
VCE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

UNIT 4 OUTCOME 2

DEBATING AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE 1960-2000

D. ATTITUDES TO IMMIGRATION

HTAV STUDENT LECTURES

D. Attitudes to immigration



Customs officer holding a Vietnamese refugee child, Darwin, November 1977. Photograph by M. Jensen.

PART 1 COURSE OUTLINE

OUTCOME

On completion of this unit the student should be able to evaluate the extent to which changing attitudes are evident in Australian's reactions to significant social and political issues.

Attitudes to immigration (phasing out of the White Australia Policy, 1964 to 1966, and the Vietnamese 'Boat people', 1970's)

KEY KNOWLEDGE

- A range of **attitudes** at each point in time i.e. 1964-1966 and the 1970's.
- The **connection** between the two significant points in time.
- The degree of **change in attitudes** between the two significant points and the **reasons for any change**.

COURSE CRITERIA

1. Demonstrate knowledge of a **range of attitudes** evident in Australian's reactions to Immigration at the two specific points in time.
2. Use the **historical concepts** related to the period
3. Synthesise **written and visual sources** to draw conclusions.
4. Analyse and evaluate the way the experience of the period has been **interpreted and understood over time** by historians and other commentators.
5. **Express relevant knowledge and ideas in writing**, presenting historical conventions i.e. Quotes, facts, visuals and supporting evidence, Historians views.

Criteria 1: Range of Attitudes

Attitude: a feeling or opinion about something or someone, Cambridge Dictionary.

Who's Attitudes?

<u>Political</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Parties• Politicians• Government Depts.• Advisory Councils <u>Organisations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RSL, ANA, AWU,• Churches <u>Australians Citizens</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• old and young (Clash of Generations)• urban/rural,	<u>Pressure Groups</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immigration Reform Groups• Immigration Control Association• New Settlers Federation• League of Rights• Immigration Control Association	<u>Media</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Age• The Australian• Sydney Morning Herald• Canberra Times• TV Networks <u>International Views</u> <p>Asian Governments British Commonwealth United Nations</p>
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Criteria 2: Key Historical Concepts

You should be able to define these key concepts and be able to utilise and apply them to your study of this outcome.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Immigration● Assimilation● Social Homogeneity● Integration● Discrimination● Citizenship● Non-European● Mixed Race● Humanitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Multiculturalism● Refugees● Economic Refugees● Economic Migrants● Chain Migrants● Boat People● Attitudes● Links/Connections● Change
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Criteria 3: Visual and Written sources

- Apply prior learning on how to analyse documents
- Utilise a range of sources from 1964-66 and the 1970's
- Documents should have a range of attitudes and be able to compare and contrast them.

Criteria 4: Historian Views

Utilise a variety of Historians such as Gwenda Tavan, Keith Windshuttle, Geofferey Baliney, Paul Kelly, John Lack and Jacqueline Templeton. (Refer to bibliography)).

Criteria 5: Express relevant knowledge and ideas in writing

Demonstrate an understanding of the key knowledge and events in the period that had an impact on attitudes. Practice formulating responses utilizing Historical conventions.

1964-66	1970's
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 1964 Reforms2. 1966 Reforms3. 1965 ALP drop "White Australia" from its official political platform4. Media highlights individual cases such as 9 Year old Nancy Prasad.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Australian Citizenship Act 19732. Aug.1973 Al Grasby's Speech entitled "A multi-cultural society of the future"3. Racial Discrimination Act 19754. Fall of Saigon to Communist forces 30th April 19755. 26th April 1976 the arrival of the first Vietnamese 'Boat People'6. 1970's Economic downturn

PART 2 REVISION NOTES

1964-1966 IMMIGRATION REFORMS AND ATTITUDES

1964 Reforms

- First Key Reform Sept. 1st 1964 introduced under Prime Minister Menzies and Minister for Immigration Hubert Oppermann and Secretary for the Dept. of Immigration Peter Heydon.
- Oppermann advised by Heydon, introduced two submissions for reforms to Cabinet in 1964.
 1. Liberalise Admission of 'Mixed Race' Immigrants.
 2. Advocated a 'review of non-European immigration', allowing admission of immigrants 'capable of ready integration' and 'having knowledge, experience, or qualifications' and able to make a 'contribution to Australia's economic, social and cultural progress'.
- Submission two was rejected by Menzies



The Media adopted some immigration cases that reflected the discriminatory nature of the policy. E.g. Nancy Prasad Case 1964.



University students protest over the deportation of Indian Nancy Prasad under the White Australia Policy
Photograph by C. Fraser, 10 August 1965

1966 Reforms

- The retirement of Robert Menzies as Prime Minister in January 1966 signalled a catalyst for change in attitudes of the old guard within the Liberal Government.
- Harold Holt became Prime Minister. The Second Key Reform to immigration was introduced on the 29th March 1966.
- Oppermann advised by Heydon reintroduced the rejected submission for reforms to Cabinet in 1966.
- Non- Europeans Selected in "**limited numbers**" capable of "**ready integration**" and "**having knowledge, experience, or qualifications useful**" and can make a contribution to the "**economic, social, and cultural progress**" of Australia.
- The removal of the 15 year rule allowing non-Europeans to apply for "**Citizenship after five years residence**"
- The changes to citizenship and permanent resident status had finally given non-Europeans social and political parity with European immigrants.



