



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



POLITICS AND LAW

GENERAL COURSE

Externally set task

Sample 2016

Note: This Externally set task sample is based on the following content from Unit 3 of the General Year 12 syllabus.

- the principle of the rule of law
- operating principles of a liberal democracy
- structure and processes of the political and legal system in Australia, including federalism
- the rule of law in a non-democratic political and legal system

In future years, this information will be provided late in Term 3 of the year prior to the conduct of the Externally set task. This will enable teachers to tailor their teaching and learning program to ensure that the content is delivered prior to the students undertaking the task in Term 2 of Year 12.

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Politics and Law

Externally set task

Working time for the task: 60 minutes

Total marks: 20 marks

Weighting: 15% of the school mark

Read the source below and answer the **four (4)** questions that follow.

Democracy has now come to imply freedom - encompassing political, economic and social rights - as well as the rule of the many.

Brief reflection is enough to show that these two dimensions are quite different and that there is no inevitable connection between them. Freedom is made possible by the rule of law. Yet the rule of the many, as Aristotle saw, may or may not be lawful. Specifically, a majority may take away the property, language, or religious rights of a minority unless the majority itself is restrained by the Constitution. Democracy requires freedom only in the limited and partial sense that a certain amount of political freedom is necessary if the people are to choose officials; they must have a chance to nominate candidates, discuss issues, cast ballots, and so on. But beyond this necessary minimum, democracy in other realms of life could be quite oppressive.

Extract from: Dickerson, M.O., & Flanagan, T. (2002). *An introduction to government and politics* (6th edition). Ontario: Nelson Thomas Learning, p268.

1. Explain what is meant by the rule of law. **(3 marks)**

2. Outline what is meant by majority rule and explain its place within a liberal democracy.

(3 marks)

3. Identify **two (2)** structures or processes that classify Australia as a liberal democracy and discuss each of these structures or processes.

(6 marks)
