

Civics and Citizenship Level 9

End-of-level review

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End-of-level review

This is a school-designed paper. It is not a VCAA instrument. Achievement in the Victorian Curriculum is reported against the Levels 9–10 achievement standard on teacher judgement; a mark on this paper is one source of evidence towards that judgement, not the judgement itself.

End-of-level review · Chapters 1–5 · All 19 content descriptions

Civics and Citizenship Level 9 (Year 9) · Victorian Curriculum 2.0

Codes assessed: VC2HC10K01 · VC2HC10K02 · VC2HC10K03 · VC2HC10K04 · VC2HC10K05 · VC2HC10K06 · VC2HC10K07 · VC2HC10K08 · VC2HC10K09 · VC2HC10K10 · VC2HC10K11 · VC2HC10S01 · VC2HC10S02 · VC2HC10S03 · VC2HC10S04 · VC2HC10S05 · VC2HC10S06 · VC2HC10S07 · VC2HC10S08

Name: _____ Date: _____

Total marks	75
Questions	25 questions in five parts — one part per chapter.
Timing	Planned for about 100 minutes. This paper is untimed — there is no time to beat. It is a classroom check, not an exam.
Materials	Your five chapter booklets (Chapters 1–5). The paper points into them by section and figure — for example, “Figure 4 of section 4B” — so keep them open as you work.
Instructions	Answer every question in the ruled space provided. Where a question asks you to <i>explain</i> or <i>evaluate</i> , the reasons are worth the marks: a bare answer with no reason does not score full marks. On contested matters you are marked on the quality of your reasoning, not on the side you take. All marks are whole marks.

This paper checks what you learned across Chapters 1–5 of this book: **75 marks**, 25 questions, one part per chapter. Attempt every question.

Part 1 — Government and democracy (15 marks)

Drawn from sections 1A–1D. Answer all questions.

Question 1 — Changing the Constitution (3 marks)

(a) State what a **referendum** is. (1 mark)

(b) Using the record on Figure 9 of section 1A, state how many proposals have been put to referendums since 1901, how many have been carried, and the year of the last carried proposal. (1 mark)

(c) State the two requirements that together make up the **double majority**. (1 mark)

Question 2 — The 1999 republic referendum (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 10 of section 1A, state the national yes percentage at the republic referendum of 6 November 1999. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 11 of section 1A, name the state whose yes vote came closest to a majority, and give its percentage. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Using the two requirements of the double majority, explain why the proposal was not carried. **(1 mark)**

Question 3 — How a law was made: the minimum-age law (4 marks)

The case study in section 1B is the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024* (Cth).

- (a) State the minimum age the Act set for social media accounts, and one duty it places on covered platforms. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 7 of section 1B, give the Senate's vote on the bill on 28 November 2024: how many senators voted yes, how many voted no, and how many did not vote. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Using Figure 6 of section 1B, give the date the bill was introduced into the House of Representatives, the date of Royal Assent, and the date the rule commenced. **(1 mark)**

- (d) Using Figure 8 of section 1B, give one reason given by an opponent of the law and one reason given by a supporter. **(1 mark)**

Question 4 — Two democracies compared (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 3 of section 1C, state the voting system used in each country and say which country requires its citizens to vote. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 3 of section 1C, state one way the two countries differ in how their constitutional rules can be changed. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Using Figure 4 of section 1C, state one difference between Australia and China in the role of opposition and disagreement. **(1 mark)**

Question 5 — Australia in the region and the world (2 marks)

- (a) Using the Security Council diagram in section 1D, state how many permanent members the United Nations Security Council has and how many non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms. **(1 mark)**
- (b) Name one dated example from the participation table in section 1D of Australia taking part in regional or global action, and state the way of participating it shows. **(1 mark)**

Part 2 — Laws and citizens (15 marks)

Drawn from sections 2A–2D. Answer all questions.

Question 6 — Courts and how they work (3 marks)

- (a) Define **jurisdiction**. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 2 of section 2A, name the Victorian court that hears a murder trial. **(1 mark)**

- (c) State the standard of proof that applies in a criminal trial, using the words section 2A uses. **(1 mark)**

Question 7 — How courts give laws their meaning (3 marks)

- (a) In *He Kaw Teh* (1985), state what the High Court decided the prosecution had to prove. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Explain one way a court decision can change how a law works in practice without changing a single word of the law. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Explain the difference between a **binding** precedent and a **persuasive** precedent. **(1 mark)**

Question 8 — Rights in the Constitution (4 marks)

- (a) State two express rights in the Australian Constitution and the sections that contain them. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Explain the difference between an **express** right and an **implied** right. **(1 mark)**

- (c) In *Roach v Electoral Commissioner* (2007), state what the 2006 change to the electoral law did. **(1 mark)**

- (d) State what the High Court decided about that change, and the words of the Constitution it relied on. **(1 mark)**

Question 9 — Treaties and the two-step system (3 marks)

- (a) Explain what it means for Australia to **ratify** a treaty. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Section 2C traces the Tasmanian Dam case. Put these four events in the correct order: the High Court's 4-to-3 decision; the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act passed; the Tasmanian Wilderness listed as World Heritage; Australia ratified the World Heritage Convention. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Explain why ratifying the Convention on its own could not stop the dam being built. **(1 mark)**

Question 10 — The principles of justice (2 marks)

- (a) Name the three principles of justice used in section 2D. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Explain which principle was at stake in *Dietrich v The Queen* (1992), and give one detail of what the High Court decided. **(1 mark)**

Part 3 — resilience, cohesion and media (15 marks)

Drawn from sections 3A–3C. Answer all questions. Sections 3B and 3C do not number their figures, so those figures are named by what they show.

