



SAMPLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

POLITICS AND LAW
GENERAL YEAR 12

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Sample assessment task
Politics and Law – General Year 12
Task 2 – Unit 3

Assessment type: Explanation – short-answer test

Conditions: 45 minutes under test conditions.

Task weighting

10% of the school mark for this pair of units

(20 marks)

1. (a) What is meant by the ‘rule of law’?

(2 marks)

(b) Identify and explain the three ‘arms’ of government.

(3 marks)

(c) Outline **two** operating principles of a liberal democracy. Provide an example to support your answer. (5 marks)

2. (a) What is meant by the term 'limited government'? (2 marks)

(b) Distinguish between freedom of speech and freedom of the press. (3 marks)

(c) With reference to examples, evaluate the protection of freedom of speech in Australia. (5 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 2 – Unit 3

1. (a) What is meant by ‘the rule of law’?

Description	Marks
Defines the concept of the rule of law and mentions a supplementary feature OR provides an example of a breach of the rule of law	2
Makes a general statement regarding the rule of law	1
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
The rule of law means that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no one is above the law and everyone is equal under the law the law should be understandable and ignorance of the law is no excuse Examples of breaches of this principle include Control Orders (<i>Australian Anti-Terrorism Act</i>), Tampa Laws (<i>Border Protection Act</i>) and Assange/Gillard [International Transfer of Prisoners (ITP) scheme].	

(b) Identify and explain the three ‘arms’ of government.

Description	Marks
Identifies three arms of government AND explains the power each arm wields and which institution has this power	3
Identifies and briefly explains two arms of government	2
Identifies and explains one arm of government OR identifies the three arms of government	1
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the legislative arm has the power to make the law and is held by Parliament in Australia the executive arm has the power to carry out the law and is held by the Crown, Governor-General, Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Public Service the judicial arm has the power to interpret and enforce the law and is held by the Australian courts. 	

(c) Outline **two** operating principles of a liberal democracy. Provide an example to support your answer.

Description	Marks
Outlines two operating principles of a liberal democracy AND provides an example of an operating principle of a liberal democracy	5
Outlines two operating principles of a liberal democracy without an example OR Outlines one operating principle of a liberal democracy supported by an example	3–4
Provides a general statement about the operating principles of a liberal democracy AND/OR provides an example of an operating principle of a liberal democracy	1–2

Description	Marks
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
Operating principles of a liberal democracy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equality of political rights • majority rule • political participation • political freedom Examples may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political rights and freedoms such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press • citizens have the right to participate in all aspects of social, political and legal activity • types of majorities used such as simple majority or absolute majority. 	

2. (a) What is meant by the term 'limited government'?

Description	Marks
Defines limited government accurately and provides an explanation OR refers to a way government can be limited	2
Makes a general statement about limited government	1
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
Limited government is the concept of restraining the government from interfering with individual autonomy and to protect citizens from government corruption. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defining what a government can and can't do • elected members meet to discuss and make laws • a Parliament where the views of the majority are heard • members of Parliament are elected on a regular basis. 	

(b) Distinguish between freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Description	Marks
Accurately distinguishes between freedom of speech and freedom of the press AND identifies a similarity or difference	3
Provides a general statement on freedom of speech and freedom of the press AND identifies a similarity or difference	2
Provides a general statement on freedom of speech OR freedom of the press with some inaccuracies	1
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
Freedom of speech is the ability to express opinions and contribute to public debate without fear of legal repercussion. Freedom of the press is the ability of the media to disseminate information to the public free from vested interests or the government. Similarities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both aim to inform voters • both encourage public debate • both can be used as a form of accountability of the government Differences include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one is positive and the other is negative such as freedom to speak vs freedom from interference • one is focused on the individual and the other on society (i.e. the scope differs). 	

(c) With reference to examples, evaluate the protection of freedom of speech in Australia.

