

Year 7 Civics and Citizenship Curriculum and assessment plan

Example

Level description	Context and cohort considerations
<p>In Year 7, students study the key features of democracy and Australia's federal system of government, and explore how values shape our democracy. Students learn about the key features and principles of Australia's legal system. They look at how the rights of individuals are protected through the legal system, which aims to provide justice. Students also explore how Australia's secular system of government supports a diverse society with shared values that promote community cohesion.</p> <p>Inquiry questions provide a framework for developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills. The following inquiry questions are examples only and may be used or adapted to suit local contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Australia's system of democratic government shaped by the Constitution? • What principles of justice help to protect the individual's rights to justice in Australia's system of law? • How do features of Australian democracy and the legal system uphold and enact democratic values? • How is Australia a diverse society and what factors contribute to a cohesive society? 	<p>In Year 7, the Civics and Citizenship program is taught as a standalone subject in Term 4 and has been written for a 20-hour time allocation.</p> <p>The three Knowledge and understanding sub-strands are taught across two units. Unit 1 builds foundational understandings of the Australian legal system and explores Australian society and values. Unit 2 deepens students' knowledge and understanding of the system of government in Australia and how citizens participate in a democracy. Each unit develops the skills needed to be active and informed citizens.</p> <p>In Year 6 HASS, students have studied the key institutions of Australia's system of government, the three levels of government and values and beliefs of democracies.</p>

Unit 1 — We are one, but we are many	Unit 2 — Making a difference
<p>Timing: Term 4 Duration: 5 weeks</p> <p>Inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the nature of Australian society be described and represented? • What values are important to Australians? • What are the principles and key features of Australia's legal system? <p>Australia is one nation, but many different features shape Australian society. In this unit, students investigate the nature of Australian society, including its cultural and religious diversity and core Australian values, and determine how the Australian legal system supports our democracy through the rule of law and the court system.</p> <p>Students begin their study of Australian society by exploring popular Australian songs and poems to describe the distinctiveness of Australian society by identifying values that are important to Australians and exploring how local First Nations Australian communities are connected to Country/Place. They compare these understandings to other sources of information such as the Department of Home Affairs statement on Australian values. Students also examine secondary information and data (e.g. the Australian Bureau of Statistics, news articles) to describe Australia's cultural and religious diversity and to create graphs and tables of data.</p> <p>Students will then learn how Australian society is underpinned by the Australian Constitution, and draw connections between a fair and just legal system and our democratic principles. Through group work tasks that develop their inquiry and critical thinking skills, students use secondary research materials to investigate various aspects of the Australian legal system (e.g. rule of law) to create information brochures about how the legal system in Australia works.</p> <p>Throughout the unit, students reflect on these learning activities to support the preparation of their multimodal presentation.</p>	<p>Timing: Term 4 Duration: 5 weeks</p> <p>Inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is our system of government in Australia? • How do citizens participate in a democracy? • How have citizens made a difference in their communities through their civic actions? <p>Active citizenship is an important characteristic of a democracy, and provides a way for everyone to make a difference. In this unit, students learn how they can make a difference by investigating Australia's system of government and the ways citizens participate in their communities.</p> <p>Firstly, students consider the characteristics of Australia's democracy including democratic freedoms through structured small group discussions that allow them to develop and practise their social and personal skills. They use a range of learning activities and resources (e.g. resources for schools about the Queensland Parliament and resources from the Federal Parliamentary Education Office) to develop their understanding of the Australian system of government, including concepts of representative democracy, constitutional monarchy and federalism. Using a range of strategies that build ethical understandings and critical thinking skills, students explore different points of view and draw conclusions about why compulsory voting is a part of Australia's democracy.</p> <p>Students also consider how children, who are not yet old enough to vote, are able to participate in their democracy by exploring media commentaries such as podcasts, blogs and documentaries. They then reflect on the roles and responsibilities of citizens within communities. Working collaboratively in small groups, students conduct case studies of citizens or organisations (e.g. First Nations advocates, Landcare, Neighbourhood Watch, Homeless Connect) to investigate why the citizens were motivated to action, what methods or strategies of civic action they decided to use and how they made a difference to their communities (local, state, national or global communities). To conclude the unit, students apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in a response to stimulus examination.</p>

