



Sample assessment task

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| Year level | 10 |
| Learning area | Humanities and Social Sciences |
| Subject | Civics and Citizenship |
| Title of task | Comparing political systems |

Task details

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| Description of task | Students complete a written in-class assessment to demonstrate their conceptual understanding of the key features and values of Australia's system of government in comparison with those of Indonesia, with special reference to democratic elections, the separation of powers, responsible and/or representative government, political freedoms |
| Type of assessment | Summative |
| Purpose of assessment | To assess students' knowledge at the end of a learning cycle |
| Assessment strategy | Written work |
| Evidence to be collected | Extended written responses |
| Suggested time | One lesson |

Content description

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| Content from the Western Australian Curriculum | <p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The key features and values of Australia's system of government (e.g. democratic elections, the separation of powers) compared with one other system of government in the Asia region, such as China, Japan, India or Indonesia</p> <p>Humanities and Social Sciences skills</p> <p>Draw evidence-based conclusions by evaluating information and/or data, taking into account ambiguities and multiple perspectives; to negotiate and resolve contentious issues; to propose individual and collective action in response to contemporary events, challenges, developments, issues, problems and/or phenomena</p> <p>Account for different interpretations and points of view/perspectives in information and/or data (e.g. from tables, statistics, graphs, models, cartoons, maps, timelines, newspapers)</p> <p>Apply subject-specific skills and concepts in familiar, new and hypothetical situations</p> <p>Develop texts, particularly explanations and discussions, using evidence from a range of sources to support conclusions and/or arguments</p> |
| Key concept | Democracy, Democratic values, the Westminster system |

| Task preparation | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Prior learning | Students have prior knowledge of the key features and values of Australia's system of government (e.g. democratic elections, the separation of powers) compared with another system of government in the Asia region, i.e. Indonesia. |
| 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 under supervised conditions |
| Resources | The website below offer useful insights into the Australian and the Indonesian systems of government. A comparison of the Australian and Indonesian national political systems http://www.peo.gov.au/learning/closer-look/parliament-and-MPR.html |

Instructions to students

Comparing political systems

Extended written response

This task is to be completed in class under standard test conditions.

Time for the task: 50 minutes

Key features and values of Australia’s system of government include democratic elections, the separation of powers, responsible government and political freedom.

Discuss two of these features and values in terms of Australia’s system of government and compare these particular features and/or values with Indonesia’s system of government.

Sample marking key

| Description | Marks |
|--|-----------|
| Knowledge and understanding | |
| Identifies two features and values of Australia’s system of government Discusses two features and values of Australia’s system of government Cites specific examples as part of the discussion for each feature and value for Australia Discusses two features and values of Indonesia’s system of government Cites specific examples as part of the discussion for each feature and value for Indonesia | 9–10 |
| Identifies two features and values of Australia’s system of government Discusses two features and values of Australia’s system of government Discusses two features and values of Indonesia’s system of government Cites at least one example as part of the discussion for Australia and Indonesia | 7–8 |
| Identifies two features and values of Australia’s system of government Outlines each of these features/values in terms of Australia’s system of government Outlines what exists in Indonesia in terms of at least one of the features and/or values Attempts to include a specific example for one of the features/values for both Australia and Indonesia | 5–6 |
| Identifies two features and values of Australia’s system of government Makes general statements concerning these features and values in Australia Makes general statements concerning at least one of the features and values in Indonesia’s system of government | 3–4 |
| Outlines one or two features/values or makes a general statement about Australia and/or Indonesia’s system of government | 1–2 |
| Subtotal | 10 |
| Description | Marks |
| Analysis | |
| Discusses direct comparisons (similarities) between Australia and Indonesia in terms of the two features Discusses direct contrasts (differences) between Australia and Indonesia in terms of the two features | 5–6 |
| Describes the similarities and differences between the two systems of government in terms of the two features | 3–4 |
| Makes limited comparisons between the two systems of government | 1–2 |
| Subtotal | 6 |
| <p>Answer could include, but is not limited to:</p> <p>Possible points of comparison</p> <p>Democratic elections could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how broad the franchise/how easy to enrol • how free of intimidation for both the voters and candidates • freedom of the press/campaigns • voting system and extent to which it reflects the will of the people <p>Separation of powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent that the legislature, executive and judiciary are independent of each other and their role/s | |

Responsible government

- Australia's government is based on The Westminster system
 - Bicameral parliament
 - Prime minister/ministers drawn from and accountable to Parliament
 - Prime minister/government must retain confidence of lower house/House of Representatives
 - Failure to guarantee supply, a government should resign
 - Government is formed by group(s) that can hold majority in House of Representatives
- Indonesia is a representative system (only)
 - Presidential/Congressional system thus representative not responsible as in the Westminster system
 - President elected by the people every five years
 - The president is vested with legislative power, acting in concurrence with the DPR (People's Representative Council)

Political freedom – points for comparison

- freedom of speech on political matters
- freedom of the press
- legitimacy of the opposition – is it able to operate without limitations?
- right to form associations – political parties, interest groups
- right to run for office
- right to vote without intimidation

| Description | Marks |
|--|-----------|
| Communication | |
| Draws a comprehensive, reasoned conclusion and applies a range of relevant evidence Consistently uses subject-specific terminology and concepts as part of the discussion | 3–4 |
| Makes broad unsubstantiated statements with little use of accurate terminology | 1–2 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Total | 20 |