Description	Marks
Provides a statement confirming that freedom of speech is observed in Australia but that it is not absolute or permanently guaranteed Clearly outlines how freedom of speech is protected in Australia Identifies that freedom of speech is not (directly) protected in the constitution but could mention the High Court did confirm freedom of political communication Identifies the limits to freedom of speech such as defamation laws or hate speech Refers to relevant examples of freedom of speech cases/issues	5
Provides a statement that freedom of speech is observed in Australia Outlines how freedom of speech is protected in Australia Refers to at least one relevant freedom of speech case/issue in Australia	3–4
Identifies that freedom of speech is recognised in Australia Provides a general comment on freedom of speech OR refers to a relevant freedom of speech case/issue in Australia	1–2
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very few rights are protected in the constitution • examples include freedom from a state-imposed religion <i>S116</i>, the right to vote <i>S7</i>, and trial by jury <i>24.S80</i> • the High Court has interpreted additional 'implied' rights such as political communication, e.g. <i>Theophanous vs Commonwealth of Australia</i> • Parliament has legislated some rights such as the <i>Anti-Discrimination Acts</i> but these can be amended by any future parliaments • Common law rights also exist: for example, <i>habeus corpus</i>, the right to a fair trial. These too can be abrogated by future legislation • the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) was created to be a human rights watch dog and complaints centre in Australia. 	

Sample assessment task

Politics and Law – General Year 12

Task 1 – Unit 3

Assessment type: Investigation

Conditions

Three weeks allowed for completion of the task including class time

Validation essay and research notes to be submitted at the end of three weeks

This investigation will be validated in **Part B**

Task weighting

7.5% of the school mark for this pair of units

Research the separation of powers doctrine as it exists in both Australia and the USA

Part A: Research

(25 marks)

1. Use the following points to guide your research:

The Legislative Arm

(4 marks)

- Outline the structure, function and ‘checking’ powers of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament
- Outline the structure, function and ‘checking’ powers of the US Congress
- Provide examples of both legislatures using their powers to check the other two arms of government

The Executive Arm

(4 marks)

- Outline the structure, function and ‘checking’ powers of the Australian Executive
- Outline the structure, function and ‘checking’ powers of the US Executive
- Provide examples of both executives using their powers to check the other two arms of government

The Judicial Arm

(4 marks)

- Outline the structure, function and ‘checking’ powers of the Australian judiciary
- Outline the structure, function and ‘checking’ powers of the US judiciary
- Provide examples of both judiciaries using their powers to check the other two arms of government

Comparative analysis

(8 marks)

- Identify similarities between the Australian and US systems
- Identify differences between the Australian and US systems.

2. Identify, locate and organise relevant information from a range of sources (1 mark)
3. Use an appropriate retrieval and/or note-making chart to take notes. Ensure that: (2 marks)
 - each source of information for the research is recorded following school protocols
 - the research notes address the points above
 - the research notes are clear and ordered (use the above headings)
 - the research notes cover all aspects of the investigation.
4. Construct a bibliography following the school protocols. (2 marks)

The research notes and the bibliography are to be submitted as part of the task.

Marking key for sample assessment task 1 – Unit 3

Part A: Research

Description	Marks
Identifies and describes the separation of powers as it exists in Australia and the USA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legislative arm summary for Australia and the USA (2) use of relevant examples of legislative power being exercised to check other arms (2) 	1–4
Identifies and describes the separation of powers as it exists in Australia and the USA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> executive arm summary for Australia and the USA (2) use of relevant examples of executive power being exercised to check other arms (2) 	1–4
Identifies and describes the separation of powers as it exists in Australia and the USA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> judicial arm summary for Australia and the USA (2) use of relevant examples of judicial power being exercised to check other arms (2) 	1–4
Subtotal	12
Comparison	
Identifies and comments on similarities	1–4
Identifies and comments on differences	1–4
Subtotal	8
Political and legal research skills	
Identifies, locates and organises relevant information from a range of sources	1
Uses an appropriate retrieval and/or note-making chart to organise relevant research notes	1–2
Provides a bibliography consistent with school protocols	1–2
Subtotal	5
Total	25

Part B: In-class validation essay based on the investigation conducted in Part A.