- **ALP** Federal conference dropped the reference to “White Australia” in 1965. This demonstrated changing attitudes within the ALP between the “Old Guard” (Calwell, Daly and the Unions) and the “New Guard” (Whitlam, Grasby, Dunston).
- **Immigration Reform Group (IRG):** Formed in 1959 at Melbourne University. Jamie Mackie the original architect of the Immigration Reform Group. The Uni Academics were well placed to influence the attitudes of those young adults studying at the university. These students were also been influenced by the emerging hippie/peace ideology of the 60's. The IRG published in 1960 “*Control or Colour Bar?*” which advocated the end of the White Australia policy and a non-racial basis for Australia’s immigration program. Associations for Immigration Reform were established in other states broadening their influences across the country. Greenwood states that “*while their membership was not large, they were extremely active in their efforts to influence community attitudes generally, the more significant organisations such as trade unions and churches and, above all, the political parties*”.

However:

1. Old stereotypes and prejudices about non-Europeans still existed
2. Era of international racial conflict eg. USA and UK was a potent reality in many countries.
3. Australian political leaders unsure about how much change the public was ready to accept
4. Government by no means prepared to risk a political backlash by altering policy radically.

1964-66 Reforms

Political Parties	ALP drop White Australia Policy from its platform in 1965.	Liberal Party Policy/Govt. Policy in favour of limited reform once it did not undermine the key principles “White Australia”, “Assimilation” and “Social Homogeneity”.
Politicians	Gough Whitlam advocated in 1965 that “a migrant who could contribute to the Australian community should not be barred on the ground that he was not white”. “I was profoundly embarrassed by it and I did all I could to change it and you remember it was changed within 5 years of my becoming deputy leader of the party... but of course it was impossible for a democratic socialist party like ours to enshrine racial test and moreover we were promoting immigration as long as people were white.”	Arthur Calwell ALP “I am sure that if the White Australia policy is ever abandoned, it will not be a very long before the trade union movement will be fighting hard to maintain Australia’s high living standard”1965. Robert Menzies (LP) view of the 1964 reforms “fewer or better Chinese rather than more” and viewed the discriminatory 15 year rule on citizenship as a “Good thing too-right sort of discrimination” Harold Holt supported the ’66 reforms despite opposing them in ’64 once “the preservation of standards and of national characteristic’s, and to the maintenance of the essential homogeneity of its people”
Pressure Groups	Jamie Mackie IRG: It was a moral issue to the extent that many of us had Asian friends and they couldn’t come into Australia. And we were very passionate about this ... it was an ancient mariner’s albatross around the neck and we had to get rid of it. And one of our arguments in the Immigration Reform Group was we had to make a very clear break and some sort of symbolic act to indicate that the White Australia policy is dead. Catholic Church: The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference issued a statement in 1951 critical of the policy and “assumption of racial superiority”.	RSL Secretary Mr. AGW Kay “We feel it is wise now. We don’t support it as a racial measure, but as an economic one... strictly controlled immigration is an essential ingredient of Australia’s orderly development as a united society”. Australian Natives Association: 50,000 members of the ANA supported the White Australia policy.
Trade Unions	Federated Ironworkers Association Mr. Laurie Short “the words White Australia should never be used; they are offensive, insulting and racist” Waterside Workers Federal Secretary Mr. C.H Fitzgibbon “we must accept the fact that there should be some controlled immigration of Asian people...they will be assimilated into our trade union and award structure without trouble” 1965	AWU secretary Mr. Tom Doherty argued that reform would allow for unwanted and unskilled workers which “would destroy our economy and lead to unemployment” 1965 NSW branch of the Railwaymen’s Union advocated that immigration would “provoke the kind of problems which would come if we opened the door to all Asians.”
Media	The media focused on the discriminatory nature Immigration policy post 64’ reforms created a major public debate. The face of this campaign was nine year old Nancy Prasad and took the form of portraying the Dept. on Immigration as bullies.Emotive headlines such as “Why don’t some people like me?” and “The girl we dare not throw out!” Sydney’s Daily Mirror. Nancy Prasad case “presented Australia to the Rest of the world as an uncompromising racist villain.” Daily News 9 th Aug. 1965. Canberra Times 10 th Mar. 66 “Unfortunately, however, it will still not be possible to	The Australian 10 th Mar. 1966 “more Asians will be let in...the new immigration policy would not allow a large-scale admission of workers from Asia, nor a departure from Australia’s primary aim.... of producing a generally integrated and primarily homogeneous population.”

	claim that the superstructure of racial discrimination is entirely demolished, that the hoary old 'White Australia policy' is entirely buried"	
Ordinary Australian's	Emergence of a young highly educated middle class with contrasting views challenged traditional views.	Old stereotypes and prejudices about non-Europeans still existed Racial conflict was potent reality in many Countries and many Australians feared the same
Historians Views	<p>Gwenda Tavan comments on '64 reforms "The failure to achieve the desired changes was, in the last instance, due to political self-interest, the Menzies cabinet's narrow view of the national interest, and the unwillingness of more progressive ministers to stand up to the Prime Minister."</p> <p>Bill Brown agrees that the 1964-66 period was not an conscious attempt to end White Australia: "No not really until Labour came in...then it was overturned completely" Tavan interview 2001</p> <p>Paul Kelly: White Australia was abolished gradually and by stealth. Its demise was less honest than its creation 75 years earlier. The Holt cabinet took the major decision and the issue was never put before the people. It was really an issue of national survival. The policy had to be abolished if Australia was to engage with Asia on a basis of mutual respect.</p> <p>Extract from Keith Windschuttle's "The White Australia Policy". Neville Meaney does not accept that the White Australia policy ended with the 1966 reforms. He says the government still insisted its reforms were not a deviation from or a rejection of past policies. The old Policy still had community support and all the government had committed to do was administer the policy "with a spirit of humanity and god sense" .Meaney argues that because overt expression of racist views had become unacceptable internationally, the government had changed its rhetoric but not much of its policy. After 1966, instead of seeking to preserve the white race, the same policy was expressed in Code: The crude shorthand of maintaining a "homogeneous society". Meaney says that the 1966 debate all speakers emphasised that, whatever their colour immigrants had to be absorbable and to "fit in". He writes "it meant that Australia still viewed the nation as a community sharing one heritage of language, law, religion and mores, that is a predominantly White British Australia."</p>	

1970'S END OF WHITE AUSTRALIA

When examining the 1970's we must focus on two key areas.

