



How are citizens' political choices shaped?

Choose ONE of the following topics:

1. Political parties use social media such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to get their messages out to voters. Evaluate how social media is used to influence citizens' understanding of issues and the impact it has on voters' ability to make informed political choices.
2. What role does the media (such as TV, radio, newspapers, internet blogs) play in influencing the outcome of elections? Evaluate the contribution the media makes to democracy in Australia. Why is it important in a democracy to have a variety of media outlets?
3. How do interest groups influence voters' understandings of issues and their electoral choices? Focus on one or two interest groups and evaluate the impact they have on law and policy in Australia.

Include examples to support your conclusion. You must also include a bibliography.

You have 3 options for presenting your response:

Option 1

Write a 700–1000 word essay that analyses and evaluates the action Australia is taking in relation to your selected issue. Your essay should build a balanced argument that takes into account different points of view and perspectives. It must include in-text referencing and a bibliography.

Option 2

Present a 3–5 minute presentation, in which you analyse and evaluate the action Australia is taking in relation to your selected issue. Your evaluation should be balanced and take into account different perspectives on the issue. Your presentation should be supported by a range of visuals.

Option 3

Present your extended response as a creative product. This could take the form of an artwork, a video or an animation. Check your intended creative product with your teacher before you begin.

Write a 200–400 word rationale to accompany your creative response. Your rationale should explain how your creative response analyses and evaluates the action Australia is taking in relation to your selected issue.

Curriculum alignment — Year 9

Australian Curriculum 8.4

After completing this Unit of work and associated assessment tasks, students will have met the achievement standard for the Year 9 Australian Civics and Citizenship Curriculum.

Knowledge

By the end of Year 9, students evaluate features of Australia's political system, and identify and analyse the influences on people's political choices. They explain the key principles of Australia's system of justice and analyse the role of Australia's court system. They analyse a range of factors that influence identities and attitudes to diversity. They reflect on how groups participate and contribute to civic life.

Skills

When researching, students analyse a range of questions to investigate Australia's political and legal systems and critically analyse information gathered from different sources for relevance and reliability. They compare and account for different interpretations and points of view on civics and citizenship issues. When planning for action, students take into account multiple perspectives, use democratic processes, and negotiate solutions to an issue. Students develop and present evidence-based arguments on civics and citizenship issues using appropriate texts, subject-specific language and concepts. They analyse ways they can be active and informed citizens in different contexts.

Australian Curriculum 9.0

For students to meet the achievement standard for the Year 9 Australian Civics and Citizenship Curriculum, they will need to complete this Unit of work and an additional topic from the Year 7 Unit of work, and associated assessment tasks.

Knowledge

By the end of Year 9, students analyse the role of the Australian Constitution, the federal system of government, and the process and reasons for constitutional change. They explain policy development and legislative processes in Australia's democracy.

Skills

Students develop a range of questions and locate, select and compare information from sources to investigate political and legal systems, and contemporary civic issues. They analyse information to explain perspectives and challenges related to political, legal or civic issues. Students identify and evaluate the methods or strategies related to civic participation or action. Students use civics and citizenship knowledge, concepts and terms to develop descriptions, explanations and evidence-based arguments.

Unit assessment overview

This Unit of work provides a range of informal and formal assessment items. The suggested formal assessment task is an essay, presentation or creative response that explains how citizen's political choices are shaped. This task aligns to the Year 9 Australian Civics and Citizenship Curriculum, including skills components. [PEO quizzes](#) could be used as further assessment items. Teachers will need to develop an appropriate marking criterion and rubric using the relevant Australian Curriculum content descriptors.

Australian Curriculum 8.4	Australian Curriculum 9.0	Topic	Learning goals and success criteria
<p>Knowledge ACHCK076</p> <p>Skills ACHCS084</p>	<p>Knowledge AC9HC9K06</p> <p>Skills AC9HC9S03</p>	<p>Topic 1 Media literacy</p>	<p>Students will understand: The role that media—specifically social media—plays in the lives of citizens.</p> <p>The differences between fact, opinion and analysis in news media.</p> <p>Students will be able to: Reflect on their own consumption of the news.</p> <p>Analyse how engaging with the news can enrich their lives.</p> <p>Consider how different news outlets cover the same stories.</p> <p>Apply their knowledge of news literacy basics when consuming the news.</p>
<p>Knowledge ACHCK075 ACHCK103</p> <p>Skills ACHCS082 ACHCS083 ACHCS086 ACHCS087 ACHCS088 ACHCS089</p>		<p>Topic 2 Political parties</p>	<p>Students will understand: The role of political parties and independent representatives in Australia's system of government.</p> <p>How government is formed in the House of Representatives.</p> <p>How political parties are formed by groups of people with shared values and goals.</p> <p>Students will be able to: Research values and policies of parliamentary parties in Australia.</p> <p>Evaluate how accurately parliamentary parties are representative of Australian society.</p> <p>Make connections between values (party platform), ideas (party policies) and action.</p> <p>Present ideas and negotiate for a result in smaller and larger groups.</p>
<p>Knowledge ACHCK076</p> <p>Skills ACHCS084</p>		<p>Topic 3 Election campaigns</p>	<p>Students will understand: Different types of election campaign materials and how they have changed over time.</p> <p>Students will be able to: Make connections between a political party's policy and the way those policies are communicated using a range of media.</p>

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<p>Knowledge ACHCK103</p> <p>Skills ACHCS086 ACHCS087</p>	<p>Knowledge AC9HC9K02</p> <p>Skills AC9HC9S04</p>	<p>Topic 4 Cabinet and policy</p>	<p>Students will understand: The role of Cabinet in developing and shaping government policy.</p> <p>The principles of Executive government, including consensus decision-making and Cabinet solidarity.</p> <p>Students will be able to: Articulate and defend policy positions while seeking to achieve a consensus through respectful debate.</p>
<p>Knowledge ACHCK077 ACHCK078</p> <p>Skills ACHCS084 ACHCS085 ACHCS089</p>	<p>Knowledge AC9HC9K03 AC9HC9K04</p> <p>Skills AC9HC9S03</p>	<p>Topic 5 Laws and citizens</p>	<p>Students will understand: The separation of powers in Australia.</p> <p>How courts make law through their judgments.</p> <p>Students will be able to: Identify and evaluate court made – common – law Identify key principles of justice from case studies.</p> <p>Respectfully debate the key principles of law in Australia.</p>
<p>Knowledge ACHCK079 ACHCK080 ACHCK081</p> <p>Skills ACHCS084 ACHCS089</p>	<p>Knowledge AC9HC9K05 AC9HC9K06</p> <p>Skills AC9HC9S03</p>	<p>Topic 6 Identity</p>	<p>Students will understand: How the experience of being Australian is different for different people.</p> <p>The ways in which social media can be used to bring people with common experience or common values together.</p> <p>Students will be able to: Identify how groups of people can contribute to civic life in Australia.</p> <p>Appreciate the ways in which multiculturalism strengthens Australian democracy.</p>
	<p>And: Knowledge AC9HC9K01</p>	<p>Addressed in Year 7 Topic 1: How is Australia shaped by the Constitution?</p>	