

# Australian & Global Politics

## Units 1-2

Australian and Global Politics is the study of contemporary power at both national and global levels. Through this study students explore, explain, analyse and evaluate national and global political issues and events. Australian Politics is the study of how power is gained and exercised. It considers the significant ideas about organising political systems and features of the way politics is practised in Australia. It evaluates Australian democratic practices against particular ideas and principles. Global Politics is the study of the political, social, cultural and economic forces that shape interactions between states and other global actors in the contemporary world. It examines the nature and power of key global actors and the types of power used by an Asia-Pacific state to achieve its national interests and considers global ethical issues.

### UNIT 1

#### Ideas, actors and power

Political Actor and Power. This area of study provides students with a general introduction to the concept and significance of politics, power, authority and legitimacy. Students are introduced to the political spectrum: left, right, radical, conservative. They explore ideas that shape political systems including liberal democracy, socialism, fascism, authoritarianism and theocracy. Students explore the characteristics of the Australian political system and investigate a case study of an alternative system.

#### 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

#### Global Connections

Global Cooperation and Conflict. This unit introduces students to the global community and the global actors that are part of this community. Students consider the extent to which global actors cooperate and share visions and goals as part of the global community. They investigate the ability of the global community to manage areas of global cooperation and to respond to issues of global conflict and instability. Students investigate the concept of a global community through considering contemporary case studies of global cooperation and conflict, and consider the extent to which cosmopolitanism can effectively deal with global challenges.

#### 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.