Question 11 — Civic life and participation (3 marks)

- (a) State what section 3A means by **civic life**. (1 mark)

- (b) Using Figure 2 of section 3A, name two of the five real participation cases and state one way people take part in each. (1 mark)

- (c) Using Figure 4 of section 3A, name the most common overseas birthplace of Australians and state the share of Australians born overseas recorded at the 2021 Census. (1 mark)

Question 12 — Power in Australian society (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 7 of section 3A, name the four kinds of power. (1 mark)

- (b) Using Figure 7 of section 3A, give one Australian example for each of two of the four kinds. (1 mark)

- (c) Explain the difference between **power held** and **power perceived**, as section 3A uses the terms. (1 mark)

Question 13 — A resilient democracy, a cohesive society (3 marks)

- (a) Section 3B defines two contested terms. State what a **resilient democracy** is and what a **cohesive society** is. (1 mark)

- (b) Name two of the four characteristics of a cohesive society shown in the cohesion figure in section 3B. (1 mark)

- (c) Using the global-trend figure in section 3B, state how many years in a row global freedom had declined by 2024, and how many countries improved and how many declined that year. (1 mark)

Question 14 — Challenges and the institutions that answer them (3 marks)

- (a) State when the National Anti-Corruption Commission began operating, and name one type of corrupt conduct listed in the four-types figure in section 3B. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using the threats-and-defences figure in section 3B, name one challenge to Australian democracy and the institution that answers it. **(1 mark)**

- (c) State the difference between **misinformation** and **disinformation**. **(1 mark)**

Question 15 — Media, representation and ownership (3 marks)

- (a) Using the AFLW growth figure in section 3C, state how the number of teams changed from the league's first season in 2017, and how the grand final crowd changed between 2017 and 2019. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using the SBS timeline figure in section 3C, state the year SBS television began and one language service SBS provides today. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Using the ownership table in section 3C, name Australia's two public broadcasters and state one way a public broadcaster differs from commercial media. **(1 mark)**

Part 4 — Skills: investigating and evaluating (15 marks)

Drawn from sections 4A–4E, one question per section. Answer all questions.

Question 16 — Questions worth investigating (3 marks)

- (a) Name the three kinds of question used in section 4A, and state which kind has one right answer. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 2 of section 4A, name three of the five checks a good investigation question must pass. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Explain why an evaluative question should define its contested terms — such as *protect*, *fair* or *effective* — before the investigation starts. **(1 mark)**

Question 17 — Testing sources and reading data (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 1 of section 4B, name the four tests a source is put to. **(1 mark)**

-
- (b) Using Figure 4 of section 4B, give the turnout percentage and the election date for each of the two countries compared. **(1 mark)**

-
- (c) Using Figure 5 of section 4B, state one thing the turnout numbers cannot show. **(1 mark)**

Question 18 — Recommending and justifying change (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 3 of section 4C, name the five steps of the model for a justified recommendation. **(1 mark)**

-
- (b) Using Figure 5 of section 4C, give Australia's CPI scores for 2012 and 2024, and state the direction of the trend between them. **(1 mark)**

-
- (c) Using the NACC cards in Figure 7 of section 4C, state the condition under which the NACC may hold public hearings. **(1 mark)**

Question 19 — Evaluating justice in a real case (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 2 of section 4D, match two features of a Victorian criminal trial to the principle of justice each one serves. **(1 mark)**

-
- (b) Using Figure 3 of section 4D, give the year Lindy Chamberlain was convicted of murder and the year her conviction was quashed. **(1 mark)**

-
- (c) Using Figure 4 of section 4D, name two of the five purposes of sentencing in Victoria and explain one of them in a sentence. **(1 mark)**

Question 20 — Power beyond Australia (3 marks)

- (a) State the working definition of **power** used in section 4E. (1 mark)

- (b) Using Figure 6 of section 4E, name two international institutions and state one connection each has with Australian institutions. (1 mark)

- (c) Using Figure 3 of section 4E, state what the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme is and the date the scheme began. (1 mark)

Part 5 — Skills: participating and communicating (15 marks)

Drawn from sections 5A–5C. Answer all questions.

