

Years 7–8 assessment techniques and conditions

Humanities and Social Sciences — Civics and Citizenship

This document outlines assessment techniques and response conditions to achieve range and balance within an assessment program. Schools consider the local context, and the age and capabilities of students, when selecting appropriate assessment techniques and response conditions.

Techniques	Investigation	Project	Examination
Description	An investigation assesses students' abilities to research, collect, analyse and draw conclusions about primary and secondary sources.	A project assesses students' responses to a single task, situation or scenario.	An examination assesses students' responses that are produced independently, under supervised conditions and in a set timeframe. An examination ensures student authorship.
	<p>An investigation requires students to locate and use evidence that goes beyond the data or information they have been given and the knowledge they currently have.</p> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a range of questions or topics about Australia's political and legal systems • gather and analyse information for relevance and reliability • take account of multiple perspectives • use democratic processes and develop solutions to an issue • develop and present arguments. <p>Research conventions must be followed, e.g. acknowledging sources, regardless of the presentation format.</p>	<p>A project requires students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills relating to civics and citizenship concepts in authentic, and/or real-world scenarios.</p> <p>A project consists of at least two components drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical • written • spoken. 	<p>An examination requires students to respond to one or more assessment items. These items are based on questions or tasks that are typically unseen. Questions or tasks may be based on stimulus material.</p> <p>Stimulus materials may be seen or unseen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seen questions, statements or stimulus materials should be provided with sufficient time for students to adequately engage with the materials. • Unseen questions, statements or stimulus materials should not be copied from information or texts that students have previously been exposed to, or have directly used, in class.



Techniques	Investigation	Project	Examination
Formats (examples only)	<p>Formats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – argumentative essay that answers a research question – inquiry report • spoken/signed or multimodal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – argumentative or persuasive speech – seminar – debate – podcast – webpage. 	<p>Formats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – brochure – article (either writing the article or providing an analysis of an existing article) – report (inquiry) – essay • spoken/signed or multimodal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – interview – formal speech – seminar/slideshow – podcast – webpage – device application • practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – chart, e.g. flow diagram – roleplay, e.g. demonstrating voting procedures – analysis of polls/surveys – action plan. 	<p>Formats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – paragraph/s responses, e.g. comparing viewpoints and consequences • extended response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – essay response demonstrating an ability to interpret, analyse and draw conclusions • response to stimulus.
Conditions	<p>Suggested length:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written responses 200–400 words • spoken/signed or multimodal responses 1–3 minutes. 	<p>Suggested length:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written responses 200–400 words • spoken/signed or multimodal responses 1–3 minutes. 	<p>Suggested time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 70 minutes, plus 10 minutes perusal. <p>Suggested length:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200–400 words, comprising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – short response 25–75 words per item – extended response 200–400 words.

Notes

Responses may be written, spoken/signed or multimodal (integrating visual, print and/or audio features), recorded or live.

* Length of student responses should be considered in the context of the assessment. Longer responses do not necessarily provide better quality evidence of achievement.