1. **What is the United Nations (UN)?**
The United Nations is an international organisation involving the 191 signatory countries whom seeks to maintain world peace.

2. **When was it established?**
The United Nations was established following the demise of the League of Nations and as a result of the Second World War. The UN charter agreement was signed by the 51 original member countries in 1945.

3. **Why was it established?**
The UN was primarily an organisation involved in maintaining world peace and stability as a result of WW2. It has gradually moved to being a humanitarian agency but retaining its initial role through the Security Council.

4. **What does the UN do?**
The UN’s Charter announced that the organisation’s aim was ‘to maintain international peace and security and … to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace’. The UN also sought to uphold human rights around the world and to work for improved living conditions.

5. **What is one of the UN organizations and what does it do? e.g. UNESCO, WHO**
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization helps communicate information about scientific breakthroughs, concerns over global warming and assists discussions over ethical issues. It has helped in the promotion of safeguarding World Heritage sites. The World Health Organisation strives for the eradication of disease. By 2010 it hopes to have rid the world of polio; through free vaccines and immunisations it provides to developing countries.

6. **What is the structure of the UN?**
   - **The Security Council (top level)**
     The executive committee of the United Nations It comprises the five permanent members (Britain, USA, France, Russia, and China) and ten non-permanent members elected every two years. It makes the ‘big’ decisions, which have to be unanimous.
   - **The General Assembly (under Security Council)**
     Each UN member is represented and has a single vote. The Assembly can debate any issue. It can pass resolutions that represent UN thinking.

7. **What was Australia’s role in the UN?**
Australia contributes to the UN primarily through the UN General Assembly in New York and specialist UN bodies such as WHO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNESCO. Australia promotes its national concerns through UN discussions on disarmament, international security, refugee issues, environmental protection, aid programs and health.

8. **Who was Doc Evatt and what was his role in the UN?**
The Australian Dr. Herbet Vere Evatt, born in 1894 (-1965) played an important role in the formation and early operations of the United Nations. Dr. Evatt led a committee which was involved in the creation of the foundations of the UN. The United Nations charter was signed by many countries including Australia on 26 June 1945. Dr. Evatt was the president of the UN general assembly from 1948 to 1949. During his time in office he was involved in the Atomic Energy Commission and the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

9. **What is the Colombo Plan? What is its purpose?**
The Colombo Plan was a result of an inter-government conference in January 1950. A blueprint was drawn up to provide aid and
assistance to developing countries of South East Asia to improve living standards.

10. What are some regional agreements that Australia is involved in?
Australia is a signatory member of the ANZUS, SEATO and APEC agreements. The ANZUS treaty is a security arrangement between the US, New Zealand and Australia to meet the security threats during the post war period. Australia role in SEATO (dissolved in 1977) was to take a stance on communism as part of Australia’s foreign policy. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was created in 1989 to promote development in the 21 participating countries.

Vietnam War ~ Australia’s response to Communism

1. When was conscription reintroduced? Why was it reintroduced?
The Menzies government reintroduced conscription in 1964 to fulfil its war effort in Vietnam. The reduction of volunteer servicemen resulted in the ‘birthday lottery’ which saw many 20 year old men sent to fight overseas.

2. What was the Petrov affair? Why was the Petrov affair significant to Australia at the time? How did the Petrov affair impact the Labor Party?
The Petrov was ‘an Australian spy thriller’ during the Menzies government on 1954. The defection of Vladimir Petrov, a Soviet Union diplomat raised concerns and fears that communist activity had been present in Australia. The Menzies Liberal government keen to win the upcoming elections portrayed the ALP as communist sympathisers through its association with the trade unions. This move proved extremely effective to keep the Labor party out of office and to damage to reputation of the then opposition leader Dr. Herbet Evatt.

3. What are some of the ways Australia responded to Communism?
The Australian government exaggerated the threat of communism at our doorsteps in order to win public support for its anti-communist policies. The Menzies government described the communist infiltration of the trade unions as a national risk which led to the Communist Party Dissolution Bill that was blocked in parliament. A referendum was held on this issue without any decisive victory for the government. Censorship of literature and counter-communist propaganda campaigns were run as evidence of the so called communist threat.

