

Sample assessment task

Year level	4
Learning area	Humanities and Social Sciences
Subject	Civics and Citizenship
Title of task	My local government and the community

Task details

Description of task	Students develop focus questions to research how 'my local government' promotes community life and complete a written response based on their research.
Type of assessment	Formative AND summative
Purpose of assessment	To assess students' understanding of key Civics and Citizenship skills of democracy and participation as they apply to local government in the community which involve the skills of questioning and research, analysing and evaluating
Assessment strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Graphic organiser (e.g. focus questions, note taking) • Written response
Evidence to be collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus questions and research notes • Written response
Suggested time	3 x 60 minute lessons

Content description

Content from the Western Australian Curriculum	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>The purpose of government and some familiar services provided by local government (e.g. libraries, health, arts, parks, environment and waste, pools and sporting facilities, pet management)</p> <p>Humanities and Social Sciences skills</p> <p>Q&R> Develop a range of focus questions to investigate</p> <p>Q&R> Locate and collect information from a variety of sources (e.g. books, interviews, internet)</p> <p>Q&R> Record selected information and/or data (e.g. use graphic organisers, develop notetaking strategies)</p> <p>A> Interpret information and/or data collected (e.g. make connections between old and new information)</p> <p>E> Draw conclusions and give explanations, based on the information and/or data collected</p> <p>C&R> Develop texts, including narratives and biographies, that use researched facts, events, experiences</p>
Key concepts	Participation, Rights and responsibilities

Task preparation

Prior learning	Students have had a general introduction to local government in Australia; its purpose and the services provided in general by local governments.
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Assessment differentiation	<p>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.</p> <p>Where appropriate, teachers may either scaffold or extend the scope of the assessment task.</p>
Assessment task	
Assessment conditions	<p>Activity 1 (2 lessons): students develop focus questions to investigate and record information obtained (minimal help from the teacher)</p> <p>Activity 2 (1 lesson): written response under test conditions (students use their research notes)</p>
Resources	<p>Optional resources (activities and links to support teaching and learning):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Dandenong http://www.greaterdandenong.com/ <p>Useful website to teach students how to find out what a local council provides and does in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of Local Government - City of Greater Dandenong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeEh9ChyVQ4 <p>Excellent overview of local government which will help stimulate discussion of the role of local government</p>

Instructions for teacher

Questions to use with students to develop their conceptual understanding:

Participation

- What are some examples of community activities in which different groups participate?
- How are various individuals involved in the local community?
- If we want something to happen (event/new sporting complex) in our local community, who would we approach?
- Why is it important to vote in local government elections?

Rights and responsibilities

- Pets – What responsibilities do we have for our pets? E.g. noise/registration/waste
- Parks and gardens and leisure centres – What are our rights (and responsibilities) with using these places and caring for these places?
- Rubbish – What are our responsibilities for disposing of our rubbish? E.g. recycling/verge-side pick ups
- Noise – What laws exist around noise control? What are our rights (e.g. reasonable levels of noise and not before or after certain times) and our responsibilities with making noise?
- Local Infrastructure – As citizens, what rights do we have to ensure the safety and maintenance of footpaths/roads/street lights?

Related concept - Democracy

Instructions to students

Our local government and how it promotes community life

Activity 1: Research (1 to 2 lessons)

1. Develop a range of focus questions related to the services and events provided by 'our local government'.

Can you make a connection between these services and events and people joining in activities in the community? If not, develop some more questions that will achieve this.

2. Using the internet, especially the website of 'our Council', or other sources, make notes in terms of your focus questions. These may include facts and figures on who uses particular services/ participates in particular events.
3. Ask yourself, do you have enough information on any particular topic. Does this question cause me to ask another question on which to focus? If it does, note the question down, locate and record the information/data.
4. Make a note of where you obtained your information.
5. Use a graphic organiser to make your notes.

Activity 2: Written response (1 lesson)

Using your notes from Activity 1, answer the following question:

Discuss how our local government promotes community life.

Sample marking key

Activity 1 (Questioning and research, Analysing)

Description	Marks
Questioning and research	
Develops and refines a range of focus questions.	4
Develops a range of focus questions.	3
Develops a limited range of focus questions.	2
Unable to independently develop questions.	1
Subtotal	4
Locates and collects information from the relevant website and explores other websites for relevant information.	3
Locates and collects information from the relevant website.	2
Limited use of the relevant website.	1
Subtotal	3
Records selected/relevant information and/or data, using a variety of methods. Note-taking strategies are developed.	5
Records selected information and/or data. Graphic organiser/note-taking strategies are developing.	3–4
Sorts and records selected information and/or data. Uses key words.	2
Copies verbatim from the website.	1
Subtotal	5
Uses ethical protocols when gathering information.	2
Recognises the ethical protocols that exist when gathering information.	1
Subtotal	2
Description	Marks
Analysing	
Records relevant and useful information in terms of the question. Identifies points of view regarding the purpose of Council activities. Sequences the information, identifying patterns and trends.	4
Records relevant and useful information in terms of the question. Distinguishes fact from opinion.	2–3
Identifies relevant information.	1
Subtotal	4
Total	18

Sample marking key

Activity 2 (Evaluating, Communicating and reflecting)

Discuss how my local government promotes community life

Description	Marks
Parameters of discussion evident/terms defined	
Identifies the local Council. Explains what is meant by 'community life'. Identifies the various ways groups/individuals are encouraged to participate/interact with each other; the Council.	4
Identifies the local Council. Identifies some ways groups/individuals are encouraged to participate/interact with each other; the Council.	3
Identifies the local Council. Makes general statements concerning the various ways groups/individuals are encouraged to participate/interact with each other; the Council.	1-2
Subtotal	4
Description	Marks
Discussion (Evaluating, Communicating and reflecting)	
Explains the various ways that the local Council encourages participation and interaction within the community and with the Council. Develops texts, using subject-specific terminology. Gives detailed explanations based on researched facts in notes.	5
Explains some ways that the local Council encourages participation and interaction within the community and with the Council. Presents findings, using relevant terminology. Gives explanations, based on researched facts in notes.	4-3
Makes general statements about how local government promotes community life.	1-2
Subtotal	5

Description	Marks
Conclusion (evaluating)	
Draws and justifies a conclusion based on the information presented	3
Draws a conclusion based on the information presented	2
Makes an assertion on how local government promotes community life	1
Subtotal	3
<p>Answers could include but are not limited to:</p> <p>Ways councils promote community life include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-recycling days • Arts and Culture facilities and programs • Sport and Recreation facilities and programs • promotion of general activities/festivals through the Council website • local councils hold open forums on issues • local councillors are represented on community boards • support for local businesses. 	
Total	12