



SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

**POLITICS AND LAW
GENERAL YEAR 11**

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Any resources such as texts, websites and so on that may be referred to in this document are provided as examples of resources that teachers can use to support their learning programs. Their inclusion does not imply that they are mandatory or that they are the only resources relevant to the course.

Sample course outline

Politics and Law – General Year 11

Semester 1 – Unit 1 – Political and legal decision making

Week	Key teaching points
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions of laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ laws compared to rules ▪ the need for laws ▪ social cohesion • Characteristics of an effective law • Relationship between societal values and the law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the term societal values ▪ societal values vary between countries • Social cohesion and its importance to the functioning of law
3–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political decision making in Australia’s Westminster system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Westminster system ▪ representative government ▪ the role of Parliament, Prime Minister, Cabinet in political decision making • Features of a democracy
6–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political decision making in North Korea (a non-democratic political and legal system) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the role of President, the Party, the Army • Features of a totalitarian state in general and North Korea in particular
8–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways individuals, political parties and pressure groups can participate in the Australian political and legal system • Ways individuals and groups can participate or oppose in North Korea (a non-democratic political and legal system) • Capital punishment and the gulags in North Korea as an issue of law enforcement • Citizenship in Australia compared to North Korea
11–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How laws are made in Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ statute law ▪ common law • The court hierarchy and precedent as part of the lawmaking process by courts
14–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How laws are made in North Korea • The rule of law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the term rule of law ▪ the extent to which the rule of law is upheld in Australia and North Korea

Semester 2 – Unit 2 – Civil and political rights

Week	Key teaching points
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of legal disputes • Different avenues for individuals and groups to resolve disputes
2–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the adversarial system with reference to Western Australia • Overview of the alternatives to the adversarial system
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors that promote and limit access to dispute resolution processes
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rights that emerged from the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Magna Carta (1215) ▪ Glorious Revolution (1688) ▪ American Revolution (1775–1789) ▪ French Revolution (1787–1799) ▪ United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948) • The concepts of civil rights and political rights • The concept of natural justice
10–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ways of protecting human rights in Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Commonwealth Constitution ▪ common law ▪ statutory rights and charter of rights, such as the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> (Victoria) and the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i> (Australian Capital Territory) • Civil and political rights within the USA • Extent to which civil and political rights are protected in the USA
14–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How individuals respond when rights are being ignored or abused by the political and legal system • How individuals exercise civil and political rights to express dissatisfaction with political and legal decisions and effect change in Australia