4. How did the Liberal Government attempt to ban the Communist Party of Australia (CPA)?
The Liberal government during the late 1940s and 50s attempted to outlaw the ‘Australian’ wing of communist operations using the Communist Party Dissolution Bill and the subsequent referendum. The saying ‘reds under the bed’ became a catchy slogan against the Labor party and the trade unions that had communist supporters in their ranks since the 1920s.

5. Who was the prime minister at the time of the Petrov Affair?
Australia was under the prime ministership of Robert Menzies (Liberal party).

6. Why was Australia involved in the Korean War?
The withdrawal of the Japanese from Korea in 1945 resulted in Soviet Communism in the North and Western Democracy in the South. North Korean troops attacked the South in 1950, drawing attention the urgency of the Cold War. The UN passed a resolution to aid Korea including military action involving 15 countries such as America, Australia and New Zealand. Australia sent its soldiers to fight against the communists as a symbol of strength and to defend the free world. Many people saw fighting in Korea directly related to Australian security.

7. What do SEATO and ANZUZ stand for? When was it established? What was its purpose?
In September 1954, the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation – SEATO – came into existence. It comprised: the US, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan and France. Again, no specific commitments had been made to defend treaty members in the event of attack, but it was assumed that the spirit of the agreement would see this happen. In 1951 Australia and New Zealand joined with the United States to sign the ANZUS Treaty. Under the terms of the treaty, the nations each viewed an attack on any one of them as a threat to the security of them all. If such a threat eventuated, they would meet to discuss a response. At the same time,
each nation had to develop its own defence capabilities.

**Australia’s involvement in Vietnam**

1. **Why was Australia involved in the Vietnam War?**

As the communist web grew further into Asia, many people saw South Vietnam (formed after the Indochina War) as the cornerstone for peace and freedom in South East Asia. Ho Chi Minh led the North Vietnamese forces in a brazen mission to unify Vietnam in the 1960s and 70s. Australia entered the Vietnam War as it fear communism and the impacts of the ‘domino theory’. There were also concerns over Australia’s security as shown in the Malayan Crisis along with the communist movement in Indonesia. It was seen as necessary to combat communism before it reached Australia. The government also saw the Vietnam War as an opportunity to build on the Australia-America and the ANZUS relationship from the Second World War. Australia’s involvement in a US dominated offensive would secure support and protection if Australia was under attack.

**Alliances**

Menzies believed that Australia should honour its treaty commitments. Although neither ANZUS nor SEATO stipulated that Australia must enter the war; Menzies believed the spirit of these treaties obliged Australia to assist its American ally.

**Containment**

Menzies was a strong opponent of communism. He had already shown this with his attempt to ban the Communist Party of Australia and during the Petrov Affair. He supported the US policy of containment and was a firm believer in the domino theory.

**Forward Defence**

The Menzies government firmly believed in the principle of forward defence, i.e. the idea that Australia should fight its enemies overseas before they reached Australian shores.

**Insurance Policy**

In the mid-1960s, the main security concern for Australia was Indonesia. This country’s erratic leader, Sukarno, had already taken over West Papua and was in conflict with Malaya. Sukarno was also linked with the large Indonesian Communist Party. An alleged communist attempt to take power in 1965 led to hundreds of thousand of deaths. Supporting the US in Vietnam was a kind of insurance policy. Australia might need later US help against Indonesia.

2. **How was Australia involved in the VW?**

**Military Action**

Military action was primarily of the ‘search and destroy’ method. Only occasionally did Australian troops get involved in full-scale battles. An example of such an action was the Battle of Long Tan in August 1966.

**Training**

The Australian Army Training Team, attached to the US 173rd Airborne Division, had been training South Vietnamese forces in jungle warfare, signals and engineering since 1962.

**Numbers**

Troop numbers steadily increased from 800 in 1965, to 6300 in early 1967, to 8300 by 1968. By 1971, over 43 000 Australian soldiers had served in Vietnam.

