**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 |