Question 21 — How groups decide (2 marks)

- (a) State what section 5A means by **consensus**, and one condition under which it works well. (1 mark)

- (b) Using Figure 2 of section 5A, give one condition under which consensus breaks down and state what happens to the decision. (1 mark)

Question 22 — Taking part before you turn 18 (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 1 of section 5B, name two methods of participation open to a person under 18 and state what each one reaches. (1 mark)

- (b) Using Figure 3 of section 5B, name the five questions used to judge whether a method of participation is effective. (1 mark)

- (c) Using Figure 5 of section 5B, state two things that happen to a Commonwealth petition after it is presented to the House of Representatives. (1 mark)

Question 23 — Arguments, methods and a global crisis (3 marks)

- (a) Using Figure 1 of section 5C, name the five parts of an evidence-based argument. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 2 of section 5C, name two of the seven methods of communication and state what each one is good at. **(1 mark)**

- (c) Using Figure 4 of section 5C, state the total number of people forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of 2022 and the largest group within that total. **(1 mark)**

Question 24 — Judging what works (2 marks)

- (a) State what section 5C means when it calls a method of communication **effective**. **(1 mark)**

- (b) Using Figure 9 of section 5C, name one of the three real campaigns, the city and year it began in, and its main method. **(1 mark)**

Question 25 — Synthesis: one law, five chapters (5 marks)

This question draws the book together. The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 is a case the book returns to in every chapter. Each part names the section to use; your chapter booklets may stay open.

- (a) **[Chapter 1 · section 1B]** Using Figure 5 of section 1B, name two of the five questions used to judge whether a policy effectively resolves an issue. **(1 mark)**

- (b) **[Chapter 2 · section 2A]** Using Figure 10 of section 2A, name the court whose decisions bind every other Australian court, and explain in one sentence what that would mean if a case about this Act reached that court. **(1 mark)**

- (c) **[Chapter 3 · section 3C]** Using the two-viewpoints figure in section 3C, state one argument made by the strongest case for the ban and one made by the strongest case against it. **(1 mark)**

- (d) **[Chapter 4 · section 4B]** Using Figure 3 of section 4B, give the House of Representatives' vote on the bill and name one party or group that voted against it. **(1 mark)**

- (e) **[Chapters 1 and 5 · sections 1B and 5C]** Section 5C records about 15,000 submissions reaching a Senate inquiry in a single 24-hour period. Using Figure 6 of section 1B, name the step of the law-making process those submissions fed into, and explain why that step gives the public a way into law-making. **(1 mark)**

End of review — total 75 marks

Marking guide

Teacher-facing. The end-of-level review is a classroom check, not an exam: it is untimed and open-book against the five chapter booklets, and every item points into a named section and figure. The paper is cumulative and assesses no new content: every code below was taught and practised in Chapters 1–5. All marks are whole marks; do not award half marks. Award a mark when the student's answer matches an acceptable response in the Solutions below or says the same idea in other words, supported by the section the item names.

Contested matters (house rule). Where a question asks the student to explain or evaluate a contested matter — Q2(c), Q7(b)–(c), Q9(c), Q10(b), Q12(c), Q14(c), Q16(c), Q17(c), Q19(c), Q21(b), Q24(a), Q25(b), Q25(c) and Q25(e) — marks are awarded for the quality of the reasoning and the use of the book's evidence, **not for the conclusion reached**. A well-reasoned answer on either side of a contested issue scores full marks.

Mark map

Part	Chapter (sections)	Questions	Marks	Codes covered
1 — Government and democracy	Chapter 1 (1A–1D)	Q1–Q5	15	VC2HC10K01 VC2HC10K02 VC2HC10K03 VC2HC10K04
2 — Laws and citizens	Chapter 2 (2A–2D)	Q6–Q10	15	VC2HC10K05 VC2HC10K06 VC2HC10K07 VC2HC10K08
3 — resilience, cohesion and media	Chapter 3 (3A–3C)	Q11–Q15	15	VC2HC10K09 VC2HC10K10 VC2HC10K11
4 — Skills: investigating and evaluating	Chapter 4 (4A–4E)	Q16–Q20	15	VC2HC10S01 VC2HC10S02 VC2HC10S03 VC2HC10S04 VC2HC10S05
5 — Skills: participating and communicating	Chapter 5 (5A–5C)	Q21–Q25	15	VC2HC10S06 VC2HC10S07 VC2HC10S08
Review total			75	all 19 CDs

Q25 is the cross-chapter synthesis item: its five parts draw on 1B, 2A, 3C and 4B and join Chapter 1 to Chapter 5 on one case the book already owns end to end (the social media minimum-age law). Its marks count under the codes of the sections each part names.

Allocating marks, question by question

Q	Sections	Mark allocation
1	1A	(a) 1 for a definition that names a national vote on a proposed change to the Constitution. (b) 1 for all three: 45 proposals, 8 carried, last carried 1977. (c) 1 for both legs: national majority of formal votes, and a majority of voters in at least 4 of the 6 states.

