St. Augustine’s College

Year 10 History | Term 2 2016
Migration Experiences

Source Booklet
Source A: Edmund Barton and the *Immigration Restriction Bill*

“I do not think either that the doctrine of the equality of man was really ever intended to include racial equality. There is no racial equality. There is that basic inequality. These races are, in comparison with white races — I think no one wants convincing of this fact — unequal and inferior. The doctrine of the equality of man was never intended to apply to the equality of the Englishman and the Chinaman.”


Source B: Alfred Deakin and the *Immigration Restriction Bill*

“We here find ourselves touching the profoundest instinct of individual or nation — the instinct of self-preservation — for it is nothing less than the national manhood, the national character, and the national future that are at stake. I also re-echo the statement which has been made during this discussion, that in dealing with the question in its largest aspect we are not wasting words. We are not unnecessarily occupying time or travelling from the matter in hand in declaring the purpose of this measure and the ultimate policy of the people of Australia in regard to the coloured races which surround us, and are inclined to invade our shores.”


Source D: The case of Mrs O’Keefe

“The first significant challenge to the White Australia Policy came during the Pacific War when 14 000 Asians sought refuge in Australia from the Japanese advance. Australia’s wartime experience provoked the first significant public debate on the White Australia Policy in 1944 and the debate intensified with the war’s conclusion and the Chifley Government’s decision to remove from Australia the Asian wartime evacuees. The 1949 High Court Decision on the Annie O’Keefe (Jacob) Deportation case was noted by the Minister for Immigration; Arthur Calwell [stated]... ‘the O’Keefe case goes far beyond the question of repatriation of a single Indonesian family. It knocks down the pillars upon which the White Australia Policy has firmly rested.”

Source E: Arthur Calwell on post-World War II immigration

“If Australians have learned one lesson from the Pacific War now moving to a successful conclusion, it is surely that we cannot continue to hold our island continent to ourselves and our descendants unless we increase our numbers. We are but 7 000 000 people and we hold 3 000 000 square miles [about 5 010 000 km²] of this earth’s surface. Our coastline extends for 12 000 miles [a little more than 20 000 kilometres] and our density of population is only 2.5 persons per square mile... While the world yearns for peace and abhors war, no one can guarantee that there will be no more war... Our first requirement is additional population. We need it for reasons of defence and for the fullest expansion of our economy. We can increase our 7 000 000 by an increased birth-rate and by a policy of planned immigration within the limits of our existing legislation.”
Source F: Contemporary (modern day) migration patterns

“The total migration program outcome for 2011–12 was 184,998 places. The major countries in the migration program were India, China and the United Kingdom... the skill stream: 125 755 places; the family stream: 58 604 places; the special eligibility stream: 639 places.”

2011–12 Migration program report: Program year to 30 June 2012, Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Source G: Changes in Australian demography

Australia's population by country of birth

The cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia's resident population has been reshaped over many years by migration. Historically, more people immigrate to, than emigrate from, Australia. At 30 June 2011, 27 per cent of the estimated resident population was born overseas (6.0 million people). This was an increase from ten years earlier at 23.1 per cent (4.5 million people).

Figure 1.1 Australia's population born overseas (a) (b)

(a) Census years only until 1981. Post 1981 based on estimated resident population at 30 June.
(b) Estimates for 2010-11 are preliminary rebased—see Explanatory Notes 9–10.
Persons born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.3 per cent of Australia’s total population at 30 June 2011. This was followed by persons born in New Zealand (2.5 per cent), China (1.8 per cent), India (1.5 per cent) and Vietnam and Italy (0.9 per cent each).

Over the last 10 years, the proportion of the Australian population who were born in the United Kingdom decreased from 5.8 per cent in 2001 to 5.3 per cent in 2011. Conversely, the proportions increased for people born in New Zealand (from 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent), China (from 0.8 per cent to 1.8 per cent) and India (from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent).

Source H: Australia’s multicultural policy

“The Australian Government is unwavering in its commitment to a multicultural Australia. Australia’s multicultural composition is at the heart of our national identity and is intrinsic to our history and character.

Multiculturalism is in Australia’s national interest and speaks to fairness and inclusion. It enhances respect and support for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. It is about Australia’s shared experience and the composition of neighbourhoods. It acknowledges the benefits and potential that cultural diversity brings.
Australia’s multicultural policy embraces our shared values and cultural traditions. It also allows those who choose to call Australia home the right to practise and share in their cultural traditions and languages within the law and free from discrimination...”

\(^1\) ‘unwavering’ implies it won’t change.

Source I: Excerpt from a research paper reviewing Australian immigration policies

“Assimilation policies of the 1940s and 1950s required new arrivals to learn English, adopt Australian cultural practices and become indistinguishable from the Australian-born population as quickly as possible. By the late 1960s, government policy had moved towards a policy of integration, reflecting a greater awareness of the difficulties faced by new migrants and an acceptance of the possibility that migrants could integrate successfully in Australian society without losing their national identities completely. Echoing developments in other immigrant-receiving countries, notably Canada, by the late 1970s there was a growing acceptance of broader expressions of cultural diversity or ‘multiculturalism’ within Australian society.”

Source J: Poster - Australia Land of Tomorrow.

Circa 1948. Designer: Joe Greenberg. Source: Museum Victoria

Source K: Australian Government poster

"The Southern Cross, the call of the stars to British Men & Women" issued by the Overseas Settlement Office to attract immigrants.

Source: Commonwealth of Australia - National Archives of Australia: A434 1949/3/21685

Source L: Dictation test passages, 1925.

Source: National Archives of Australia: A1, 1935/704
2.

From 1st to 15th September, 1925.

The need for mental stillness, for quiet and balance, is obvious. People are too excited. Let us think how null and void our little revolutionary efforts are when tested by reality. Yet the fruitful results in our private lives and public efforts spring almost always from quiet reflection and mature contemplation.

From 16th to 30th September, 1925.

The tiger is slightly shorter in the leg than the lion, but he is longer in the body. A well-nurtured male tiger weighs nearly a quarter of a ton. Every inch and every ounce of his terrible frame is perfect for the deadly business of the animal’s daily life— for speed and certainty in killing.

From 1st to 15th October, 1925.

Water as a liquid concerns us because our lives, like that of other living creatures, whether they be human, animal, or vegetable, from the biggest mammoth to the tiniest microbe, are dependent on water. Therefore, so far as we know, where there is no liquid water, there can be no life.

From 16th to 31st October, 1925.

As nobody had ever been able to discover the actual history of the eel, people sought a miraculous explanation. They knew that the salmon comes up out of the sea to lay its eggs far up the river near its source, but the big eels were never found travelling in the rivers except towards the sea.