

Year 9

Politics Revision

What is the difference between a representative and direct democracy? Give an example of each. (3)

In a representative democracy, legal power is given to a group elected by the society like in Australia while in a democratic democracy, legal power is held by the citizens themselves and they participate in debates and enact laws.

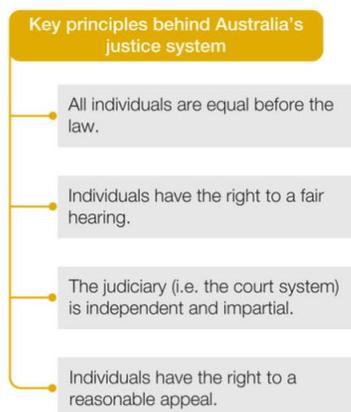
State 4 of Australia's liberal democratic values. (2)

(answers will vary)

- freedom of election
- freedom of religion
- freedom of assembly
- right to a fair trial

What are Australia's two main principles regarding the legal system? (2)

The law can only be changed or enforced by the legal authorities and all people must abide by the rules of the law.



What types of people can be disadvantaged in the law and why? (3)

People who have speech or hearing impairments or those who do not speak English fluently may be disadvantaged as they may have difficulties interpreting legal authorities and may not understand what they need to write in legal documents or may not be able to defend themselves when in trial. People from low socio-economic backgrounds also can be disadvantaged as they may not be able to afford lawyers to defend them in trials.

How does Australia's judiciary ensure it remains independent? (2)

How is a parliament different from the government? (2)

The parliament is the assembly of leaders elected by a society to enact, implement and interpret their laws while the government is the party or coalition with the majority of seats in Australia's lower house.

What is a constitution? (1)

The constitution holds a set of rules on how to govern a nation, including the way in which power is held.

How is the role of the Upper house different to that of the Lower House? (2)

The Upper House is a house of review and checks over the decision of the lower house, approving laws to then be passed to the Governor General. It also holds the lower house accountable for its actions. On the other hand, the lower house holds debates aiming to pass bills.

Why are independent members of parliament important? (1)

Independents represent the views of the public even more than candidates from parties as they do not have their party policy or platform to abide by. In this way, during debates, they can vote on issues in a way that represents the views of the people.

Why do the Liberals and Nationals often form a coalition government? (1)

The liberals and nationals often form a coalition as they have similar ideals, such as striving for less government control and looser regulations for businesses. This allows them to form government more easily as they have a wider group of supporters and are more likely to have the majority of seats in the lower house.

Describe 2 factors that influence voter behaviour. (2)

Media portrayal and family party loyalty can influence voters at election time. If the media presents a particular candidate in a positive light, the audience is more likely to esteem them while a negative portrayal can cause voters to change their opinions of candidates, particularly if they are presented as having scandalous actions.

Describe 2 campaign strategies and their effect on the target audience. (4)

1. face to face → strengthens the relationship between voters and candidates and makes them feel as though their ideas are honestly considered
2. technology → portraying oneself to have particular characteristics via social media in particular can present one's positive aspects and appeal to voters on a personal level

Proportional representation is used in Australia's Upper House. (1)

What is the difference between legal and non-legal rules? (2)

Legal rules must be abided by all members of society but non-legal rules are specific to the organisations or groups that created them. As such, people who disrespect non-legal rules usually cannot be prosecuted and are only penalised within the club/group/etc.

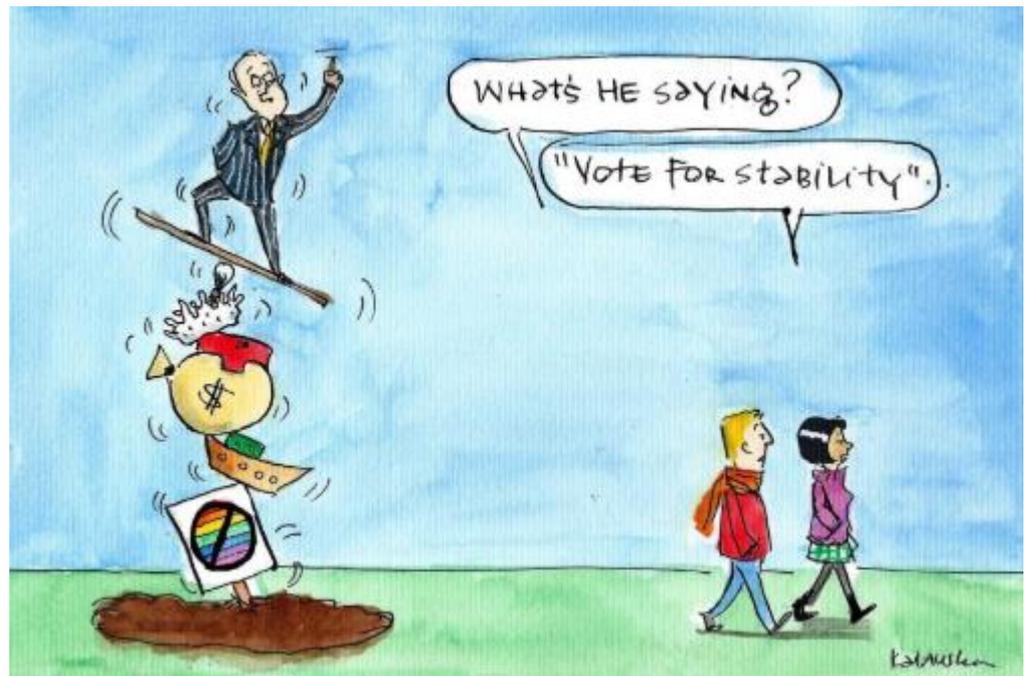
Which level of parliament controls the following areas? (6)

