STATE AND SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA (MPSE-012)

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
Course Code: MPSE-012
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/2025-26
Marks: 100

Note: Answer five questions in total, choosing at least two questions from each section.

SECTION - I

(Answer in ~500 words each; 20 marks)

1. Describe the characteristics of Australian society.

2. Discuss the colonisation process and its impact on Aboriginal identity.

3. Examine the emergence of multiculturalism in Australia.

4. Analyse the role and programme of major political parties in Australia.

5. Explain the development of Commonwealth constitutional principles.

SECTION - II

(Answer in ~250 words each; 20 marks)

6. (a) Write a short note on women's political participation in Australia.
   (b) Comment on Indian Diaspora in Australia.

7. (a) Note on the Australian economy in the era of globalisation.
   (b) Discuss recent trends in immigration and its economic impact.

8. (a) Examine the role of the welfare state in Australia.
   (b) Comment on recent elections in Australia.

9. (a) Write a note on nationalism and national identity in Australia.
   (b) Analyse the role of pressure groups in Australian politics.

10. (a) Assess the political participation of Aboriginal peoples in Australia.
    (b) Discuss Australia's engagement with globalisation.

1. Describe the characteristics of Australian society.

Answer

Australian society has been shaped by the meeting of very old Indigenous cultures, British settlement, large-scale immigration and a modern democratic state. It cannot be understood as a single uniform society. Its main characteristics come from the coexistence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions, a strong Anglo-Celtic institutional inheritance, and the cultural diversity created by later migration. These elements have sometimes supported one another and have sometimes produced tensions over identity, equality and belonging.

Indigenous foundations and settler history

The first and most basic feature is the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, whose cultures, languages, kinship systems and attachment to Country long pre-date European settlement. Their social organisation developed in close relation to land, customary law and community obligations. British colonisation from 1788 created a very different political and social order. The new settlements introduced British law, parliamentary institutions, private property and a market economy. For a long period, public ideas of being 'Australian' were closely connected with British origin, while Indigenous peoples were pushed to the margins of the new national story.

A society transformed by immigration

Another major characteristic is the importance of immigration. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the population was mainly drawn from Britain and Ireland, and the White Australia policy restricted non-European migration. After the Second World War, the policy of increasing population brought large numbers of migrants from continental Europe. From the 1960s and 1970s, racial restrictions were progressively dismantled and migration from Asia, the Middle East and other regions increased. The 2021 Census showed that 27.6 per cent of the population had been born overseas, while more than half of Australians were either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas. This makes cultural diversity a normal part of everyday Australian life rather than a marginal feature.