Q	Sections	Mark allocation
2	1A	(a) 1 for 45.13% yes nationally. (b) 1 for Victoria, 49.84%. (c) 1 for an explanation that holds — neither leg was met: no national majority (45.13%), and no state recorded a yes majority, so the 4-of-6-states leg also failed. A bare “it lost” with no reason earns 0.
3	1B	(a) 1 for age 16 plus one platform duty (reasonable steps to prevent under-16 accounts). (b) 1 for all three numbers: 34 yes, 19 no, 23 did not vote. (c) 1 for all three dates: introduced 21 November 2024; Royal Assent 10 December 2024; commenced 10 December 2025. (d) 1 for one opponent reason and one supporter reason as printed on Figure 8 (see Solutions for the acceptable list).
4	1C	(a) 1 for both voting systems (Australia preferential, compulsory; New Zealand MMP, voluntary). (b) 1 for a difference that holds — Australia: single written Constitution changeable only by referendum (s 128); New Zealand: no single document, rules spread across laws such as the Constitution Act 1986, changeable by ordinary parliamentary vote. (c) 1 for a difference that holds — in Australia parties are free to compete and opposition is protected; in China the Communist Party holds power, smaller parties accept its leadership, and no election can remove it.
5	1D	(a) 1 for both numbers: 5 permanent members, 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. (b) 1 for any dated case from the participation table correctly paired with its way of participating.
6	2A	(a) 1 for a definition that names the kinds of cases a court has the authority to hear and decide. (b) 1 for the Supreme Court of Victoria. (c) 1 for beyond reasonable doubt (the jury must be sure).
7	2A	(a) 1 for knowledge — the prosecution had to prove the accused knew the imported goods contained a prohibited substance. (b) 1 for an

explanation that holds —
interpretation: the court's reading of
the words becomes the law's
operative meaning in later cases,
with no change to the text. (c) 1 for
both halves — binding precedent
must be followed by lower courts in
the same hierarchy; persuasive
precedent may be considered but
need not be followed.

Q	Sections	Mark allocation
8	2B	(a) 1 for any two express rights with their sections (see Solutions). (b) 1 for both halves — express rights are written in the Constitution’s text; implied rights are found by the High Court in its structure or wording. (c) 1 for: the 2006 change banned all serving prisoners from voting in federal elections. (d) 1 for: the High Court held the total ban invalid because ss 7 and 24 require members to be “directly chosen by the people”.
9	2C	(a) 1 for an explanation that names formal confirmation that Australia agrees to be bound by the treaty. (b) 1 for the correct order: ratification (1974) → World Heritage listing (1982) → Act passed (1983) → High Court decision, 4 to 3 (1983). (c) 1 for an explanation that holds — two-step system: ratification binds Australia internationally but does not change domestic law; Parliament had to pass the Act before the dam could be stopped.
10	2D	(a) 1 for all three: fairness, equality, access. (b) 1 for access plus one correct detail of the decision (trial paused until legal representation available where the charge is serious and there is no representation through no fault of the accused; conviction quashed).
11	3A	(a) 1 for a definition that names the shared life of a community that people take part in as members who act — not as customers or viewers. (b) 1 for any two Figure 2 cases each correctly paired with a way of taking part. (c) 1 for both: England (927,490 people); 29.1% born overseas.
12	3A	(a) 1 for all four: political, economic, media, civic. (b) 1 for any two Figure 7 kinds each with a correct Australian example. (c) 1 for an explanation that holds — power held is what a group can actually do, checked with evidence; power perceived is what people believe it can do; the two can diverge.
13	3B	(a) 1 for both definitions (see

Solutions). (b) 1 for any two of: cooperation, inclusion, respect, peaceful resolution of conflicts. (c) 1 for all three numbers: 19th consecutive year; 34 improved; 60 declined.

Q	Sections	Mark allocation
14	3B	(a) 1 for both: NACC began operating 1 July 2023, plus any one conduct type from the four-types figure. (b) 1 for any challenge–institution pair as printed on the threats-and-defences figure. (c) 1 for both halves — misinformation is false or inaccurate information shared without intent to deceive; disinformation is false information created and spread on purpose to deceive.
15	3C	(a) 1 for both changes: teams 8 (2017) → 18; grand final crowd 9,400 (2017) → 53,034 (2019). (b) 1 for both: SBS television began 24 October 1980, plus one language service (radio in about 74 languages; services for more than 60 communities). (c) 1 for both broadcasters (ABC, SBS) plus one difference that holds (funded by government but independent; set up by law with a charter to serve all Australians, not for profit).
16	4A	(a) 1 for all three kinds plus factual as the one-right-answer kind. (b) 1 for any three of the five checks. (c) 1 for an explanation that holds — contested terms can be read in different ways; defining them fixes the standard the evidence is judged against, so the answer can be tested.
17	4B	(a) 1 for all four: origin, evidence, reasoning, perspective. (b) 1 for all four items: Australia 90.7% (3 May 2025); New Zealand 78.2% (14 October 2023). (c) 1 for any limit as printed on the Figure 5 cards.
18	4C	(a) 1 for all five steps in order. (b) 1 for all three: 85 (2012), 77 (2024), direction — fell (to 73 in 2021) then partly recovered. (c) 1 for: only in exceptional circumstances.
19	4D	(a) 1 for any two correct feature–principle matches from Figure 2. (b) 1 for both years: convicted 1982; quashed 1988. (c) 1 for any two purposes plus an explanation of one that holds.
20	4E	(a) 1 for a definition that names bringing about a wanted outcome, or stopping an unwanted one, even

when others oppose. (b) 1 for any two institutions each with a correct connection. (c) 1 for both: a public register of foreign influence arrangements; scheme began 10 December 2018.