1. 1970-1975 ending of the White Australia policy on paper.
2. 1975-1980 physical ending of White Australia with the arrival of Indochinese refugee's.

The final dismantling of White Australia Policy was both Practical and symbolic

<u>Practical</u>	<u>Symbolic</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALP victory in the 1972 Federal Election. Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister. "Its Time" election campaign• Australian Citizenship Act 1973• 1974 Migration program reduced• Borrie Report 1975• Galbally Report 1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racial Discrimination Act 1975• Aug.1973 Al Grasby's Speech entitled "A multi-cultural society of the future"• Fall of Saigon to Communist forces 30th April 1975• April 1976 the arrival of the first Vietnamese 'Boat People'

Citizenship Act 1973 removed the "last vestiges of White Australia" Al Grasby. It removed racial discrimination from Australia's immigration and provided equality of treatment to all migrants, allowing all migrants to qualify for citizenship after three years.

Racial Discrimination Act 1975 made it unlawful for a person to discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origins. It established the Commissioner of Community Relations and programs to combat racism.

Multiculturalism

- Aug.1973 Al Grasby's Speech entitled "A multi-cultural society of the future". Called for "Unity in diversity".
- Repudiation of Social Homogeneity and Assimilation of the post WW2 immigration policies.
- Grasby championed the democratic right of migrants to preserve their distinctive cultural backgrounds.
- Telephone Interpreter service introduced 1973.
- Ethnic Community Councils 1974 and the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils 1979.
- Benefits of Increased spending of ALP government on Education and particularly introduction of Medi-bank benefited migrants.
- 1975 Ethnic radio stations begin broadcasting in Sydney and Melbourne.
- 1980 Multicultural Television Channel 0/28 (SBS) begins broadcasting.
- Migrant services and Programs: The Report of the Review of Post Arrival Programs and Services to Migrants (Galbally Report).
- Bi-partisan approach by political parties to Immigration
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"Getting into the Ethnic Swing". Duggan. M. & Szwarc J. There goes the Neighbourhood 1984 Macmillan

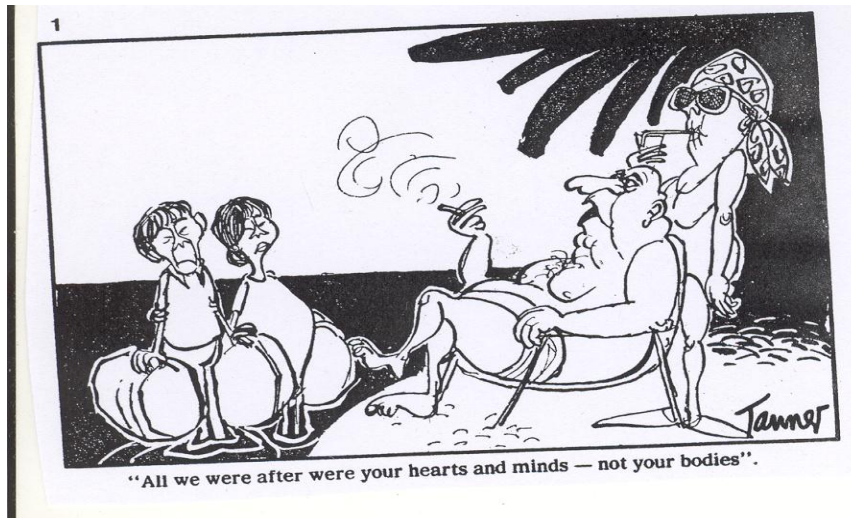
Fall of Saigon

- Many historians argue that the White Australia fell with Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War 1975.
- Initially, the Whitlam Government failed to act to allow Vietnamese refugee's entry into Australia and came under a significant amount of criticism domestically and internationally.
- Australia commenced resettling Indochinese refugees in 1975, over 1,000 were Vietnamese were selected for entry into Australia.
- This token response was not enthusiastically received domestically and internationally, and was viewed by some Asian countries that White Australia Policy was not dead.
- Whitlam Government dismissed by Governor General Kerr and Malcolm Fraser becomes Prime Minister.
- Arrival of the first Vietnamese Boat people in Darwin on the 28th April 1976
- 55 boats would arrive between '76 and 1980 with 2,000 boat people, Australia was now a country of First Asylum
- 1978-1979 14,500 Indochinese Refugee's settled in Australia.
- Even though numbers were relatively small however, coupled with a downturn in economy opposition to Multiculturalism and Asian Migration increased in the late 1970's and 1980's.

