

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CONSULTATION CURRICULUM

Civics and Citizenship – Scope and sequence 7–10

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YEAR 7 TO YEAR 10

Civics and Citizenship		Year 7	Year 8
		Achievement standard	
		<p>By the end of Year 7, students describe the key features of Australian democracy, legal systems and characteristics of active citizenship. They explain how these features and characteristics uphold and enact democratic values, and how they enable active participation. Students identify the diverse belief systems in Australian society and identify the importance of shared values in promoting a cohesive society.</p> <p>Students identify a range of questions to investigate data, information and ideas related to contemporary issues. They analyse a range of sources and identify different perspectives and points of view and identify reasons for differences. Students explain democratic processes, actions and strategies in response to a contemporary issue. They create a plan to take action and identify how active citizenship may contribute to change. Students communicate an explanation and present arguments on a contemporary issue using democratic, legal and citizenship concepts and relevant evidence.</p>	<p>By the end of Year 8, students explain how Australians can participate in democracy, and the role and impact of political parties and elections. They describe the types and characteristics of laws and explain how laws are made in Australia. Students analyse issues about national identity and the factors that contribute to people's sense of belonging. They identify how these influence and contribute to active citizenship.</p> <p>Students develop different types of questions to investigate data, information and ideas related to contemporary issues. They analyse a range of sources and analyse different perspectives and points of view and explain reasons for differences. Students explain their processes and actions and refine strategies to negotiate and mediate differences. They explain their role as active citizens and describe how it may contribute to change. Students communicate an explanation and present reasoned arguments on a contemporary issue using democratic, legal and citizenship concepts and relevant evidence.</p>
Knowledge and understanding	Strand	Content description	
	Sub-strand	Students learn about:	
	Government and democracy	the key features of Australian democracy and government, including the Australian Constitution, responsible parliamentary government and federalism (AC9HC7K01)	how Australian citizens can participate in democracy, including voting in elections, contact with their elected representatives, joining political parties and standing as an independent, use of lobby groups, and direct action (AC9HC8K01)
		the characteristics of active citizenship and the freedoms that enable participation in democracy within the bounds of law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement (AC9HC7K02)	the role of political parties and independent representatives in Australian democracy, including elections and the formation of governments (AC9HC8K02)
			how citizens' understanding of issues, policies and political choices are shaped and can contribute to active and informed citizenship, including the influence of the media and social media, political parties, interest groups and election campaigns (AC9HC8K03)
	Laws and citizens	the key principles and features of the Australian legal system, including under the Australian Constitution and courts system (AC9HC7K03)	the characteristics of laws and how laws are made in the Australian legal system through parliaments (statutory law) and through the courts (common law) (AC9HC8K04)
		how Australia's legal system aims to provide justice, including through the rule of law, presumption of innocence, burden of proof, right to a fair trial and the legal representation of the accused (AC9HC7K04)	the types of contemporary law in Australia, including criminal law and civil law, and the positioning of First Nations Australian customary law and opportunities and limitations of Native Title law (AC9HC8K05)
	Citizenship, diversity and identity	how Australia is a culturally diverse, multi-faith, secular and pluralistic society with diverse communities, such as the distinct communities of First Nations Australians (AC9HC7K05)	how groups express their particular identities, including national identity, and how this influences active citizenship, belonging and perceptions of their citizenship, including First Nations People of Australia, religious, cultural and/or community groups (AC9HC8K06)
how values can promote cohesion within Australian society, including democracy, freedom, respect, inclusion, civility, responsibility, compassion, equality, justice and a 'fair go' (AC9HC7K06)		different experiences, perspectives and debates about Australia's national identity and citizenship, and recognition of diversity, particularly First Nations Australians' identities as owners of their respective nations (AC9HC8K07)	

Strand	Sub-strand	Content description <i>Students learn to:</i>
Skills	Asking questions about civics and citizenship	develop a range of questions to investigate Australian democracy, political and legal systems, and contemporary issues (AC9HC8S01)
	Investigating contemporary civics and citizenship issues	identify and analyse data, information and ideas from a range of sources in relation to contemporary issues (AC9HC8S02)
		identify shared and different perspectives, beliefs and points of view on contemporary issues and suggest reasons for these differences (AC9HC8S03)
	Participating in civic processes	use democratic processes to reach consensus on a contemporary issue and design an appropriate plan for taking action (AC9HC8S04)
		identify and evaluate the methods and actions of active and informed citizenship and how these contribute to change in local, national, regional and/or global communities (AC9HC8S05)
	Evaluating political and legal institutions	explain how democratic, political and legal systems uphold and enact values and processes, and how Australian citizens use these to contribute to their local, state/territory or national community (AC9HC8S06)
Communicating	use a range of communication forms to develop an explanation of a civics and citizenship issue using evidence, including a range of perspectives and ideas (AC9HC8S07)	