(20 marks)

Conditions

Time for the task: 45 minutes

In class under test conditions

Construct a reasoned argument to assess the following statement:

‘The separation of powers that exist in Australia would be more pleasing to Montesquieu than those that exist in the United States of America.’

Your essay should include:

- an introduction identifying your assessment of the statement
- a definition of the separation of powers doctrine
- a comparison and contrast of the separation of powers in Australia and the USA by:
 - a discussion of the purpose of the separation of powers
 - a description of each arm of government
 - an outline of the checks and balances built into the systems
- relevant examples that support your assessment of the statement.

Marking key for sample assessment task 1 – Unit 3

Part B: Validation essay

Description	Marks
<p>Provides an assessment of the statement (thesis) Defines the separation of powers doctrine Clearly understands the purpose of the doctrine is to reduce/prevent corruption in the political and legal system and uses that as the criteria upon which both Australia and the USA should be judged Outlines each arm of government in Australia and the USA Identifies the majority of the checks and balances built into the systems Provides several relevant examples that support the thesis, such as checks being used to prevent abuses of power and/or corrupt practices that were not prevented by separation of powers</p>	17–20
<p>Provides an assessment of the statement (thesis) Defines the separation of powers doctrine Understands the purpose of the doctrine is to reduce/prevent corruption in the political and legal system and uses that as the criteria upon which both Australia and the USA should be judged Outlines each arm of government in Australia and the USA Identifies some of the checks and balances built into the systems Provides more than one relevant example that supports the thesis, such as checks being used to prevent abuses of power and/or corrupt practices that were not prevented by separation of powers</p>	13–16
<p>Provides an assessment of the statement (thesis) Defines the separation of powers doctrine Understands the purpose of the doctrine is to reduce/prevent corruption in the political and legal system Outlines each arm of government in Australia and the USA Identifies some of the checks and balances built into the systems Supports thesis with reasoning, not examples</p>	19–12
<p>Defines the separation of powers doctrine Outlines each arm of government in Australia and the USA Shows an awareness of the checks and balances built into the systems Supports thesis with general statements</p>	5–8
<p>Describes the separation of powers doctrine Outlines the three arms of government OR provides general statements on checks and balances</p>	1–4
Total	20

Sample assessment task

Politics and Law – General Year 12

Task 7 – Unit 4

Assessment type: Source analysis

Conditions

Time for the task: 45 minutes

In class under test conditions

Task weighting

12.5% of the school mark for this pair of units

(20 marks)

Read the source below and answer the questions that follow.

The extract is from Anthony Green's Election Blog on the ABC website. Green is a political commentator and was writing on preference flows, Queensland elections and politics.

18 January 2015

Why Campbell Newman Advocates¹ 'Just Vote 1'

At his campaign launch in Brisbane today, Queensland Premier Campbell Newman climbed on to one of the great historic themes of Queensland politics – order versus chaos.

It is a reminder of Labor's advertising campaign in 2001, when the Beattie government hammered the message that the only alternative to a Labor government was a ramshackle coalition of National, Liberal and former One Nation MPs.

And as with Peter Beattie in 2001, Campbell Newman is pushing electors to 'just vote 1' to avoid chaos.

Just voting 1 would be informal at a federal election, but it is allowed in Queensland and NSW, states where optional preferential voting is used and only a valid first preference is required for a formal vote.

While Newman was speaking to the LNP² faithful, his message was not aimed at their ears.

As with Peter Beattie in 2001, the 'just vote 1' message is aimed squarely at the ears of opposition and third party voters.

'Just Vote 1' aims to turn each electorate contest across the state into a First Past the Post race between the top two polling candidates.

As it is likely the LNP will lead the first preference count in more electorates than any other party, it is in the interests of the LNP to encourage as many third party candidates as possible to 'just vote 1', to diminish the chances that preferences would allow second placed candidates to leapfrog the leading LNP candidate.