The Politics of the Indochinese Refugee resettlement 1975-1980:

- The initial position of the Whitlam Government towards Indochinese evacuee's and refugee's in early 1975 was that it did not wish to offend, and damage relations with, the newly victorious government of North Vietnam. However, was forced to admit a token number.
- 1978 The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade believed that if Australia resettled a large number of Indochinese refugee's then Australia would be perceived as being a responsible member of the Asian region, and this in turn could be used as a tool by Australia to improve its regional relations with Asian countries, especially ASEAN countries.
- The arrival of boats off Australia's northern coast sparked a heated debate in Australia, and in some quarters old fears of an Asian invasion resurfaced.
- Government feared a domestic political backlash.

- Government also feared that it was losing its power to select refugees for resettlement and integration into Australian society. This power of selection was not available in the case of genuine refugees who landed by boat in Australia without prior selection, and thus the element of controlled selection was absent.
- Australian Government approached Indonesia, Malaysia and the USA to help prevent the arrival of boats and in return Australia would take a greater number of Vietnamese refugees from camps in Indonesia and Malaysia. This would allow for the Australian immigration officials the opportunity to select the refugees Australia wanted to resettle. This agreement also prevented negative headlines in the media of the government's inability to protect Australian borders and a rise in fears of Asian migrants and refugees and the impact that it would have in their settlement and integration in the community.
- Refugee section was established in the Department of Foreign Affairs in early 1981.



"All we are after were your hearts and minds – not your bodies"
Tanner, The Age, 1977

**Attitudes in the 1970's,
End of White Australia,**

In Favour: Multiculturalism, Citizenship Act 1973 and Anti-discrimination Act 1975	Against: Multiculturalism, Citizenship Act 1973 and Anti-discrimination Act 1975
<p>Gough Whitlam declared in March 1968 that under an ALP government Australia would see more “Asian Migration” and “I think its quite odious-it’s indefensible to say that you will not accept a person who has skills which Australia could use just because he’s Asian. If a man or woman has the skills which are welcome in Australia- the last thing we should have in mind is what race he or she is.”</p> <p>Al Grasby 1973 “We can have an Australia strong in its diversity and aware of its rich cultural heritage, or we can have something less.”</p> <p>And in 1979 he spoke of it been “necessary to tackle head on the attitudes which led to racial discrimination, and there is nothing more difficult in the world than changing attitudes.” And “First of all, we had a great deal of pride in abolishing racial discrimination and secondly, we wanted to tell our neighbours”.</p> <p>Australians Public: Did everyday Australian’s support the ALP’s changes? The 1974 federal election represented effective popular endorsement of its broad political agenda including immigration. We can deduce that attitudes within the Liberal Party had considerably moved on with a revival of the immigration program and official support for multiculturalism. And forced the wider community to accept the changes as a result of bipartisan support in the early 1970’s to abolish racial discrimination in public policy.</p> <p>Galbally Report 1978 agreed that “Australia is at a critical stage in developing a cohesive, united, multicultural nation.” And “that further steps to encourage multiculturalism are needed”.</p>	<p>May 1971 Immigration Minister A.J Forbes spoke of Australia “gaining valuable qualified people in \numbers which are useful and gradually increasing but which represent no contradiction of out aim to preserve an essentially homogeneous society.</p> <p>Immigration Control Association 1970 stated “History has repeatedly proved that mixing people of different race and colour inevitably leads to racial tension disharmony and bloodshed.and we condemn all attempts to create conditions which lead to hybridisation”. ICA would also target Al. Grasby’s seat in the 1974 federal election resulting in him losing it. And opposition to Liberal Immigration Minister Michael McKellar’s seat in the 1979 Federal election. They accused government of an “elite attempt to Asianise Australia”</p> <p>Immigration Control Association 1970 stated “History has repeatedly proved that mixing people of different race and colour inevitably leads to racial tension disharmony and bloodshed.and we condemn all attempts to create conditions which lead to hybridisation”. ICA would also target Al. Grasby’s seat in the 1974 federal election resulting in him losing it. And opposition to Liberal Immigration Minister Michael McKellar’s seat in the 1979 Federal election. They accused government of an “elite attempt to Asianise Australia”</p> <p>Other pressure groups such as the National Front of Australia (NFA) and the Australian National Alliance(ANA) intimidated migrants and anti racist groups. There has been always opposition to immigration and often centred on the alleged link with unemployment or erosion of living standards.</p>

Indochinese Refugee’s 1975-1980

In favour	Against
<p>By the seventies the policy was dead but Australia was still predominantly white. Events in Asia would soon change this. The communist triumph in Vietnam in 1975 soon saw boatloads of Vietnamese refugees sailing south.</p> <p>SMH 28TH April 1975 “Very Many Australian’s must be deeply angry and ashamed about the callousness of our government’s scuttle from Saigon and its abandonment- betrayal is not too strong- of hundreds of Vietnamese entitled to expect our assistance to flee the fate awaiting the marked-down enemies of Hanoi.</p> <p>Malcolm Fraser Prime Minister 1975-1983: Well the dominant feeling was that we had to give these people a home, especially people who had been associated with either the Australian Embassy or the Australian Armed forces in Vietnam. Our presence there had encouraged them to fight... so, I think we had a commitment, an obligation to such people and we fulfilled that obligation.</p> <p>David Hollinsworth, Race and Racism in Australia. The controversy over Australia’s duty to admit such refugee’s, and the history of racial fears of ‘Asians’ gave this component extreme visibility, with many believing the actual numbers coming were much higher and</p>	<p>As more boats arrived the media used emotive words such as “Invasion” and “armada”</p> <p>Dec. 1976 Melbourne Sun-News pictorial warned “Today’s trickle of unannounced visitors to out lonely northern coastline could well become a tide of human flotsam”.</p> <p>The Australian 25th Nov. 1977 “We must be humane and accept our fair quota of Vietnam’s boat people. But we must look them in them very closely. We must check for troublesome political arrivals; and send them straight back- others people’s squabbles are not for import.We must process these people medically, and fumigate every shirt and slipper they arrive with.”</p> <p>Brisbane’s Courier Mail 29th Nov. 1977 “It’s the yellow peril again”</p> <p>The Age 15th Nov. 1977 “While Australia can afford to be generous, it cannot be expected to play host to every unscheduled refugee.”</p> <p>Vietnamese settlers in areas such as Cabramatta (Syd) and Richmond, Footscray and Springvale have attracted negative comments and accusations of “sticking together”. These clusters of migrants often created resentment among older inhabitants that their</p>

more threatening than they actual were.