Q	Sections	Mark allocation
21	5A	(a) 1 for the definition (a decision everyone in the group can support, reached by talking rather than voting) plus one works-well condition. (b) 1 for one breakdown condition plus what happens to the decision (delayed, watered down, or blocked).
22	5B	(a) 1 for any two methods each with what it reaches. (b) 1 for all five questions: reach; voice; lawful and safe; effort over time; check. (c) 1 for any two of: referred to the responsible minister; published in full in Hansard; listed on the Petitions List.
23	5C	(a) 1 for all five: claim, evidence, reasoning, counter-evidence, conclusion. (b) 1 for any two methods each with what it is good at. (c) 1 for both: 108.4 million forcibly displaced; largest group internally displaced people (57.3 million).
24	5C	(a) 1 for both halves — reaches the audience it aimed at and helps achieve the purpose it was chosen for, judged by evidence of what happened. (b) 1 for any one campaign with its city, year and main method correctly paired.
25	1B, 2A, 3C, 4B, 1B+5C	(a) 1 for any two of the five Figure 5 questions. (b) 1 for the High Court of Australia plus an explanation that holds — its reading of the Act would bind every other Australian court in later cases. (c) 1 for one for-argument and one against-argument as printed on the two-viewpoints cards; the student's own opinion is not marked. (d) 1 for 101 to 13 plus one named no-voter group. (e) 1 for naming the Senate committee inquiry step plus an explanation that holds — the committee took submissions, put public views on the record, and the Senate passed the bill with amendments.

Diagnostic mapping

The Levels 9–10 band shares one achievement standard, stated at the end of Level 10; this paper is a mid-band check. Read each part's mark as evidence about one sub-strand or skill area — not as a level judgement, and never as a per-

item level tag (D11). A part mark that falls well below the student's chapter-test marks for the same chapter points to retention; a part mark that tracks the chapter tests points to coverage.

If marks are lost here	Sub-strand or skill area	Codes	Revisit
Part 1 (Q1–Q5)	Knowledge and understanding — Government and democracy	VC2HC10K01–K04	Referendums and s 128 (1A); the policy cycle and how a bill becomes law (1B); comparing democracies (1C); Australia's regional and global roles (1D)
Part 2 (Q6–Q10)	Knowledge and understanding — Laws and citizens	VC2HC10K05–K08	Court levels and precedent (2A); express and implied rights (2B); treaties and the two-step system (2C); the principles of justice (2D)
Part 3 (Q11–Q15)	Knowledge and understanding — Citizenship, diversity and identity	VC2HC10K09–K11	Participation and power (3A); resilience and cohesion, corruption and misinformation (3B); representation, ownership and the SBS story (3C)
Part 4 (Q16–Q20)	Skills — investigating and evaluating	VC2HC10S01–S05	Question kinds and the five checks (4A); the four tests and data limits (4B); the five-step recommendation model (4C); evaluating justice in the Chamberlain case (4D); power, influence and international institutions (4E)
Part 5 (Q21–Q24)	Skills — participating and communicating	VC2HC10S06–S08	Consensus and decision rules (5A); methods for under-18s and petitions (5B); arguments, methods and the displacement crisis (5C)
Q25	Synthesis across chapters	mixed	Whichever part the student missed — each part names its own section

Score

Part	Marks
Part 1 — Government and democracy	/15
Part 2 — Laws and citizens	/15
Part 3 — resilience, cohesion and media	/15
Part 4 — Skills: investigating and evaluating	/15
Part 5 — Skills: participating and communicating	/15

Part	Marks
End-of-level review total	/75

Solutions

Teacher-facing. Fully-worked solutions in the order of the paper. Every model answer is drawn from the section the item names; accept the same idea in other words when it is supported by that section. Where a part asks for reasoning, the reason earns the mark. On contested matters, do not deduct for the conclusion — only for missing or faulty reasoning.

Question 1 — Changing the Constitution

- (a) A referendum is a national vote in which the Australian people decide whether a proposed change to the Constitution should be made. Section 128 of the Constitution requires one before the Constitution can change.
- (b) 45 proposals have been put to referendums since 1901; 8 have been carried; the last carried proposal was in 1977 (Figure 9 of section 1A).
- (c) Leg 1: a national majority of all formal votes across Australia. Leg 2: a majority of voters in at least four of the six states. Territory votes count towards the national total only.

Question 2 — The 1999 republic referendum

- (a) 45.13% voted yes nationally (54.87% no) — Figure 10 of section 1A.
- (b) Victoria, at 49.84% yes — the closest any state came to a majority (Figure 11 of section 1A).
- (c) Neither leg of the double majority was met. The yes vote fell short of a national majority (45.13% is less than half), and no state recorded a yes majority — the highest was Victoria at 49.84% — so the requirement of majorities in at least four of the six states also failed. The proposal was therefore not carried.

