

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE

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QUESTION 1: Discuss the role of the state in the development of the Pacific region. In your answer, refer to the theories of modernization and dependency, and the impact of globalization on the Pacific states. (20 marks)

ANSWER: The role of the state in the development of the Pacific region is a complex issue. Modernization theory suggests that the state plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and development. However, dependency theory argues that the state is often a tool of external powers, leading to underdevelopment. Globalization has further complicated this, as Pacific states are increasingly integrated into the global economy, but also face new challenges from international trade and investment.

QUESTION 2: Analyze the political systems of the Pacific Island states. How do these systems reflect the cultural values and traditions of the region? (20 marks)

ANSWER: The political systems of the Pacific Island states are deeply influenced by their cultural values and traditions. Many of these states have traditional systems of governance, such as the 'Fono' in Samoa and the 'Matafale' in Tonga. These systems often emphasize consensus and collective decision-making, reflecting the communal nature of Pacific societies. The introduction of Western-style representative democracy has often been a process of adaptation, where traditional values are integrated with modern political structures.