Murray Goot a leading Pollster argues that “if the opposition to Asian immigration could be construed as great, opposition to the total migrant intake was every bit as great if not greater.”1985. However, Media represented these polls in the early 1980’s as recording a “NO” to Asian immigration when the question made no reference to a pacific group of migrants. People who opposed one generally opposed the other. “it seems more likely that opposition to Asian migration reflects, at least in part, opposition to immigration in general.”

neighbourhood had changed.

Opinion Polls

According to G.Tavan Public opinion polls after the 1975 indicated a significant decline in approval of Asian immigration, with the number of people who believed ‘too many’ that were migrating jumping from 36% that year to 62% in 1979. The majority opinion consistently favoured the “too many” category during the 1980’s. **Morgan 1977** 60% said accept limited number of boat people. 20% boat people stopped from “staying here” **McNair Anderson poll** 1978 25% would have “sent them back” and a further 25% said the government should “make special efforts to get some other country to take them”. 29% took the “lenient view and allow them to settle”. **Canberra Times Poll** 1978 57% were against allowing Vietnamese to stay.

Historians

Paul Kelly: Multiculturalism became the new official faith. It was an ambitious idea - designed to manage diversity and unity together.

According to **Robert Manne** under the guidance of Malcolm Fraser, Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, Australia developed an immigration Policy that was “genuinely non-discriminatory from a racial point of view”. On Refugee’s Manne says, Australia gained a “fine reputation” for humane treatment.

Katherine Betts argues that during the 1960’s and 70’s debate on the issue demonstrated how, race, immigration policy and the concept of multiculturalism had combined to produce a set of ideas that had caused a new fundamental division within Australian Society. A divide between intellectual class and the majority of the population. Intellectuals endorsed a set of values agreed by the Labour Government and media. The established a terminology that soon became the only publicly accepted discourse on the topic. Although the motives were social justice and political progress, the same intellectuals held overt contempt for the majority of Australian’s, who they though remained mired in the materialism and shrouded in xenophobia. (This may account for the Blainey Debates 1980’s and the rise of One Nation 1990’s.

Bruce Grant argues that in the 1970’s to question immigration was to step outside the circle of acceptability, “The governing elite pre-empted the issues and made ordinary Australian’s feel that to be racially intolerant was to be unfashionable, even unpatriotic”.

Nancy Viviani The Indochinese in Australia 1975-1995 “Despite the fears of politicians, the exaggerations of the press and the actions of some anti-Asian groups , the government had public support on the taking of boat people until the exodus from Vietnam in 1979. That crisis frightened the government, though of course it did not result in any ‘flood’ of boats to Australia. The status quo held in fact, but public opinion, aroused by reiteration of crisis by politicians and the media turned against the boat people”. And “For Australians, Vietnamese refugee entry was the first real test of the disestablishment of the White Australia policy, and a test successfully passed”.

John Lack 1998 “Their arrival and settlement... effectively buried White Australia as a policy and social reality. Intense debates over immigration policy and intake in the 1984-5 and in 1997-98 tested community and political nerve and resolve, but the bipartisan commitment to a non-discriminatory immigration policy

CHANGES IN ATTITUDES BETWEEN 1964-66 AND 1970'S

Key Changes

1. White Australia 1960's to its Death in the 1970's
2. Social Homogeneity/Integration 1960's to Multiculturalism 1970's
3. Discriminatory Policy 1960's to Non-Discriminatory Policy 1970's
4. Political and Societies Generational Shift

Why did these changes occur?

- The Education explosion of 1950's and 60's and the consequent entry of a younger highly educated middle class people into positions of influence as bureaucrats, politicians, lawyers educators etc. who were progressive in outlook and sensitive to broader issues such as humanitarianism and rejected racial discrimination eg. IRG
- The rising numbers of non-Europeans in universities due to the Colombo Plan helped to break down stereotypes.
- Societies view of itself was changing, the rise of youth movements particularly anti-conscription and anti-Vietnam war movements as well as Equality issues and movements challenged the core of White Australia, a "homogenous social whole bound by ties of blood and culture" (Gwenda Tavan) was no longer possible.
- To have Economic engagement with Asia, Australia needed to recognise and treat Asia as equal partners.
- Economic and social disparity felt by migrants challenged the concept of integration and assimilation.
- Whitlam's Social Modernisation and his willingness to link social objectives to an economic agenda. In modern economy, skills had to be the major criteria by which an immigrant's suitability must be judged.
- When exploring issues on migration and peoples attitudes you must take into account the specific social, political, and economic circumstances surrounding them. History attests to the willingness of populations to scapegoat minority groups during periods of insecurity. In Australia, this has surfaced in simplistic claims that migrants take jobs and deplete the environment, that Asians and Muslims do not assimilate and therefore threaten social cohesion, and that multicultural and Aboriginal industries divert badly needed funds from more worthy causes. Gwenda Tavan pp. 224.
 1. Significant section of population had reservations about the intake levels and multiculturalism. These issues were exploited in times of social and economic insecurity.
 2. Import Ideological divisions emerged on immigration issues, with urban, middle class and young Australians more sympathetic than older, rural working class Australian's.
 3. Governments became weary of the above and were reluctant to ignore public opinion on immigration and race matters.