¹ advocates – encourages

² LNP – Liberal National Party

1. Use the source to identify **two** reasons why Campbell Newman was encouraging voters to 'Just Vote 1'. (2 marks)

2. With reference to the source, explain **one** problem arising from using a first-past-the-post system of voting. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast optional preferential voting with exhaustive preferential voting. (4 marks)

4. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of optional preferential voting. (5 marks)

5. Evaluate the proposition that the voting system used in the Senate could be improved by a recently proposed reform. You may consider:
- outlining the current voting system in the Senate
 - identifying a recently proposed reform to the voting system used in the Senate
 - identifying changes that could result from adopting the reform
 - evaluating whether the voting system would be improved.

(6 marks)

Marking key for sample assessment task 7 – Unit 4

1. Use the source to identify **two** reasons why Campbell Newman was encouraging voters to 'Just Vote 1'.

Description	Mark
Identifies reasons	1-2 (1 for each reason)
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to help Queensland avoid a chaotic 'ramshackle coalition of parties' forming government to reduce electoral races to a de facto First Past the Post election, where the Liberal National Party would hold a distinct advantage with a high primary vote. 	

2. With reference to the source, explain **one** problem arising from using a first-past-the-post system of voting.

Description	Mark
Explains one problem arising from using a First Past the Post system of voting with reference to the source	3
Outlines one problem arising from using a First Past the Post system of voting with reference to source	2
Identifies one problem arising from using a First Past the Post system of voting OR provides an appropriate reference to the source	1
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Past the Post disadvantages small political parties, for example 'Just Vote 1' aimed to create an election 'race between the top two polling candidates' First Past the Post reduces the political representation of minority points of view, for example Campbell Newman was seeking to increase the Liberal National Party's electoral success to the detriment of other parties. 	

3. Compare and contrast optional preferential voting with exhaustive preferential voting.

Description	Mark
Identifies how the two methods of voting are similar AND identifies how the two methods are different	4
Identifies two similarities OR identifies two differences OR identifies one similarity and one difference	2-3
Makes a general statement describing either system of voting	1
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
Similarities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> both require a single member electorate both lead to a longer and more complicated count than First Past the Post would require the voter can indicate preferences beyond his/her most preferred candidate Differences include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> optional has more 'vote wastage' optional does not require a voter to mark a preference for ALL candidates exhaustive will likely result in higher levels of informal votes the winner requires an absolute majority for exhaustive, a simple majority for optional. 	

4. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of optional preferential voting.

Description	Mark
Outlines the major strengths and weaknesses of optional preferential voting AND makes a judgement based on reasoning and evidence	5
Identifies some of the strengths and weaknesses AND makes a judgement based on reasoning	3–4
Identifies one strength or weakness AND/OR makes a general judgement	1–2
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
<p>A pro- or anti-optional preferential voting stand can be taken by giving greater weight to either the strengths or weaknesses.</p> <p>Evidence can be drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the source an election that used optional preferential voting a hypothetical example <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> less vote wastage than First Past the Post gives the voter greater freedom doesn't force voters to put a preference next to a candidate they dislike less likely to lead to informal votes than exhaustive preferential voting <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more complicated than First Past the Post voting (counting takes longer) minor parties less able to affect electoral outcome and may be dismissed or ignored by voters potential for the election winner to achieve less than 50% of the vote. 	

5. Evaluate the proposition that the voting system used in the Senate could be improved by a recently proposed reform.

Description	Mark
Accurately outlines the current voting system used in the Senate AND identifies a recently proposed reform AND identifies likely changes that will occur if the reform is adopted AND makes a judgement supported by reasoning whether the reform would improve the voting system	5–6
Outlines the current system of voting in the Senate AND identifies a recently proposed reform AND makes a judgement supported by a reason whether the reform would improve the voting system	3–4
Generally describes the current system of voting in the senate AND/OR makes a general comment about how it might be improved	1–2

Description	Mark
Answer can include but is not limited to:	
<p>Most of the recently proposed reforms are aimed at reducing the chances of ‘micro parties’ winning Senate seats ahead of parties with much higher primary votes. Students should identify this as the aim of the reforms, and judge whether there would be improvement for the Senate.</p> <p>Recent proposals to reform the Senate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a threshold quota on first preferences• abolish the group preference tickets• permit full optional preferential voting above the line for parties, or for candidates below the line• ‘toughen up’ rules for the registration of political parties to restrict smaller parties.	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Green, A. (2015, January 18). *Why Campbell Newman advocates ‘Just Vote 1’* [Blog post]. Retrieved March, 2015, from <http://blogs.abc.net.au/antonygreen/2015/01/why-campbell-newman-advocatesjust-vote-1.html>