**Phuoc Tuy**

Australian forces were based at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province. They had responsibility for dealing with the Vietcong in this province. Vietcong soldiers spoke later of their dislike of having to fight Australian soldiers.

**Civic action**

Australian forces were also involved in what were called ‘civic actions’. This comprised projects in the areas of health, education and the provision of infrastructure.

3. **Who was Australia fighting?**

Australia was fighting against the North Vietnamese army, the Vietcong guerrilla fighters and for the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese.

4. **What were some of the antiwar movements during the Vietnam War?**

**Who were involved in protests?**

By 1967–68, anti-war protests had become more radical and often violent. However, these protests were counter-productive, as it turned moderate thinking Australians away from the anti-war movement. The SOS (Save our Sons) movement was a major lobby group during the Vietnam War. SOS was headed by mothers of soldiers whom were involved in the war. The SOS and other demanded an end to conscription and
an immediate unconditional withdraw from Vietnam.

5. **What is a conscientious objector?**
A conscientious objector or pacifist was a person that lodged an exemption for conscripted service due to his moral beliefs against the war.

6. **What is a moratorium? What did they do? Was it successful? Why/why not?**
- **Moratorium:** a national stop work to protest against the Vietnam War
  The Vietnam War moratorium rallies of 1970 appealed to people as a way of displaying their support for the end of the war. On 8 May 1970, moratorium demonstrations were held all over Australia. The largest was held in Melbourne, where between 80 000 and 100 000 people marched, led by Dr Jim Cairns. Central Melbourne was brought to a standstill. Similar demonstrations occurred in other capital cities and regional centres. Within a year of the moratorium, nearly all Australian troops had been brought home.

**Changing Rights and Freedoms**

1. **Why did Australia encourage migration after WWII?**
Much of Australia’s skilled workforce had been depleted as a result of the war. The Australian attitudes of a White Australia only were starting to accept the differences between the cultures although it would be nearly another 3 decades before Australia would be declared multicultural. Migration was encouraged as some claimed Australia needed to ‘populate or perish’.

2. **Where did most migrants come from after WWII?**
Between 1945 and 1976, some 360 000 Italians migrated to this country. In the 1950s, the government supported the policy of assimilation, a policy that was to apply to migrants as well as Indigenous people. The Italians were meant to discard their language and customs and become ‘dinky-di Aussies’.

3. **How has migration trends changed over time?**
Migration has continued to increase into Australia as we became a more multicultural and diverse nation. Migration from Europe after the Second World War was followed by the ‘boat people’ of Vietnam in the 1970s. The Fraser government accepted these people into Australia as refugees. Many of the Italian, Vietnamese and other migrants now feature in Australian culture.

4. **What was the experience of post WWII migrants in Australia?**
Most of the early Italian migrants were unskilled. Many men ended up working on the construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme (1949-1972). Others worked at the Port Kembla steel works in Wollongong. Migrants had to sign two-year contracts in which they promised to work wherever they were sent. Accommodation was in critical supply when the migrants first arrived. Many built make-shift shacks and saved money for proper housing.

- **Assimilation:** policy of encouraging Indigenous people and migrants to take on Australian ways and customs
- **Multiculturalism:** Multiculturalism accepts the notion that Australia is a nation of many different cultures but that, as Australians, we all live together as one people. Rather than simply tolerating other cultures, we now treasure the fact that the country contains such diversity.
- **Integration:** Migrants were expected to assimilate. However, this policy never worked and the government switched to integration. The integration policy recognised the failure of assimilation and had to acknowledge other cultures. (acceptance of migrant and Indigenous cultures, but with a desire for these groups to become Australian)

5. **What was the policy towards migrants during the 1940’s and 50’s?**
In the 1950s those wishing to become Australian citizens had to have lived in Australia for five years, be of good character and speak reasonable English.

6. **What is the current policy towards migrants?**
The Australian government continues to accept new migrants into Australia’s population. Currently, permanent residents need to have lived in Australia for 4 years and pass a test to gain Australian citizenship.