CONCLUSION

The fear that buttressed White Australia policy made a significant though unintended contribution to its dismantling.

Bob Hawke: There is nothing more important in this history of Australia than the immigration program...there has, in my judgement, never been any other country which in such a short time has so peaceably and constructively changed its composition and this in a way which has been both economically enormously beneficial and also in the sense of enriching us culturally and in so many other ways. Bob Hawke: Prime Minister 1983-1991

Paul Kelly: Australia is a society that has largely reinvented itself. It is our greatest achievement as a nation. Our story tells us how powerful White Australia was and how long it lasted. But after its abolition, Australians embraced the values of multiculturalism and diversity with remarkable success and speed. Differences still remain, however, over how Australians relate to one another and to the world. Our great adaptation to Asia has just begun and it will be a constantly unfolding story.

Gwenda Tavan “Al Grassby was essentially correct when he claimed in 1973 that the White Australia policy was dead and buried. He underestimated, nevertheless, the power of the dead to haunt future generations. In Australia’s case, race (*and immigration*) remains the proverbial skeleton in the closet.”

- Geofferey Baliney debates 1980’s
- Pauline Hanson and One Nation 1996
- Tempa Boat crisis and the ‘Children overboard’ incident 2001
- Pacific Solution and Mandatory Detention of Asylum Seekers
- Cornelia Rau, Vivian Alvarez and the Bakhtiyari cases have highlighted the human face of present day immigration controversies.
- Australian Citizenship Test
- Detention Centers
- Continuing Issue of Boat People

EXAM PAPER

Date:

Wednesday 9th November 3-5:15pm

Structure

- In the centre of the Booklet there will be a pull out section for Section D.
- Immigration Document is Representation is D.
- Representation can either be a written or visual document.
- **30 Minutes writing time**

Your Exam response should be three paragraphs representing each of the three dot points.

Remember if exam doc. comes from 1970's

Para.1 Reflect on the attitudes in the document.

Para. 2 Reflect on attitudes in 1970's to the issue.

Para. 3 Changing attitudes with reference to the 1964-66.

If the doc. comes from the 64-66 then visa versa.

Exam Question

1. Identification of the attitudes reflected in the document. Use evidence from the representations to support your comments. (4 Marks)

- Students are awarded 2 marks for identify the attitudes contained in the representation and 2 marks for evidence/explanation
- the date of the representation so that you focus on the right point in time.
- Contextualise the document i.e what was happening at the time this document was written or events that influenced the document.
- Identify the central attitudes in the document provided.
- Whose attitudes are reflected in the document?
- Use concepts/language associated with the topic in answering all questions.

Written Source

Who is the author of the document and when was it written?

What type of document is it? Newspaper article, Historian views, political speech etc.

Identify the main attitude/opinion of the author.

Quote words rather than whole sentences of the document.

Visual Source

Who created the visual?

What type of visual is it? Cartoon, photograph, graph etc.

Identify the issue on which the visual is reflecting

Describe the literal and symbolic elements within the visual---hidden or double meanings, key concepts, sarcasm, stereotypes, political ideas, political figures etc.

What attitudes are reflected in the visual?

Whose attitudes are reflected in the visual?

Quote words from the caption that reflects the attitude of the creator

2. Evaluate the degree to which the representation reflects attitudes about the issue you have studied at that particular point in time. (8 Marks)

- 8 marks are allocated for writing about the time the representation is taken from. Knowledge, evidence and relevance are discriminating factors
- Identify similar attitudes from that time and compare with document.
- Does the doc. reflect all the attitudes of the time? Or were there alternative attitudes.
- What events shaped these attitudes?
- Give a range of attitudes from the media, general public, politicians and pressure groups.
- Make general statements followed by supporting evidence: (facts, quotes, historian's visuals etc.) that demonstrate common or divergent views.
- Compare with other documents.
- Explain and analyse evidence.
- Explain why attitudes/views at that time may have been common or divergent.

3. Analysis of changing attitudes towards this issue. Use evidence from the other point in time that you have studied to support your comments. (8 Marks)

- 4 marks are allocated for analysis of changing attitudes in relation to Immigration and 4 marks for evidence from the other point in time.
- You must answer this question with reference to the other point in time.
- Have attitudes changed?
- If so why have attitudes changed?
- What events shaped attitude change?
- To what extent have attitudes changed....
- Use evidence from other point in time to support argument.
- Compare and contrast the doc. with other documents you many have studied.
- Outline Historians views.
- Offer your opinion

Key Changes from the 1960's to the 1970's

Attitudes should reflect some of these key changes on the Immigration Issue.