Civics and Citizenship		Year 9	Year 10
		Achievement standard	
		<p>By the end of Year 9, students analyse the role of the Australian Constitution on political and legal institutions and explain the process and reasons for constitutional change. They analyse the legislative process in relation to a contemporary issue. Students explain the key principles of Australia's system of justice and analyse the role of Australia's court system. They explain the characteristics, ideas and experiences of global citizenship and how individuals and groups participate and contribute to civic life.</p> <p>Students develop and refine questions to investigate a contemporary issue. They analyse data, information, ideas and perspectives from a range of sources. They compare and analyse perspectives and account for different points of view. When planning for action, students take into account multiple perspectives, use democratic processes and negotiate solutions to an issue. They analyse ways they can be active and informed citizens in different contexts. Students communicate an evidence-based argument on a contemporary issue using democratic, legal and citizenship concepts and relevant evidence.</p>	<p>By the end of Year 10, students compare and evaluate the key features and values of systems of government. Students analyse the Australian Government's global roles and responsibilities and the impact of global interconnectedness. They analyse the role of the High Court and explain how Australia's international legal obligations influence law and government policy. They analyse the challenges and ways to sustaining a resilient democracy, and a cohesive society in Australia and in our region or globally.</p> <p>Students evaluate a range of questions to investigate a contemporary issue. They analyse data, information, ideas and perspectives from a range of sources for reliability and usefulness. Students evaluate different perspectives and analyse different points of view. They design a plan for action, taking into account challenges and opportunities, multiple perspectives and alternative approaches. Students evaluate the effectiveness of democratic processes and strategies and negotiate solutions to an issue. They evaluate how active and global citizenship can contribute to a democratic and cohesive society. They evaluate ways they can be active and informed citizens in different contexts. Students communicate an evidence-based argument incorporating different points of view on a contemporary issue using democratic, legal and citizenship concepts and relevant evidence.</p>
Strand	Sub-strand	Content description <i>Students learn about:</i>	
Knowledge and Understanding	Government and democracy	the role of the Australian Constitution in shaping government institutions and enabling democratic processes, including the process for constitutional change through a referendum (AC9HC9K01)	the key features and values of Australia's system of government compared with at least one other democratic or non-democratic system of government in the Asia-Pacific region (AC9HC10K01)
		the process through which federal government policy is shaped, developed and implemented (AC9HC9K02)	the Australian Government's role and responsibilities at a regional and global level, for example membership of intergovernmental organisations (United Nations, International Criminal Court, WTO) and participation in multilateral agreements in order to address global issues and the impact of global interconnectedness (AC9HC10K02)
	Laws and citizens	the key features and jurisdictions of Australia's court system and how courts and tribunals apply and interpret the law, resolve disputes and make laws through judgments (AC9HC9K03)	the role of the parliament and the High Court of Australia in protecting rights under the Constitution, common law and through federal and state laws (AC9HC10K03)
		the role of courts, judges, lawyers and juries in trials, and the rights of an accused and the rights of victims (AC9HC9K04)	how Australia's international legal obligations shape Australian law and government policies, particularly in relation to First Nations People of Australia and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the issues related to the application of these obligations in the Australian legal system (AC9HC10K04)
		the effectiveness of the Australian justice system in achieving equality of access, equity of outcomes, procedural fairness, the right to appeal, and remedies for injustices, particularly for First Nations Australians. (AC9HC9K05)	
	Citizenship, diversity and identity	how and why individuals and groups, including community, religious and cultural groups, participate in and contribute to civic life in Australia and to global citizenship (AC9HC9K06)	the challenges to and ways of sustaining a resilient democracy, and a cohesive society in Australia and/or in our region or globally (AC9HC10K05)
		the influence of a range of media, including social media, in shaping identity and attitudes to diversity, citizenship and global citizenship, particularly in relation to culturally diverse groups (AC9HC9K07)	
		how characteristics, ideas and experiences of global citizenship, global connectedness and mobility influence Australian identity, citizenship and actions (AC9HC9K08)	

Strand	Sub-strand	Content description <i>Students learn to:</i>
Skills	Asking questions about civics and citizenship	develop, select, use and evaluate a range of questions to investigate democracy, political and legal systems, and/or a contemporary issue (AC9HC10S01)
	Investigating contemporary civics and citizenship issues	select, classify and analyse data, information and ideas from a range of sources and evaluate their reliability and usefulness (AC9HC10S02)
		evaluate different perspectives, beliefs, interpretations and points of view on contemporary issues and explain reasons for these differences (AC9HC10S03)
	Participating in civic processes	use democratic decision-making processes that consider multiple perspectives to reach consensus on a civic issue and develop a plan of action (AC9HC10S04) evaluate how active and global citizenship can contribute to a democratic society through informed and responsible action and to make change (AC9HC10S05)
	Evaluating political and legal institutions	evaluate the effectiveness of Australian and global political institutions and legal systems and processes in upholding democratic values, the rule of law, protecting human rights and freedoms and achieving social cohesion (AC9HC10S06)
		evaluate Australian and global responses and outcomes to contemporary issues and challenges (AC9HC10S07)
	Communicating	use a range of communication forms to respond to a civics and citizenship issue, using evidence and perspectives, articulating viewpoints, ideas and reasons for active citizenship and global citizenship (AC9HC10S08)