**Sample Course Outline**

Politics and Law

General Year 11

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Sample course outline

Politics and Law – General Year 11

## Semester 1 – Unit 1 – Political and legal decision making

| **Week** | **Key teaching points** |
| --- | --- |
| 1**–**2 | * Functions of laws
	+ laws compared to rules
	+ the need for laws
	+ social cohesion
* Characteristics of an effective law
* Relationship between societal values and the law
	+ the term societal values
	+ societal values vary between countries
* Social cohesion and its importance to the functioning of law
 |
| 3**–**5 | * Political decision making in Australia’s Westminster system
	+ the Westminster system
	+ representative government
	+ the role of Parliament, Prime Minister, Cabinet in political decision making
* Features of a democracy
 |
| 6**–**7 | * Political decision making in North Korea (a non-democratic political and legal system)
	+ the role of President, the Party, the Army
* Features of a totalitarian state in general and North Korea in particular
 |
| 8**–**10 | * 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 | * How laws are made in Australia
	+ statute law
	+ common law
* The court hierarchy and precedent as part of the lawmaking process by courts
 |
| 14**–**15 | * How laws are made in North Korea
* The rule of law
	+ 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 | * Types of legal disputes
* Different avenues for individuals and groups to resolve disputes
 |
| 2**–**4 | * Overview of the adversarial system with reference to Western Australia
* Overview of the alternatives to the adversarial system
 |
| 5**–**6 | * Factors that promote and limit access to dispute resolution processes
 |
| 7**–**9 | * Development of rights that emerged from the:
* 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 | * The ways of protecting human rights in Australia:
* the Commonwealth Constitution
* common law
* statutory rights and charter of rights, such as the *Charter of Human Rights* *and* *Responsibilities Act* 2006 (Victoria) and the *Human Rights Act* 2004 (Australian Capital Territory)
* Civil and political rights within the USA
* Extent to which civil and political rights are protected in the USA
 |
| 14**–**15 | * 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
 |