Question 3 — How a law was made: the minimum-age law

- (a) The Act set a minimum age of 16 for social media accounts. Covered platforms must take reasonable steps to prevent children under 16 from holding accounts.
- (b) 34 senators voted yes, 19 voted no, and 23 did not vote in that division (Figure 7 of section 1B, Senate, 28 November 2024).
- (c) Introduced into the House of Representatives on 21 November 2024; Royal Assent on 10 December 2024; the rule commenced on 10 December 2025 (Figure 6 of section 1B).
- (d) Accept any reason from each side as printed on Figure 8 of section 1B. Opponents: the Greens — the law was rushed, the platforms themselves should face tougher rules, and there were rights concerns; Digital Rights Watch and Amnesty International Australia — privacy, and young people could lose sources of support and community; Meta and other platforms disagreed with the rule (while saying they would comply). Supporters: the Labor Party — protecting young people's wellbeing and supporting families; the Liberal–National Coalition — child safety, having proposed a ban of its own.

Question 4 — Two democracies compared

- (a) Australia uses preferential voting and voting is compulsory. New Zealand uses MMP — mixed-member proportional voting — and voting is voluntary (Figure 3 of section 1C).
- (b) Australia's Constitution is a single written document from 1901 that can only be changed by a national referendum under section 128. New Zealand has no single constitutional document; its rules are spread across laws such as the Constitution Act 1986, which an ordinary parliamentary vote can change (Figure 3 of section 1C).
- (c) In Australia, parties are free to compete at elections, an opposition is recognised, and public disagreement is protected. In China, the Communist Party holds power, the smaller parties accept its leadership rather than act as an opposition, and no election can remove the Party from power (Figure 4 of section 1C).

Question 5 — Australia in the region and the world

- (a) 5 permanent members (with a veto) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms — 15 in total.
- (b) Accept any dated case from the participation table in section 1D correctly paired with its way of participating. For example: Australia's response to the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption of 15 January 2022 — disaster management; RAMSI in the Solomon Islands — peacekeeping and regional stability; the New Colombo Plan — exchange programs; Australia's support for COVAX — health programs.

Question 6 — Courts and how they work

- (a) Jurisdiction is the authority of a court to hear and decide particular kinds of cases — the lawful scope of its power.
- (b) The Supreme Court of Victoria (Figure 2 of section 2A).
- (c) Beyond reasonable doubt — the jury must be sure of the accused's guilt before it can convict.

Question 7 — How courts give laws their meaning

- (a) The High Court held that the prosecution had to prove knowledge — that the accused knew the imported goods contained a prohibited substance. Without proof of knowledge, the accused could not be found guilty.
- (b) Through interpretation: when a court decides what the words of a law mean in a real case, that reading becomes the law's working meaning, and later courts in the same hierarchy must apply it. The text of the law never changes, but what the law requires in practice does.
- (c) A binding precedent must be followed by courts below the court that made it in the same hierarchy. A persuasive precedent does not have to be followed — a court may consider it and choose whether to adopt its reasoning.

Question 8 — Rights in the Constitution

- (a) Accept any two: section 80 — trial by jury for Commonwealth indictable offences; section 116 — freedom of religion; section 117 — no discrimination based on state of residence; section 51(xxxi) — acquisition of property on just terms.
- (b) An express right is written into the text of the Constitution itself. An implied right is not written down: the High Court finds it in the Constitution's structure or wording — for example, the freedom of political communication, implied from the requirement that members of Parliament be “directly chosen by the people”.
- (c) The 2006 change banned every serving prisoner from voting in federal elections.
- (d) The High Court held the total ban invalid. Sections 7 and 24 of the Constitution require members of Parliament to be “directly chosen by the people”, so the franchise can only be narrowed for a substantial reason — banning all prisoners went too far. The narrower earlier rule (banning prisoners serving sentences of three years or more) was the fallback position.

Question 9 — Treaties and the two-step system

- (a) To ratify a treaty is for Australia to formally confirm that it agrees to be bound by it. Signing shows an intention; ratification is the step that binds the country in international law.
- (b) 1 — Australia ratified the World Heritage Convention (1974); 2 — the Tasmanian Wilderness was listed as World Heritage (1982); 3 — the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act passed (1983); 4 — the High Court upheld the Act, 4 to 3 (1983).
- (c) Because of Australia's two-step system: ratifying a treaty binds Australia in international law but does not by itself change Australian domestic law. Until the Commonwealth Parliament passed the 1983 Act — and the High Court upheld it under the external affairs power — there was no domestic law that could stop the dam.

Question 10 — The principles of justice

- (a) Fairness, equality and access.
- (b) Access. In *Dietrich v The Queen* (1992) the High Court held that where an accused faces a serious charge and has no legal representation through no fault of their own, the trial should generally be paused until representation is available; Dietrich's conviction was quashed. The case is about whether people can actually reach and use the court system, which is what access measures.

