

Advanced Australian Government & Politics

Government & Politics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Section 92 of the Australian Constitution guarantees 'freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse among the States' but has been interpreted by the High Court to allow for what specific type of regulation?

- A) Uniform federal taxation across all states
- B) Reasonable regulation of inter-state trade and commerce to prevent monopolies**
- C) State control over all import and export tariffs
- D) The absolute prohibition of all government intervention in economic activity

2. The High Court's decision in the Engineers' Case (1920) significantly altered the balance of power between the Commonwealth and the States by favouring which interpretation of Commonwealth legislative powers?

- A) A narrow, literal interpretation of enumerated Commonwealth powers
- B) A broad, expansive interpretation of Commonwealth powers, particularly the defence power**
- C) The supremacy of State legislative powers over Commonwealth legislation
- D) A strict interpretation of residual State powers

3. What is the primary legal mechanism through which the Governor-General, on the advice of the Prime Minister, can dismiss a minister from their portfolio?

- A) A vote of no confidence in the House of Representatives
- B) A direction from the High Court of Australia
- C) A proclamation under Section 64 of the Constitution**
- D) A request from the Premier of the minister's home state

4. The doctrine of 'responsible government' in Australia, derived from Westminster conventions, mandates that ministers are accountable to which body?

- A) The Governor-General
- B) The High Court of Australia
- C) The Senate
- D) The elected chamber of Parliament (the House of Representatives)**

5. In the Australian federal system, which level of government holds the exclusive power to legislate on matters not expressly granted to the Commonwealth or denied to the States, as per Chapter V of the Constitution?

- A) The Commonwealth Government
- B) Each individual State Government**
- C) Local Government Councils
- D) Territories

6. The 'implied freedom of political communication' was established by the High Court in which landmark case, concerning implied rights within the Australian Constitution?

- A) Mabo v Queensland (No 2)
- B) Commonwealth v Tasmania (the Tasmanian Dam Case)
- C) Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation**
- D) McCormick v The Queen

7. The 'division of powers' in the Australian Constitution is primarily outlined in which section?

- A) Section 51**
- B) Section 109
- C) Section 128
- D) Section 92

8. What is the constitutional basis for the High Court of Australia's original jurisdiction to hear and determine disputes concerning the interpretation of the Constitution?

- A) Section 71 of the Constitution
- B) Section 73 of the Constitution
- C) Section 75(iii) of the Constitution**
- D) Section 128 of the Constitution

9. The principle of 'parliamentary supremacy' in the UK context means that Parliament can make or unmake any law. How does this principle apply to the Australian Parliament under the Australian Constitution?

- A) It applies fully, with the Australian Parliament possessing ultimate legislative authority over all matters.
- B) It is limited by the specific powers enumerated in the Constitution and the High Court's interpretive role.**
- C) It is superseded by the principle of state sovereignty.
- D) It is subordinate to the will of the Governor-General.

10. In Australia, the requirement for the Governor-General to act on the 'advice' of the Executive Council primarily refers to the advice of whom?

- A) The Chief Justice of the High Court
- B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives
- C) The Prime Minister and other Ministers**
- D) The Governors of the States