- Undermining of White Australia Policy in 1960's to its death in the 1970's
- Social Homogeneity/Integration in the 1960's to Multiculturalism 1970's
- Discriminatory Policy in the 1960's to a Non-Discriminatory Policy in the 1970's and the political obligation under the United Nations Anti-discrimination Charter and ratified in Australia Anti-discrimination Act 1975.
- Political shift in thinking from Menzies and Calwell in the 1960's to Whitlam and Fraser in the 1970's.
- Societies Generational shift during the 1960's and 1970's led to important ideological divisions that emerged on immigration issues, with urban, middle class and young Australians more sympathetic than older, rural working class Australian's.
- Economic Impact of immigrants and refugee's on Australia versus the Humanitarian response and moral obligation.
- The issues of Immigrants and refugees were often exploited in times of social and economic insecurity resulting in negative attitudes particularly at the end of the 1970's.
- Significant section of population had reservations about the intake levels of migrants and multiculturalism at the end of the 1970's.
- Governments became weary of the above and were reluctant to ignore public opinion on immigration and race matters.

D Attitudes to immigration

It's the Yellow Peril Again

The new wave of Vietnamese heading for Darwin... is a flotilla* of political trouble. No matter what demands are made by Northern Territorians ... there is one all important point. What Australian politicians from any political party will be the first man to order the turning around of the refugee boat?

Despite any consideration about the relative prosperity of some of the newer refugee's, they are, patently people fleeing from a government because of its policies – refugees in the truest sense. Is there any Australian leader prepared to risk the national and international outcry by sending out the navy physically to turn back the fleet of small boats?

...There is a good degree, however of the old 'yellow peril' fears being exhibited in Darwin...that old Australian catchcry against the Asian hordes.

Bruce Wilson, The Courier Mail, Brisbane, 29 November 1977

*fleet of small boats

Please note: The responses displayed below are by no means the 'perfect' answers: however, they may be useful in providing you with a guide as to how to attempt the exam question.

- Identification of the attitudes reflected in the document. Use evidence from the representations to support your comments. (4 Marks)

The newspaper article by Bruce Wilson was produced in the context of the arrival of the first Vietnamese Boat People in Darwin on 26th April 1976. Wilson attitude reflects the need for compassion with a humanitarian response to these refugees's "fleeing from a government because of its policies" makes them refugees in the "truest sense". Also, he argues that politicians have a moral obligation and responsibility to these refugee's and they should not be dictated to by the 'yellow peril fears' of some within the community particularly those in the Northern Territory. Their fears that these refugees are 'political trouble' leading to Vietnamese Government in exile are a false 'old Australian catchcry'.

- Evaluate the degree to which the representation reflects attitudes about the issue you have studied at that particular point in time. (8 Marks)

Wilson's article identifies the two main attitude concerns about Boat People. The politician's responsibility of a bipartisan approach and the impact of the issue on public opinion. Mr. Mackellar Minister for Immigration 1977 stated "While we wish to exercise compassion, my first responsibility is to the Australian public". The initial position of the Whitlam Government (1975) was that it did not wish to offend the newly victorious government of North Vietnam. However, this was criticized by the Sydney Morning Herald 28th April 1975 stated "Very many Australian's must be deeply angry and ashamed about the callousness of our government's scuttle from Saigon and its abandonment... betrayal is not too strong... of hundreds of Vietnamese entitled to expect our assistance to flee the fate awaiting the marked-down enemies of Hanoi.". The SMH reflects Wilson's opinion of political and a humanitarian obligation. By 1978, the Fraser government sought to fulfill its obligation and minimize "international outcry" by asserting Australia as a responsible member of the Asian region improving relations with ASEAN. By the end of the 1970'S numbers were relatively low (1978-1979 14,500 Indochinese Refugee's settled in Australia.). However, Fraser feared a domestic political backlash on the issue coupled with a

downturn in the economy. Media exaggeration increased opposition to multiculturalism and increases in Asian migration as “Asian hordes” and the misconception that it would lead to cheap labour and unemployment. According to Tavan public opinion polls after the 1975 indicated a significant decline in approval of Asian immigration, with the number of people who believed ‘too many’ that were migrating jumping from 36% that year to 62% in 1979. This may be accounted for by the exaggeration and sensational reporting by the media on the extent of numbers arriving. Fraser stated in 2000 “Well the dominant feeling was that we had to give these people a home, especially people who had been associated with either the Australian Embassy or the Australian Armed forces in Vietnam. Our presence there had encouraged them to fight... so, I think we had a commitment, an obligation to such people and we fulfilled that obligation”. Nancy Viviani summed the issue up “For Australians, Vietnamese refugee entry was the first real test of the disestablishment of the White Australia policy, and a test successfully passed”.

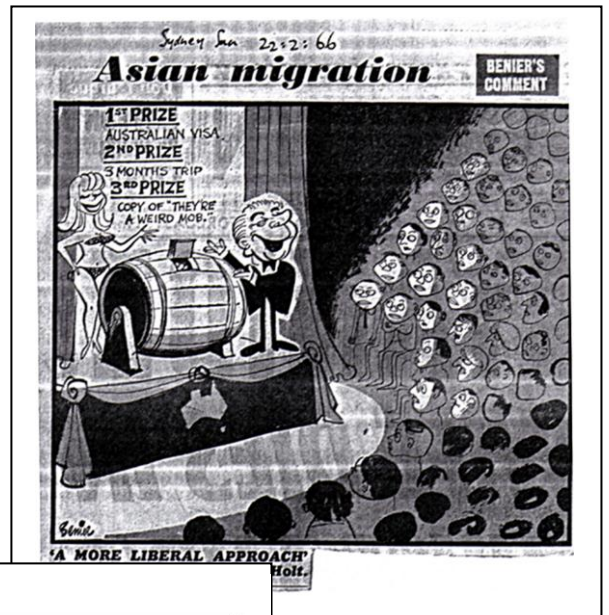
- Analysis of changing attitudes towards this issue. Use evidence from the other point in time that you have studied to support your comments. (8 Marks)