Question 11 — Civic life and participation

- (a) Civic life is the shared life of a community that people take part in as members of it — not just as customers or viewers, but as people who act.
- (b) Accept any two cases from Figure 2 of section 3A, each with a way of taking part. For example: CFA — volunteering as a firefighter; Salvation Army — donating money or volunteering; BlazeAid — joining volunteer camps that clear debris and rebuild fences after bushfires, floods and cyclones; Moomba — attending or taking part in the festival; Harmony Week — hosting or joining local events.
- (c) England, with 927,490 people; 29.1% of Australians were born overseas (2021 Census, Figure 4 of section 3A).

Question 12 — Power in Australian society

- (a) Political power, economic power, media power and civic power (Figure 7 of section 3A).
- (b) Accept any two kinds each with a Figure 7 example: political — parliaments; economic — the ACTU (46 affiliated unions, roughly 1.8 million members); media — the owners of most major metropolitan newspapers; civic — groups such as CFA volunteers or residents' groups.
- (c) Power held is what a person or group can actually do — checked with evidence such as members, money or legal authority. Power perceived is what people believe that person or group can do. The two can diverge: a group seen as powerful may hold less power than it appears, and a group that holds real power may go unnoticed.

Question 13 — A resilient democracy, a cohesive society

- (a) A resilient democracy has institutions, laws and civic habits strong enough to survive shocks and threats — it bends without breaking, then repairs and recovers. A cohesive society is one in which members feel they belong, trust one another and their institutions, and settle their differences without violence.
- (b) Accept any two: cooperation; inclusion; respect; peaceful resolution of conflicts.
- (c) Global freedom had declined for the 19th consecutive year by 2024; in that year 34 countries improved and 60 declined (global-trend figure, section 3B).

Question 14 — Challenges and the institutions that answer them

- (a) The NACC began operating on 1 July 2023. Accept any one type of corrupt conduct from the four-types figure: breach of public trust or abuse of office; misuse of information gained in office; conduct that adversely affects the honest and impartial exercise of a public official's powers; or the fourth type as printed on the figure.
- (b) Accept any challenge–institution pair printed on the threats-and-defences figure in section 3B — for example: corruption → the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commonwealth) or IBAC (Victoria); online harms and misinformation → the eSafety Commissioner; organised crime → police and law-enforcement agencies.
- (c) Misinformation is false or inaccurate information shared by someone who believes it, or without intent to deceive. Disinformation is false information created and spread on purpose to deceive. The deciding difference is intent.

Question 15 — Media, representation and ownership

- (a) Teams: 8 at the league's launch in 2017, growing to 18 today. Grand final crowd: 9,400 in 2017, rising to a league record 53,034 in 2019 (AFLW growth figure, section 3C).
- (b) SBS television began on 24 October 1980. Today SBS provides radio in about 74 languages and language services for more than 60 communities — accept either (SBS timeline figure, section 3C).
- (c) The ABC and SBS. A public broadcaster is funded by the government but independent of it, and is set up by law with a charter to serve all Australians; commercial media are owned by companies that run them for profit (ownership table, section 3C).

Question 16 — Questions worth investigating

- (a) Factual, explanatory and evaluative questions. A factual question has one right answer.
- (b) Accept any three of the five checks (Figure 2 of section 4A): focused; clear terms; findable evidence; tested assumptions; room for perspectives.
- (c) Contested terms such as *protect*, *fair* or *effective* can be read in different ways by different people. Defining the term first fixes the standard the evidence will be judged against, so the investigation can be carried out consistently and its conclusion can be tested. Without a definition, two people can answer the same question using different meanings, and neither answer can be checked.

Question 17 — Testing sources and reading data

- (a) Origin, evidence, reasoning and perspective (Figure 1 of section 4B). The fifth habit — checking for what is missing — is also acceptable as a bonus mention but is not required for the mark.
- (b) Australia: turnout 90.7% at the federal election of 3 May 2025. New Zealand: turnout 78.2% at the general election of 14 October 2023 (Figure 4 of section 4B).
- (c) Accept any limit printed on the Figure 5 cards — for example: turnout numbers cannot show why the two countries differ (compulsory voting against voluntary voting), whether votes were informed, how many ballot papers were informal, or whether voters felt their vote mattered. Numbers measure how many voted, not how well the voting worked.

Question 18 — Recommending and justifying change

- (a) The five steps (Figure 3 of section 4C): 1 — name the institution and its job; 2 — find the gap, with evidence; 3 — propose one specific change; 4 — justify the change with evidence and comparison; 5 — answer the strongest objection.
- (b) Australia's CPI score was 85 in 2012 and 77 in 2024. Direction: it fell over the decade (to 73 in 2021), then partly recovered (Figure 5 of section 4C).
- (c) Only in exceptional circumstances (NACC cards, Figure 7 of section 4C).

Question 19 — Evaluating justice in a real case

- (a) Accept any two correct matches from Figure 2 of section 4D: presumed innocent until proved guilty → fairness; independent judge and jury of twelve citizens → fairness; open public hearing → fairness; accused told the charge and can get a lawyer and interpreter → access; the same law applies to everyone → equality; right of appeal → fairness.
- (b) Convicted in 1982 (29 October 1982); conviction quashed in 1988 (15 September 1988) — Figure 3 of section 4D.
- (c) Accept any two of the five purposes in the *Sentencing Act 1991* (Vic), s 5(1) (Figure 4 of section 4D): punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, denunciation, community protection — plus an explanation of one that holds. For example: deterrence — trying to stop the offender, or other people, from offending by making them fear the punishment; rehabilitation — helping the offender change so they can return to the community; denunciation — the court saying, on behalf of the community, that this conduct is very wrong.

