the Victoria border. The waterfalls of Australia forms due to the rivers that flow over the Great Escarpment. As the eastern highland are spread and are known as the dividing range which covers the flat country with lakes and airstrips which are low but broad in the north but high and narrow in the south. The eastern rivers of Australia are short and swift forming a useful route and are used by the railways. Around 290 million years ago the Australia was glaciated by a huge ice cap which melted and formed sedimentary basins such as the great Artesian Basin. The earlier Australia was such a low land that with a major sea level rise divided into three landmasses. Australia was a landscape of broad swells of a variety of basins which are providing as source of coal and oil.

There was also volcanoes eruption throughout the territory times in the eastern Australia with individual size of volcanoes to be as big as Mt. Vesuvius and its lava covering a large area. This activity continued in Victoria and Queensland for upto a few thousand years ago and the youngest volcano about 6,000 years old is Mt. Gambier in the south of Australia. Australia is moving towards north like a plate slowly as it was adjacent to Antarctica some 55 million years ago, with many changes in the climate in the past, though these changes are not due to the changes in the latitude, as the climate in Australia was relatively warm and wet even when it was relatively closer to the south pole. Due to this weather Australia has the characteristic of iron rich state, and dryness set in Australia due to the present latitude but the northern part was never waterless.

Australia today has sand dunes according to the longitude direction and the passage of high pressure cells called anticyclone along with large parts arid or semi-arid. The highs have an anti-clockwise rotation which tracks 28° S in winter and 38° S in summer which results in the south-east (easterly) flow in the north and north-west (westerly) flow in the south. As of now the dunes are more sort of fixed than earlier. Majority of area is covered with small stones and there are salt lakes at lower positions where there were drainages in ancient times. These lunettes forms an important part for original pre-historical findings. The aridity conditions are new

as all the dunes and salt lakes are only about a million year old. The shape of Australia is strongly influenced by the movements of the earth as a result of large tectonic processes. River erosion is the main source of carving these details as most of the rivers in Australia drain inland. There may be erosion at the highland sources but at the lower courses they are filling with alluvium than the rivers get drained in the salt lakes which are most of the times dry. Some of the rivers reach sea which dissects a broad coast region into plateau and hills. There are many valleys and drainage systems in Australia which has maintained their positions for hundreds of millions of years such as Yilgarn plateau in western Australia is one salt lake which is remains of drainage pattern of an active water body before the separation of Australia from Antarctica.

It is believed that the sea level was approximately 100 metre lower than the current level during the last ice age but after a rise in the sea level some valleys drowned resulting in fine harbours like Sydney Harbour and others filled the alluvium such as lowland valleys around Australian coast. The drowned coastal sedimentation forms the coastal geomorphology. Beaches are accumulation of these sedimentation example Nine Mile Beach at Victoria. On the other hand east has rocky head land and long beach with a backdrop of plains full of river and marine sediments. Due to the break-up of super continent the offshore shape of Australia is made up of. The great Australian Bight a broad continental shelf is bound by a steep continental slope. In some south east areas such as Merimbula and Tamarian coastline is very narrow. On the other hand, Queensland coast is broad plateau bound where the Great Barrier Reef which is 2 million old is grown, the continental shelf in the south Australia and is grooved by submarine canyons. Australia is a result of a continuous process to give Australia the typical landscape. This also provides physical basis for distribution and natural biological activities of Australia.

Climate

There are many climatic zones in Australia for example, the north is a tropical region while interiors have arid plains and temperate regions in the south. The opposite seasons of Australia is due to it being in the Southern Hemisphere from the countries of Northern Hemisphere as when there are summers in India Australia has winters. Australia is called a dry land as it gets only about 600 mm out of which 50% area gets even less than 300 mm. Similarly the range of temperature varies from above 50°C to below 0°C but the low temperatures are not at their extreme due to the absences of high mountains. There is heavy rainfall in the eastern, north-eastern and south-western parts of Australia which are on the windward side. There are more of extreme phenomena of mother nature that is being experienced by Australia such as drought, floods, tropical cyclones, storms and bushfires. There is average

temperature in January which ranges from 29°C to 17°C in south parts while 25°C to 8°C in the month of July. The summer months are December to February, March to May autumn, winter June to August and spring September to November. Soil in Australia is difficult to relate to the climate mainly because of the wet climate that was persistent earlier in Australia. These are infertile soils which require elements like nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur. These fertilizers help soil grow highly productive pastures and help mixed farming. For research red earth and leached porous yellow soil and from the northern Australia grey brown clays are used. More fertile lands are found in the sub-humid and semi-arid zones where with red-brown and black soil. Australia's wheat industry is based on the soil with 70% arid land. Rainfall also varies from 150 mm to more than 2 metres in the western Tasmania. Australia hardly affects any atmospheric conditions controlling the obstacle climate. There are constant cyclone movement from May-October from the west to the east of the continent which remains stationary at the interior parts for many days. The width of the cyclone area is approximately 4000 km. in southern hemisphere with an anti-clockwise rotation. There is a mild southern dry winds and this part experiences cold, moist westerly winds. The climate of southern Australia is being controlled by frontal system with depression travelling over the southern ocean which mainly causes rains during winter. The major cold region is south-east Australia when the direction of the cold air headed towards northwards by intense depression upto 2000 km. diameter. Large daily temperature variations are caused by the cold fronts associated with the southern depression or the depression from the Tasman sea. During the months of November-April (summer) the continent is covered with easterly winds that are anticyclone and travel from west to the east and experiences a warm weather. If the eastward progression of anticyclone in interrupted heat waves occur. Due to the intrusion of southward warm moist monsoonal air summer influences northern Australia. Sometimes the hot rainy monsoon lasts continuously for three weeks at a stretch due to the southward low pressure dip that generates tropical depressions. In the tropical region there is least gale force where speed of average winds is equivalent to 34-47 knot and gusts upto 50% more than average serves as strong tropical cyclone with low pressure system sometimes severe tropical cyclones reach the speed and force of 64 knots which is equivalent to a hurricane. In April 1996, the highest speed cyclone Olivia recorded a speed of 267 km/h. when temperature cross 27°C around northern Australia in summer tropical cyclones develop. The 5° north or south of the equator has Coriolis Force associated with earth's rotation which is close to zero and thus the tropical cyclones do not form here. The frequency of cyclone depends upon the season, approximately three cyclones hit Queensland