During the 1960’s there is evidence to support changing attitudes and the need for reform to Australia’s discriminatory approach to immigration and its insistence on social homogeneity was required. Paul Kelly argues that throughout the 1960’s that the “the policy had to be abolished if Australia was to engage with Asia on a basis of mutual respect”, attitude change by political leaders was inspired by an urban, middle class and young Australians with a global view such as the Immigration Reform Group (IRG) formed in 1959. They published “*Control or Colour Bar?*” 1962 advocating an end to the White Australia policy. However, the ‘old guard’ leaders of the Labor Party’s Arthur Calwell and the Liberal Prime Minister Robert Menzies valued maintaining a non-European Immigration policy and Social Homogeneity. Calwell stated “I am sure that if the White Australia policy is ever abandoned, it will not be a very long before the trade union movement will be fighting hard to maintain Australia’s high living standard” (1965) and Menzies similarly viewed the discriminatory 15 year rule on citizenship as a “Good thing too, right sort of discrimination”. The “Two Champions of Change”(Tavan) were Hubert Oppermann Minister for Immigration 1963-67 and Peter Heydon Secretary of the Immigration Dept.1961-71. They were concerned about the impact on Australian-Asian relations and inequalities and injustice it created for non-Europeans in Australia. Their failure to achieve change in the ’64 reforms was due to the “political self-interest, the Menzies cabinet’s narrow view of the national interest, and the unwillingness of more progressive ministers to stand up to the Prime Minister(Tavan). The retirement of Robert Menzies as Prime Minister January 1966 and the retirement of Arthur Calwell from the Labor Party signaled a catalyst for change in attitudes. The ALP dropped the White Australia Policy from its political platform in 1965, Whitlam advocating “a migrant who could contribute to the Australian community should not be barred on the ground that he was not white”. The ’66 reforms allowed for Non- Europeans Selected in “**limited numbers**” capable of “**ready integration**” and “**having knowledge, experience, or qualifications useful**” and can make a contribution to the “**economic, social, and cultural progress**” of Australia and the removal of the 15-year rule allowing non-Europeans to apply for “**Citizenship after five years residence**”. These changes had finally given non-Europeans in Australia social and political parity with European immigrants. However, there still remained discrimination on the entry requirements for immigrants coming from non-European origin. The 1966 reforms were “Welcome...and a reasonably bold step in the right direction” Sydney Morning Herald 10th March 1966. However, much of the media failed to see the significance of the 1966 reform, as The Australian reported 10th Mar. 1966 “the new immigration policy would not allow a large scale admission of workers from Asia, nor a departure from Australia’s primary aim...of producing a generally integrated and primarily homogeneous population”. Although most historians agree that

throughout the 1960's the "White Australia was abolished gradually and by stealth" Paul Kelly. It culminated in the repudiation of "Homogeneity" in the declaration of a Multicultural society in 1973 by Al Grasby who would remove "the last vestiges of White Australia".

Here are some practice documents you could work on

Molnar, George, 1966 "Qualified and useful - qualified and useful - qualified and useful - unqualified and useless; careful here! He must be white." 1966. Sydney Morning Herald on 11 March 1966.;



D. Attitudes to immigration

As reports came in suggesting that more than 60 refugee boats were heading to Australia, the Prime Minister (Mr Fraser) said yesterday that the number of refugees admitted to Australia would be limited.

... Mr Fraser said he believed Australia should admit 'many thousands' of Vietnamese refugees. But he said there would be increased surveillance and early detection of refugee boats sailing to Australia from Southeast Asia.

He would not rule out the possibility of boats being turned away by the Australian Navy or of Vietnamese refugees being flown back to Southeast Asia.

... The Northern Territory Chief Secretary (Mr Paul Everingham) sent urgent telex messages to Mr Fraser and the Defence Minister (Mr Killen), describing the Vietnamese influx as an unofficial invasion ...

Article, *The Courier Mail*, 26 November 1977

2007

D. Attitudes to immigration

2008 Exam Paper

Most Australians will welcome the announcement by the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Opperman, of the new conditions under which non-Europeans will be admitted as settlers. They are an important step in a liberal direction. The old policy was wrong for a number of reasons. It involved racial discrimination of the most blatant kind in a world and an age rightly intolerant of this vicious distinction. It was therefore a slur on Australia's claim to membership of the progressive, liberal international community. It harmed us materially through engendering distrust of us as a nation ...

... The goodwill created by economic aid and the intensifying degree of personal exchange between Asians and Australians has been needlessly offset by the racial immigration policy. Finally, it has been something of an insult to the average Australian to suggest that he is incapable of living and working in reasonable harmony with Asians.

Article, *The Canberra Times*, 11 March 1966

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2. Tavan G. *The Long, slow death of White Australia*. Scribe Publications, 2005.
3. Windshuttle K. *The White Australia Policy*. Macleay Press, 2004.
4. Ed. Healey K. *Issues of the Nineties Vol. 37*. The Spinney Press.
5. Dugan M and Szware J. *There goes the Neighbourhood. 1984*
6. King J. *Stop. Laughing, this is serious!* Cassell Australia. 1978

Video/DVD

1. ABC "100 Years: The Australian Story", Episode 2: Rise and Fall of White Australia
2. Film Australia "Immigration"
3. Director Alec Morgan "Admission Impossible", 1992 Film Australia
4. Immigration Nation (Episode 3) SBS, 2011
<http://www.sbs.com.au/immigrationnation>