

Australian & Global Politics

Units 1-2

In the study of VCE politics, students will learn to explain the sources of power and legitimacy of national political actors and analyse the political significance of their use of power in contested domestic issues. They will also analyse the power, interests, and perspectives of global political actors, evaluating their significance in global issues. Additionally, students will examine Australian political issues to evaluate the upholding of democracy and democratic principles, and analyse global challenges to the legitimacy and spread of democracy, assessing their impact on democratic principles.

UNIT 1

Politics, power and political actors

AOS1 – Power and national political actors

AOS2 - Power and global political actors

In this unit, students learn that politics is about how political actors use power to resolve issues and conflicts over how society should operate. Students consider the concept of power by examining why and how political power is used, with special attention to the way national and global political actors exercise power and the consequences of that use. Students examine how power may be used by political actors in various states to achieve their interests, and they focus on a close study of a contested political issue in Australia. Students then investigate the power of global actors, who are able to use power across national and regional boundaries to achieve their interests and cooperate with other actors to solve conflicts, issues and crises.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Case study research, short answer questions, essays

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Analytical reading and research, summarizing, formal writing and synthesizing evidence to draw conclusions, close reading, and note taking and participation in class discussion.

ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, essays, multimedia presentations, case studies or extended responses.

UNIT 2

Democracy: stability and change

AOS1 – Issues for Australia's democracy

AOS2 - Global challenges to democracy

In this area of study, students focus on the political actors who can move beyond and across national and regional boundaries to pursue their interests globally. The increasingly interconnected global system influences the ability and power of all global political actors to pursue and achieve their interests. The actions of global political actors in the pursuit of their interests have consequences for other actors and impacts on political stability and/or change. Students engage with political thinking, explaining how ideology and interests can lead to a global political actor becoming involved in conflict or cooperation. They analyse the power of a variety of global political actors and examine the impact of global interconnectedness on that power, leading to an assessment of the political significance of those actors.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Case study research, short answer questions, essays

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Close reading and note taking, participation in class discussion, analytical reading and research, summarizing, formal writing and synthesizing evidence to draw conclusions.

ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, essays, multimedia presentations, case studies or extended responses and an end of year written examination.