![Government of Western Australia — School Curriculum and Standards Authority]

Sample assessment task

Year level	9
Learning area	Humanities and Social Sciences
Subject	Civics and Citizenship
Title of task	Shaping citizens' choices

Task details

Description of task	Draw conclusions regarding voter intentions and electoral outcomes using the relevant data.
	Evaluate the various ways citizens' choices are shaped at election time.
Type of assessment	The following assessment principles apply to this assessment
	• The assessment should be fair
	This formative assessment ensures all students are given an opportunity to build an understanding of the topic and sample the work expectation required before completing assessments which will contribute to their final grade.
	• Assessment should lead to informative reporting
	This summative assessment ends the teaching cycle on the topic of business productivity. Data generated from this assessment forms effective feedback for teachers, students and parents.
Purpose of assessment	This task is to inform progression in a learning cycle and will also assess their understanding of Civics and Citizenship concepts and skills as they apply to how citizens' choices are shaped at election time.
Assessment strategy	The assessment strategies used in the task are outlined in the Ways of Assessing in the syllabus overview.
	The assessment includes written work completed as a test.
Evidence to be collected	Written responses
Suggested time	1 period

Content description

Content from the Western Australian Curriculum	How citizens' choices are shaped at election time (e.g. public debate, media, opinion polls, advertising, interest groups, political party campaigns)
	Analyse information and/or data in different formats (e.g. to explain cause and effect relationships, comparisons, categories and subcategories, change over time)
Key concepts	Democracy, participation

Task preparation

Prior learning	• Data interpretation over time in terms of views of voters on issues and voting intentions
	• Examination of an election campaign in terms of influencing voter choice i.e. public debate, media, opinion polls, advertising, interest groups, political party campaign
Assessment differentiation	Teachers should differentiate their teaching and assessment to meet the specific learning needs of their students, based on their level of readiness to learn and their need to be challenged.
	Where appropriate, teachers may either scaffold or extend the scope of the assessment

	tasks.

Assessment task	
Assessment conditions	In-class supervised conditions
Resources	Worksheet

Instructions to students

Assessment type: Extended written responses

Using Source 1 Newspoll May to September 2013 voter intentions
1. In the four months leading up to the 2013 September Federal election, describe what is happening and/or changing in terms of voter intentions.

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Using the final Newspoll (3–5 September) before the election in terms of voter intentions and the actual first preference results (Source2) of the House of Representatives
2. Evaluate the value of opinion polls in predicting election outcomes.

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3. With reference to a particular election discuss **three** ways, apart from opinion polls, citizens' choices are shaped at election time.

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Source 1

News poll: Political Issues and Trends- Federal voting intention

"If a Federal election for the House of Representatives was held today, which of the following would you vote for? If 'uncommitted', to which one of these do you have a leaning?"

	COALITION	ALP	GREENS	OTHERS
	%	%	%	%
News poll 3-5 May 2013	47	31	10	12
News poll 17-19 May 2013	46	31	9	14
News poll 31 May - 2 June 2013	49	30	9	12
News poll 21-23 June 2013	48	29	9	14
News poll 28-30 June 2013	43	35	11	11
News poll 5-7 July 2013	42	38	9	11
News poll 19-21 July 2013	45	37	10	8
News poll 2-4 August 2013	44	37	9	10
News poll 16-18 August 2013	47	34	9	10
News poll 30 August-1 September 2013	46	33	10	11
News poll 3-5 September 2013	46	33	9	12

[Adapted from:

Newspoll, & The Australian. (2013). 09/07/13: *Federal voting intention and leaders' ratings & election date poll*. Retrieved August, 2014, from om.au/opinion-polls-2/opinion-polls-2/

Newspoll, & The Australian. (2013). 07/09/13: *Federal election final poll*. Retrieved August, 2014, from www.newspoll.com.au/opinion-polls-2/opinion-polls-2/]

Source 2

House of Representatives votes and seats won, national summary
Election held on 7 September 2013

Party Name	First preference vote n	First preference vote share %	Change from previous election %	Seats won n	Uncontested seats held n	Seat share %
Australian Labor Party	4,311,365	33.38	-4.60	55	0	36.67
Liberal Party	4,131,865	31.99	+1.54	58	0	38.67
Liberal National Party (Qld)	1,152,217	8.92	-0.19	22	0	14.67
Australian Greens	1,116,918	8.65	-3.12	1	0	0.67
Palmer United Party	709,035	5.49	*	1	0	0.67
National Party	554,268	4.29	+0.56	9	0	6.00
Independents	182,067	1.41	-1.13	2	0	1.33
Family First	181,820	1.41	-0.84	0		
Katter's Australian Party	134,226	1.04	*	1	0	0.67
Country Liberal Party (NT)	41,468	0.32	+0.01	1	0	0.67
Votes for other than listed parties	399,678	3.09	+1.25			
Totals	**12,914,927**	**100.00**		**150**	**0**	**100.00**

[Table from: University of Western Australia. (2013). *Commonwealth Parliament, House of Representatives election*. Retrieved August, 2014, from http://elections.uwa.edu.au/listelections.lasso

Data source: Australian Electoral Commission. (2013). *House of Representatives: First preferences by party*. Retrieved August, 2014, from http://results.aec.gov.au/17496/Website/HouseStateFirstPrefsByParty-17496-NAT.htm
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Sample marking key		
Description		**Marks**
Question 1		
Explains the changes from May to September making specific reference to specific shifts in support for particular parties.		3–4
Makes general statements concerning any changes with limited reference to specific shifts of support.		1–2
	Subtotal	**4**

Answers may include, but are not limited to:

If you look at the beginning 3-5 May and at the end 3-5 Sept then very little changed give or take 1 to 2%, (e.g. Coalition 47 to 46, ALP 31 to 33, Greens 10 to 9, Others 12 to 12).

Whereas throughout the 4 months there were some shifts (e.g. 28–30 June Coalition went down by 4% the Alp went up by 4%but by the middle of August the Coalition were back over 47% support, the ALP rose to 34% at expense of the Greens and Others).

Description		**Marks**
Question 2		
Makes an evaluation of the value of opinion polls. Cites figures from both sources making specific links between voter intention and 1st preference obtained for particular parties.		3–4
A general statement regarding the value of opinion polls predicting election outcomes. Limited use of voter intention and 1st preference obtained.		1–2
	Subtotal	**4**

Answers may include, but are not limited to:

- Opinion polls appear to be extremely valuable in predicting election outcomes
- Equates Newspoll 3–5 Sept with 1st preference vote, (e.g. Coalition 46 to 45.2, ALP 33 to 33.38, Greens 9 to 8.65, Others 12 to 11)
- Very close correlation between final opinion poll and voter intentions and actual 1st preference vote

Description		**Marks**
Question 3		
For each way: Discusses the way citizens' choices are shaped at election time making reference to particular aspects of the lead up to the election Provides evidence showing how it influenced/shaped citizens' choices		3–4
Makes general statements about the way citizens' choices are shaped at election time Limited use of evidence		1–2
	Subtotal	**12**
	Total	**20**