Sample assessment task
Politics and Law – General Year 12
Task 9 – Unit 4

Assessment type: Test

Conditions
Time for the task: 45 minutes in class under test conditions

Task weighting
10% of the school mark for this pair of units **(25 marks)**

1. Identify **two** arguments in favour of compulsory voting in Australia. (2 marks)

Argument 1:

Argument 2:

2. Identify and explain **two** elements that help to ensure elections are free and fair. (4 marks)

Element 1:

Element 2:

3. *'Personalities are far more important than policies in elections these days.'*
Discuss this statement with reference to at least **one** recent election. (5 marks)

4. Outline **two** strengths and **one** weakness of the inquisitorial trial system. (3 marks)

Strength 1:

Strength 2:

Weakness:

5. Read the source below and answer the questions that follow.

The extract is from an online article written by Rania Spooner, crime reporter for the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

1 November 2012

Judgment day: Rayney trial

One of the most puzzling and high-profile murder trials in West Australian history came to a dramatic close in Perth on Thursday.

Early in the afternoon, retired Northern Territory Supreme Court Chief Justice Brian Martin delivered his decision on whether Lloyd Rayney – a former WA prosecutor – was responsible for the mysterious disappearance and death of his wife Corryn in 2007. Unusually, this trial had no jury.

Running for more than three months and costing millions of dollars, the trial heard evidence from a list of almost 300 witnesses that on some days read like a who's who of Perth's legal fraternity.¹

The case against Lloyd Rayney, 50, was unusual: by the prosecution's own admission the evidence against the prominent Perth barrister was almost entirely circumstantial.

But then, almost everything about the Rayney case was unusual.

Forensic pathologists did not know conclusively what caused Corryn Rayney's death, exactly when, or even where, the murder took place.

John Agius QC, acting for the state, argued the lack of forensic evidence linking Lloyd Rayney to the crime was overshadowed by motive, amid the backdrop of a crumbling marriage.

In the weeks before her death Mrs Rayney, a Supreme Court registrar, had made threats to destroy her husband's career and 'take him to the cleaners'.

The defence never disputed the Rayneys' marriage was at a crisis point, but Lloyd Rayney firmly denied any knowledge of what happened to his wife the night she disappeared.

¹fraternity – community

(a) What is 'beyond reasonable doubt'?

(2 marks)

(b) Using evidence from the source, identify **four** unusual elements of the Rayney trial.

(4 marks)

Element 1:

Element 2:

Element 3:

Element 4:

- (c) Explain why the role of the jury is considered important in the criminal trial process. Provide an example of **one** strength and **one** weakness of a jury trial. (5 marks)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Spooner, R. (2012). *Judgement day: Rayney murder trial*. Retrieved February, 2015, from www.smh.com.au/national/judgement-day-rayney-murder-trial-20121101-28lqy.html

Marking key for sample assessment task 9 – Unit 4

1. Identify **two** arguments in favour of compulsory voting in Australia.

Description	Mark
Identifies two arguments	2
Identifies one argument	1
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
Arguments could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> voting is a civic duty comparable to other duties citizens perform, such as taxation, compulsory education and jury duty teaches the benefits of political participation Parliament reflects more accurately the 'will of the electorate' governments must consider the total electorate in policy formulation and management candidates can concentrate their campaigning energies on issues rather than encouraging voters to attend the poll the voter isn't actually compelled to vote for anyone as voting is by secret ballot. 	