Question 20 — Power beyond Australia

- (a) Power is the ability of a person or group to bring about an outcome they want, or to stop an outcome they do not want, even when others oppose them.
- (b) Accept any two from Figure 6 of section 4E: the UN climate framework and the Paris Agreement — Australia's targets live in section 10 of the *Climate Change Act 2022* (Cth); the World Trade Organization — Australia defended its tobacco plain packaging law in WTO dispute DS435 and won (panel report 28 June 2018, adopted 29 June 2020); the UN Human Rights Council — its Universal Periodic Review made recommendations to Australia (third review, 18 January 2021), and the Northern Territory and the ACT raised the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.
- (c) FITS is Australia's public register of foreign influence arrangements — who must register, and what gets registered, is published so the public can see foreign influence. The scheme began on 10 December 2018 (Figure 3 of section 4E).

Question 21 — How groups decide

- (a) Consensus is a decision everyone in the group can support, reached by talking rather than voting. It works well when any one of these holds: the group is small; members share a goal; there is time; members are willing to listen.
- (b) Accept any breakdown condition from Figure 2 of section 5A: the group is too large; goals compete; or one person or a few can block. What happens: the decision is delayed, watered down to something everyone can tolerate, or blocked altogether.

Question 22 — Taking part before you turn 18

- (a) Accept any two methods from Figure 1 of section 5B, each with what it reaches: enrol early — reaches elections as soon as you turn 18; sign or start a petition — reaches the parliament; write a submission — reaches a parliamentary inquiry; write to your local member — reaches your MP; join a campaign group — reaches an organised campaign; apply for a youth council — reaches local or state government; volunteer — reaches community organisations; run a school campaign — reaches the school community.
- (b) The five questions (Figure 3 of section 5B): reach; voice; lawful and safe; effort over time; check.
- (c) Accept any two (Figure 5 of section 5B): the petition is referred to the responsible minister; it is published in full in Hansard; it is listed on the Petitions List.

Question 23 — Arguments, methods and a global crisis

- (a) Claim, evidence, reasoning, counter-evidence and conclusion (Figure 1 of section 5C).
- (b) Accept any two from Figure 2 of section 5C: a speech or talk — persuading a live audience directly; a poster or infographic — showing facts and figures simply at a glance; a petition — showing how many people support a request; a letter to a member — a personal, direct request to a decision-maker; a social media campaign — spreading a message fast to a wide audience; a fundraising appeal — raising money for a cause; a community event or stall — building local awareness face to face.
- (c) 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of 2022. The largest group within that total was internally displaced people — 57.3 million (Figure 4 of section 5C).

Question 24 — Judging what works

- (a) A method of communication is effective when it reaches the audience it aimed at and helps achieve the purpose it was chosen for — and this is judged by evidence of what actually happened, not by the intention behind it.
- (b) Accept any one from Figure 9 of section 5C: Earth Hour — began in Sydney in 2007 (with WWF) — a lights-out event, 8:30–9:30 pm; Movember — began in Melbourne in 2003 (first campaign 2004) — fundraising by growing a moustache; Plastic Free July — began in Western Australia in 2011 — a behaviour-change challenge run by the Plastic Free Foundation.

Question 25 — Synthesis: one law, five chapters

- (a) Accept any two of the five questions on Figure 5 of section 1B: does it achieve its stated purpose; can it be enforced; do the benefits outweigh the costs and unintended effects; is it based on good evidence; can it be reviewed and improved.
- (b) The High Court of Australia. If a case about this Act reached the High Court, the Court's interpretation of what the Act means would bind every other Australian court in later cases — one decision would fix how the law operates across the country (Figure 10 of section 2A).
- (c) Accept one argument from each side as printed on the two-viewpoints cards in section 3C. For the ban: platform designs harm young people's mental health and development; parents and schools cannot manage the problem alone. Against the ban: a ban may push young people into less regulated corners of the internet; privacy and rights concerns; young people may lose sources of support and community. The student's own opinion is not marked — only whether each side's strongest case is stated as its own advocates would state it.
- (d) The House of Representatives passed the bill 101 to 13 on 27 November 2024. Accept one named no-voter: the Australian Greens; the six independents; Rebekha Sharkie; Bob Katter; or Bridget Archer (Figure 3 of section 4B).
- (e) The submissions fed into the Senate committee inquiry — the step between the bill's passage through the House and Royal Assent on the Figure 6 timeline of section 1B. That step gives the public a way into law-making because the committee examines the bill and takes submissions: members of the public put their views on the record while the bill is still being decided, and the committee can recommend changes — the Senate passed the bill with amendments. Mark the reasoning, not the student's view of whether the submissions changed the outcome.

End of solutions — review total 75 marks