blue = federal

orange = state

a	currency	●	e	anti-terrorism	●	i	border security	●
b	education	●	f	hospitals	●	j	electricity	●
c	Australian citizenship	●	g	fire brigade	●	k	asylum seekers	●
d	water supply	●	h	postal services	●	l	police force.	●

Analyse this political cartoon. (4)



Extended Response

Media Influence on Elections (example)

Various types of media can greatly influence a voter's decision during election time, from billboards and written articles to television coverage or social media. A voter's response to campaigns is also largely impacted by the reactions of the media and how they justify them.

News channels or social media videos can affect voter behaviour simply by spreading the word on particular candidates rather than others. Particularly in local elections, name recognition can be a major factor in the voting system as people are more likely to vote for a candidate whose name they recognise rather than someone they have no connection to at all.

The platform and policies of a political party are communicated via many forms of media, including posters and billboards but are most often done via websites. Clearly stating the importance and views of parties and candidates on issues allows voters to identify which parties they share similar ideas with. Presenting themselves as innovative or traditional can also affect a voter's perception of a party as people will most often associate with others who support their views, not challenge them.

The reactions of reporters or celebrities to the ideas of a party can, in turn, affect the views of voters. This is because many people like to consider themselves similar to their idols and often do so through political preferences. Furthermore, news programs or other mediation sites often present candidates in a biased manner based on individual views or company policies. The most effective ways to convince audiences to change their mind about candidates/parties involve revealing 'scandals' or uncovering past lives. When outrageous enough, these stories can cause audiences to change their political decisions as they may lose trust in candidates or parties. Decisions affected by the media may not be representative of voters' true ideals but the connotations on aspects of a story used by a media site can often present candidates in an overly-negative or -positive light.

Individual candidates can also affect voters themselves through their personal social media accounts, presenting themselves to have particular characteristics they deem to be positive (from decisive or talented to kind).

A party's approach to a campaign can also greatly impact a voter's choice as mudslinging can be seen as a negative method to gain voters and it could potentially cause certain people them to avoid voting for parties which employ this technique.

Democratic Rights and Responsibilities (example)

The responsibilities of citizens of a democracy are many, ranging from simple things (like abiding the rules of the society) to more difficult ones (like serving on the jury of a case). Different types of democracies have different rules and, in turn, different rights and responsibilities for their people.

The responsibilities of citizens of a democratic society often differ but in Australia, these are to serve on 'jury duty' when asked, to vote at all elections, to respect the law and other people and to protect the nation if the need arises. This entails acting in a non-biased manner when attempting to solve cases as part of a jury as well as registering for the electoral roll and attending polling stations at election time. Respecting the law is a more abstract concept but Australians must only allow legal authorities to enact, implement and interpret the law. They should also respect each other's liberal democratic rights as part of the pluralist society it is. Finally, Australians must protect the nation if it is attacked, not necessarily by joining the army but potentially by supporting others mentally, socially, emotionally or physically.

Thanks to the liberal democratic views of the Australian society, all people have a variety of rights alongside the human rights set out by the United Nations that apply to every human being on Earth. In Australia, citizens have the freedom of speech and assembly, meaning that they can join groups to lobby for particular causes or simply to share their interests. They also have the freedom of election, meaning that they can run for office if they are unhappy with their government. The freedom of religion allows all people to believe in different things without being discriminated against. The freedom of movement enables citizens to leave or return to the country as desired while the freedom from arbitrary arrest partners with the right to a fair trial to allow people to feel safe when doing the right thing.

All in all, the rights and responsibilities of the people of Australia are many, ranging from the various freedoms and rights of a liberal democracy to specific responsibilities like 'jury duty' or compulsory voting. Together, these rules allow all people in this pluralist society to be respected and allows for innovation and progression as a country.