	Unit 1 — We are one, but we are many		Unit 2 — Making a difference	
	Assessment 1 — Investigation	Term/week	Assessment 2 — Examination	Term/week
Assessment	<p>Description: Using an inquiry process, students develop questions about Australia's legal system and the nature of Australian society and locate sources to use in their multimodal presentation. Students use the information they have selected, organised and analysed to describe the key features of Australia's legal system and Australia's cultural and religious diversity and identify the values that support cohesion in Australian society.</p> <p>The results of the investigation are presented as a multimodal presentation suitable for athletes visiting Australia to compete in the Olympic Games. It must provide athletes from other countries with important information about Australia's legal system and the nature of Australian society. The presentation is created using digital tools and platforms.</p> <p>Technique: Investigation</p> <p>Mode: Multimodal</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2–3 minutes 	Term 4 Weeks 3–5	<p>Description: Students respond to a range of questions about Australia's system of government, the characteristics of Australia's democracy and how citizens participate in a democracy. The examination includes a number of short response items and one extended response item. Stimulus is provided for each question.</p> <p>Technique: Examination</p> <p>Mode: Written</p> <p>Conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supervised • up to 70 minutes, plus 10 minutes planning • 400–600 words, comprising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – short responses 50–100 words per item – extended responses 200–300 words per item 	Term 4 Week 8
Achievement standard	<p>By the end of Year 7, students describe the key features of Australia's system of government, and the principles and features of the Australian legal system. They explain the characteristics of Australian democracy. Students describe the nature of Australian society, its cultural and religious diversity, and identify the values that support cohesion in Australian society.</p> <p>Students develop questions and locate, select and organise information from sources to investigate political and legal systems, and contemporary civic issues. They analyse information and identify perspectives and challenges related to political, legal or civic issues. They identify and describe the methods or strategies related to civic participation or action. Students use civics and citizenship concepts, terms and sources to create descriptions, explanations and arguments.</p>		<p>By the end of Year 7, students describe the key features of Australia's system of government, and the principles and features of the Australian legal system. They explain the characteristics of Australian democracy. Students describe the nature of Australian society, its cultural and religious diversity, and identify the values that support cohesion in Australian society.</p> <p>Students develop questions and locate, select and organise information from sources to investigate political and legal systems, and contemporary civic issues. They analyse information and identify perspectives and challenges related to political, legal or civic issues. They identify and describe the methods or strategies related to civic participation or action. Students use civics and citizenship concepts, terms and sources to create descriptions, explanations and arguments.</p>	
Moderation	<p>Consensus:</p> <p>Refer to QCAA moderation advice on the QCAA website under the Assessment tab in the learning area or subject.</p>		<p>Calibration:</p> <p>Refer to QCAA moderation advice on the QCAA website under the Assessment tab in the learning area or subject.</p>	

Content descriptions	Units		Content descriptions	Units	
	1	2		1	2
Knowledge and understanding			Skills		
Government and democracy the key features of Australia's system of government, including democracy, the Australian Constitution, responsible government and federalism AC9HC7K01	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Questioning and researching develop questions to investigate Australia's political and legal systems, and contemporary civic issues AC9HC7S01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
the characteristics of Australia's democracy, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement AC9HC7K02	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	locate, select and organise information, data and ideas from different sources AC9HC7S02	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laws and citizens the key principles and features of the Australian legal system, including the Australian Constitution, the rule of law and the court system AC9HC7K03	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Analysis, evaluation and interpretation analyse information, data and ideas about political, legal or civic issues to identify and explain differences in perspectives and potential challenges AC9HC7S03	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship, diversity and identity how Australia's secular democracy and pluralist, multi-faith society draws upon diverse cultural origins, including Christian and Western heritage, distinct First Nations Australian histories and cultures, and migrant communities AC9HC7K04	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civic participation and decision-making explain the methods or strategies related to making decisions about civic participation AC9HC7S04	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
how values based on freedom, respect, fairness and equality of opportunity can support social cohesion and democracy within Australian society AC9HC7K05	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicating create descriptions, explanations and arguments using civics and citizenship knowledge, concepts and terms that reference evidence AC9HC7S05	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

General capabilities	Units	
	1	2
Critical and creative thinking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Digital literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethical understanding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Intercultural understanding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Numeracy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal and social capability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Cross-curriculum priorities	Units	
	1	2
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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