

|   | LEVELS 7 & 8   | LEVELS 9 & 10  |  |
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| LEVEL BAND DESCRIPTION  | <p>The Levels 7 and 8 curriculum provides a study of the Australian Constitution and how its features, principles and values shape Australia's democracy. They explore the responsibilities and freedoms of citizens and how citizens can participate in Australia's democracy. They look at how the rights of individuals are protected through the justice system, how laws are made and the types of laws used in Australia. Students also explore how Australia's secular system of government supports a diverse society with shared values. Students also examine what it means to be Australian by identifying the reasons for and influences that shape national identity.</p>   | <p>The Level 9 and 10 curriculum builds students' understanding of Australia's political system and how it enables change. Students examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision-making processes. They compare Australia's system of government with another system of government in the Asian region. Students examine Australia's roles and responsibilities within the international context, such as its involvement with the United Nations. They investigate the features and principles of Australia's court system, including its role in applying and interpreting Australian law. Students also study the purpose and work of the High Court. Students also examine global connectedness and how this is shaping contemporary Australian society. They investigate the values and practices that enable a democratic society to be sustained.</p> |  |
| KEY QUESTIONS   | <p>A framework for developing students' civics and citizenship knowledge, understanding and skills at this year level is provided by the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is Australia's system of democratic government shaped by the Constitution?</li> <li>• What are the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens in Australia's democracy?</li> <li>• What principles of justice help to protect the individual's rights to justice in Australia's system of law?</li> <li>• How are laws made and applied in Australia?</li> <li>• How is Australia a diverse society and what factors contribute to a cohesive society?</li> <li>• What different perspectives are there about national identity?</li> </ul>                                  | <p>A framework for developing students' civics and citizenship knowledge, understanding and skills at this year level is provided by the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What influences shape the operation of Australia's political system?</li> <li>• How does Australia's court system work in support of a democratic and just society?</li> <li>• How is Australia's democracy defined and shaped by the global context?</li> <li>• How do citizens participate in an interconnected world?</li> <li>• How are government policies shaped by Australia's international legal obligations?</li> <li>• What are the features of a resilient democracy?</li> </ul>  |  |
| GOVERNMENT & DEMOCRACY  |  |  |  |
| CONTENT   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe key features of government under the Australian Constitution, including the separation of powers, the Executive, the role of the Houses of Parliament, and the division of powers (VCCCG018)</li> <li>• Discuss the freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement (VCCCG019)</li> <li>• Explain how citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including the use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups, interest groups and direct action (VCCCG020)</li> <li>• Describe the process of constitutional change through a referendum (VCCCG021)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the role of political parties and independent representatives in Australia's system of government, including the formation of governments, and explain the process through which government policy is shaped and developed (VCCCG028)</li> <li>• Explain the values and key features of Australia's system of government compared with at least one other system of government in the Asia region (VCCCG029)</li> <li>• Analyse how citizens' political choices are shaped, including the influence of the media (VCCCG030)</li> <li>• Explain the Australian government's roles and responsibilities at a global level, including provision of foreign aid, peacekeeping and the United Nations (VCCCG031)</li> </ul>  |  |
|   | LAWS & CITIZENS  |  |  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain 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 right to legal representation (VCCCL022)</li> <li>• Compare how laws are made in Australia, including through parliaments (statutory law) and courts (common law), and explain different types of laws, including executive law (delegated law), criminal law, civil law and the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customary law (VCCCL023)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how Australia's international legal obligations shape Australian law and government policies, including in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (VCCCL032)</li> <li>• Describe the key features of Australia's court system, including jurisdictions and how courts apply and interpret the law, resolve disputes and make law through judgments, and describe the role of the High Court in interpreting the Constitution (VCCCL033)</li> <li>• Discuss the key principles of Australia's justice system, including equality before the law, independent judiciary, and right of appeal (VCCCL034)</li> </ul>   |  |
| CITIZENSHIP, DIVERSITY & IDENTITY   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how Australia is a secular nation and a multi-faith society (VCCCC024)</li> <li>• Identify how values can promote cohesion within Australian society, including the values of freedom, respect, inclusion, civility, responsibility, compassion, equality and a 'fair go' (VCCCC025)</li> <li>• Explain how groups express their identities, including religious and cultural identity, and how this expression can influence their perceptions of others and others' perception of them (VCCCC026)</li> <li>• Examine how national identity can shape a sense of belonging and examine different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives (VCCCC027)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse contemporary examples and issues relating to Australian democracy and global connections, including key aspects of citizenship in a pluralist society (VCCCC035)</li> <li>• Discuss challenges to and ways of sustaining a resilient democracy and cohesive society (VCCCC036)</li> <li>• Discuss how and why groups, including religious groups, participate in civic life (VCCCC037)</li> <li>• Examine the influence of a range of media, including social media, in shaping identities and attitudes to diversity and how ideas about Australian identity may be influenced by global events (VCCCC038)</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| ACHIEVEMENT STANDARD  | <p>By the end of Level 8, students explain features of Australia's system of government, and the purpose of the Constitution in Australia's representative democracy. They analyse features of Australian democracy, and explain features that enable active participation. They explain how Australia's legal system is based on the principle of justice, and describe the types of law and how laws are made. Students identify the importance of shared values, explain different points of view and explain the diverse nature of Australian society. They analyse issues about national identity in Australia and the factors that contribute to people's sense of belonging. They identify ways they can be active and informed citizens, and take action, in different contexts.</p>   | <p>By the end of Level 10, students evaluate features of Australia's political system, and identify and analyse the influences on people's electoral choices. They compare and evaluate the key features and values of systems of government, and analyse Australia's global roles and responsibilities. They analyse the role of the High Court and explain how Australia's international legal obligations influence law and government policy. 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. Students evaluate a range of factors that sustain democratic societies and analyse ways they can be active and informed citizens in different contexts, taking into account multiple perspectives and ambiguities.</p>  |  |