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coast in a season and three in the north-west coast. Coastal areas receive heavy rains and high winds caused by tropical cyclones. Southern Oscillation influences the climatic conditions of northern Australia which results in a see-saw of atmospheric pressure in the northern Australia, Indonesian region along with central Pacific Ocean. The eastern and northern Australia faces variation in the annual season mostly due to this Oscillation. Southern Oscillation is measured by an index which is a difference between Tahiti (central Pacific) and Darwin in north Australia where sea level atmospheric pressure is very high. The eastern and northern Australia faces severe drought which starts at the beginning of the year and lasts for about 12 months with recurrence of 2-7 years. This extreme climatic condition is followed by the other extreme abnormally low pressure at Darwin and abnormally high pressure at Tahiti. This results in an above average rainfall in eastern and northern Australia. The southern oscillation is directly associated with the sea surface (Pacific Ocean) temperature. With above normal sea surface temperature accompanies dry and extreme southern Oscillation years, and these dry years are called El Nino years, where as extreme wet years are called La Nina years. Further research in the subject is revealing the connectivity of atmospheric circulation, sea surface temperature, currents and interaction with landmass.

Drainage

In the interiors of Australia maximum number of runoff are from drainage regions away from populated areas. The largest of this system is river Murray and its tributaries spread over 1.06 sq.km. from southern Queensland to New South Wales and Victoria. Most of the continent has groundwater with different quality and quantity. Most of this is used for domestic consumption and stock. The Great Artesian Basin is 1.7 million sq.km. spread over in Queensland and New South Wales.

Rivers and Lakes

The rivers in Australia are demarked as the ones in the coastal area and have reasonable fall and the ones in integral plains with minor fall. The longest rivers in the Queensland are Burdekin and Fitzroy and in the new South Wales Hunter is the longest river. Longest Australian river Murray-Darling (2520 km. long) which majorly drains from the New South Wales and Victoria a part of Queensland and flowing along the Lake Alexandrina in the eastern side of South Australian Coast. All other rivers from north-west coast of Australia such as Murchison, Gascoyne, Fortsue and from the northern territory Victoria and Daly are of considerable length but rivers in the Tasmania are short with rapid courses due to the land configuration. As most of the rivers become drainage swamps in the dry season the lakes become bed of salt and dry mud. Lake Eyre is 9300 sq.km and Lake Gairdner is 4300 sq.km. Tasmanian lakes are Glacial and in Victoria and Queensland volcanic lakes are in the majority, coastal lakes are

formed by marine damming of valleys called fault angle lakes near Canberra is Lake George.

Soils

Local conditions and climate are the major determinants of soil formation in Australia. Mineral soils are majorly found in the arid Australia while organic is almost missing. In the Desert area Gypsum is found Gypsum and lime are common. The quasi-arid areas have alkaline soil. Most of the soils are brown, gray and black in colour. With less than 25 inches rainfall areas red and red-brown soil is common. There is a local variation in the soil pattern due to climatic conditions. Basic factors that determine the pattern of soil are topography of the land, ground water level, and the parent materials.

SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

It was difficult for the new settlers to settle in Australia due to its topography, climate and soil. The struggle was very difficult to convert it into a modern state. Due to the hard struggle of these settlers and their outlook made it happen to have a modern Australia and also its toughness and independence. The settlement became easy with the technological development along with modern communication systems. The countryside of Australia is thinly populated and the families here live almost isolated, even to contact the neighbours they need to depend upon telephone and auto transport. The rural population includes grazers and cultivators while the former run sheep or cattle on their land the latter produce agricultural products. Rural and countryside population is thin majority of population is settled in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, and Canberra the seven capital cities. The urban population in Australia is the highest in the world. The animal life in Australia started destructing with the Europeans entry into Australia. The ecological balance maintained by the indigenous people has been damaged by the modern European people. There used to be a variety of birds and animals in Australia many of the species are now extinct and many others are declining in numbers.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

It was Luis Vaez de Torres a Spanish navigator who first sailed through Torres Strait who explored Australia first also named after him, this also separates Australia and Papua New Guinea. After the Vaez came the Dutch explorers started exploring this new continent. The first from the Dutch's was William Janszoo who travelled through the gulf of Carpentaria. It was only after 17 years Jan Carstensz mapped the western coast as a main feature, this was the time when other European navigators had reached north and western parts of Australia. The Dutch called these new explored continent as new Holland. The first English explorer William Dampier landed near king sound in 1688 on the northwest coast. Later in 1770 Captain James Cook landed near Sydney Harbour. According to Cook the