2. Identify and explain **two** elements that help to ensure elections are free and fair.

Description	Mark
Identifies and explains two elements	3–4
Identifies and explains one element	1–2
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
Elements to ensure free and fair elections include that they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> periodic – without this, elections can't guarantee elected officials will be responsive to public pressure genuine – must provide genuine choice to electors with a number of political parties that have genuine policy differences universal suffrage – without this, those elected cannot claim a popular mandate and the government will soon serve only those who are able to vote and ignore the needs of those who don't secret ballot – voters deserve the right to vote free from manipulation, fear or pressure respect – elections need to have mechanisms that allow the public, and the candidate, to be confident that the results have not been rigged. Allowing scrutineers to oversee the counting of the votes helps to achieve free and fair elections. 	

3. *'Personalities are far more important than policies in elections these days.'*
Discuss this statement with reference to at least **one** recent election.

Description	Mark
Provides two accurate points of argument AND refers to at least one recent election	4–5
Provides one or two points of argument AND refers to a recent election	2–3
Provides a general statement without reference to a recent election	1
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
Arguments in favour include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> major parties have few differences between policies heavy media focus on leaders polls are focused on preferred Prime Minister and policies are largely ignored politicians may change their policies once they get in power, so it may viewed as pointless to vote according to party policy 	

Arguments against include:

- unpopular policies can lead to election losses; for example, WorkChoices or the carbon tax
- elections are often 'defined' by a central issue
- issue-based parties may be elected regardless of the candidate, such as the Motoring Enthusiast Party
- policy agreements between parties can lead to crucial preference deals.

4. Outline **two** strengths and **one** weakness of the inquisitorial trial system.

Description	Mark
Outlines two strengths and one weakness	3
Outlines two strengths OR one strength and one weakness	2
Outlines one strength OR one weakness	1
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
<p>Strengths include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the decision-maker takes a more active role • witnesses are mostly called by the decision-maker rather than by the parties, and are therefore likely to be less biased • there is less reliance on legal representation • the decision-maker controls the production of evidence and it is more likely that all the relevant evidence is brought out • the cost of an inquisitorial system of trial is mainly borne by the state • the use of mainly written statements reduces the cost. <p>Weaknesses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the judge is less impartial than in the adversary system • greater reliance on written evidence • parties not able to call their own expert witnesses • the parties may feel at the mercy of the investigating judge • the judge is aware of character reports and past record • too much power in the hands of one individual (the judge). 	

5. (a) What is 'beyond reasonable doubt'?

Description	Mark
Clearly defines beyond reasonable doubt	2
Makes a general statement relevant to the concept of reasonable doubt	1
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
The standard of proof used in criminal cases. It means a finding of guilt cannot be made unless there is a high degree of certainty.	

(b) Using evidence from the source, identify **four** unusual elements of the Rayney trial.

Description	Mark
Identifies four unusual elements	4
Identifies three unusual elements	3
Identifies two unusual elements	2
Identifies one unusual element	1
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there wasn't a jury as required in criminal trials • the judge was from the Northern Territory (not WA) • the evidence was almost entirely circumstantial • cause of death was undetermined. 	

- (c) Explain why the role of the jury is considered important in the criminal trial process. Provide an example of **one** strength and **one** weakness of a jury trial.

Description	Mark
Explains the importance of juries in the criminal trial process AND provides an example of ONE strength and ONE weakness of a jury trial	4–5
Outlines the importance of juries AND provides an example of ONE strength OR ONE weakness of a jury trial	2–3
Makes a general comment on juries OR makes a general comment on a strength OR ONE weakness of a jury trial	1
Answers can include but are not limited to:	
<p>Juries determine the verdict (guilt proved beyond reasonable doubt) based on the presented evidence in a criminal trial involving indictable offences.</p> <p>Strength of a jury trial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a jury is made up of peers and reflects community values • juries limit the influence of wealthy individuals, corporations and the power of the State • juries test evidence well as their discussion is confidential • juries uphold the right to a fair trial – that no one should be punished (by being put in prison) unless the community is sure it is deserved. <p>Weakness of a jury trial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jury trials are regarded as expensive and inefficient • the jury normally needs to be unanimous in its decision or a finding of not guilty or a re-trial may result • the jury could be influenced by media speculation • individual members may be biased against accused individuals based on their background • it is difficult for an accused to appeal against a finding made by a jury. 	