Topic 6 Changing rights and freedoms

**Section B: Migrants**

**Change over Time**

- the changing patterns of migration 1945-2000

**Students learn to:**

- account for continuity and/or change over time in the relevant study

***Text - Chapter 6.2 Migrants: The Struggle for Acceptance***

p.307 The changing patterns of migration

p.308 ‘Populate or perish’

p.309 The new Australians

**Before World War II**

* 1901: Immigration Restriction Act - White Australia Policy
* Most migrants to Australia were from England, Scotland and Ireland
* During the Great Depression, migration slow significantly

**After World War II**

* Continuity: migration encouraged from Britain - £10 Poms. Throughout the second half of the 20th Century, most migrants came from Britain, though British migration decreased as a percentage of total migration.
* Migration from southern and eastern Europe, most significantly Greece and Italy
* 1973 - end of the White Australia Policy - increase in migration from south-east Asia
* More recently, migration from Africa and the Middle East

**Populate or perish**

* Migration from war-torn Europe: British and southern Europeans (mostly Italians and Greeks) and people from Baltic states (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia)
* Begun during Prime Ministership of Ben Chifley (1945-1949)
* Reasons:
  + labour shortage, larger workforce to stimulate economic growth
  + new workers would bring new skills
  + a larger population would improve Australia’s security against invasion (*source 6.13*)
  + *note: large-scale immigration was a change from traditional Labor Party policy*
* 1945: Department of Immigration - Minister: Arthur Calwell (see source 6.13 p.309)

**The new Australians**

British migration: to encourage migration, ex-servicemen given free passage; others offered assisted passage (£10 Poms). Didn’t provide the required numbers. Migrants were then accepted from any European country. 500,000 migrants by 1949.

White Australia Policy remained through 1950s and 1960s, but some changes were beginning:

1958 – dictation test removed from the Migration Act.

1973 – White Australia Policy abolished. Migrants could not be excluded based on race.

Late 1970s – Vietnamese refugees following the end of the Vietnam War and the fall of Saigon to Communist North Vietnam. Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

1990s – migration was still mostly from Europe, but there was greater migration from south-east Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Also significant intake of refugees.

**Changing patterns of immigration**

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| **Year** | **Continuity/Change** | **Reasons** |
| Up to World War II | Most immigration from Britain and Ireland (Anglo-Celtic people)  Immigration Restriction Act 1901: “White Australia Policy” | Australia was settled as a British colony.  Most 19th Century convicts and free settlers were British/Irish.  Chinese immigrants during gold rushes brought about fear of an “Asian invasion”.  Australians wanted settlers like themselves, who were white, had a similar culture and spoke the same language. |
| 1945 -1960s | British migration encouraged. £10 Poms.  (Who was Prime Minister to 1949? Ben Chifley. Who was Immigration Minister? Arthur Calwell.)  Migration from other areas of Europe, most significantly, Italy and Greece  Refugees from war-torn Europe  Mid 1950s – non-British migrants were more numerous than British. Program to encourage British migration “Bring out a Briton”. | Economic distress in Europe after the war. Many refugees and others wanting to leave.  Migrants would help economy – new skills.  Security – Australia’s small population couldn’t defend the country  Need for more labour (workers) to build Australia.  Not enough British migrants, so migration encourage from non-British sources in Europe. |
| 1958 | Dictation test abolished | To allow more non-British migration |
| 1966 | Migration policy – people encouraged to come on the basis of their contribution to Australia | More work for available for migrants.  Australia’s specific needs could be identified and appropriate migrants targeted |
| 1973 | White Australia Policy abolished | Australia began the process of increased non-Europe migration |
| 1979 | Large number of Vietnamese refugees (‘boat people’). Prime Minister was Malcolm Fraser. | Increased migration from South-East Asia - acknowledged Australia’s geographical position in the world and the desire for a multi-racial population. |
| 1990s | Migration continued from Britain.  Increased migration from non-European regions, especially south-east Asia, Middle East (particularly Lebanon) and Africa. | Increased migration from South-East Asia - acknowledged Australia’s geographical position in the world and the desire for a multi-racial population.  Australia maintained its international obligations in accepting refugees from strife-torn regions. |

Write a response:

***Account for the changes in Australian migration policy from 1945 to 2000.***