



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

**Politics and Law**  
**Resource list**  
**ATAR Year 11 and Year 12**

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**Disclaimer**

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.

This list of resources was prepared using the advice provided by the Course Advisory Committee.

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### Professional associations

- <http://pleawa.com.au/>  
Political and Legal Educators Association of W.A.  
This web site contains a closed section for members to allow for the sharing of teaching resources for the WACE course.
- <http://www.vcta.asn.au/>  
Victorian Commercial Teachers Association  
This web site provides information and resources for Law in the Legal Studies section.

### Journals

- *Alternative Law Journal*. Frequency: four issues per year. <http://www.altlj.org/>
- *Australian Parliamentary Review*. Frequency: two issues per year <http://www.aspg.org.au/journal/>
- *Legaldate*. Frequency: 3–4 volumes per year. [http://warringalpublications.com.au/update\\_brochures/2011legaldate\\_order.pdf](http://warringalpublications.com.au/update_brochures/2011legaldate_order.pdf)
- *Papers on Parliament* (issued by the Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra) <http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/pubs/pops/index.htm>
- *The Economist*. Frequency: weekly. <http://www.economist.com/>
- *The Monthly*. Frequency: 12 issues per year <http://www.themonthly.com.au/>

### State courses and documents

Relevant information can be found in interstate curriculum. The home pages for the interstate jurisdictions are shown below. Once you have accessed the site, follow the links to the particular area you want to consult.

- New South Wales
  - HSC Online – Legal Studies  
[http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au/legal\\_studies/](http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au/legal_studies/)
- Victoria
  - Legal Studies  
<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/legalstudies/legalindex.html>
  - International Politics  
<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/intpolitics/summary.html>

## Print resources

There are no set texts for this course.

### Year 11 (Unit 1 and Unit 2)

ALDOUS, J., LAPSANAS, K., BLAKSTON, V., & SHAW, G. (2010). *Making and breaking the law: VCE units 3 & 4*. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). South Yarra, Victoria: MacMillan Education Australia.  
ISBN 9780732997816

This is a useful reference for the sections on 'the legislative, executive and judicial structures and processes of the Australian political and legal system' in Unit 1, and the sections on 'justice' in Unit 2 and 'the key resources of at least one non-common law legal system' in Unit 1. It provides useful material for source analysis assessments.

BEAZER, M., CAROLAN, M., & COOPER, B. (2010). *Oxford Commerce: VELS civics, citizenship and economics*. South Melbourne, Victoria: Oxford University Press.  
ISBN 9780195568073

This is a useful introductory reference for the Unit 1 and Unit 2. It covers topics such as government and political systems, the Australian political system, voting and elections, criminal and civil law, and human rights and social justice for Unit 4.

BEAZER, M., HUMPHREYS, M., & FILIPPIN, L. (2010). *Justice and outcomes*. (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). South Melbourne, Victoria: Oxford University Press.  
ISBN 9780195571028

This is a useful reference for the sections on 'the legislative, executive and judicial structures and processes of the Australian political and legal system' in Unit 1, and the section on 'justice' in Unit 2. It provides useful material for source analysis assessments.

Dickerson, M.O., & Flanagan, T. (2010). *An introduction to government and politics: A conceptual approach*. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Toronto, Ontario: Nelson Education.  
ISBN 9780176500429

This is a useful reference for 'Understanding of democracy and the rule of law' in Unit 1, and the sections on 'representation' and 'the electoral and voting systems of another country' in Unit 2.

FARRELL, D., & MCALLISTER, I. (2006). *The Australian Electoral System: Origins, variations and consequences*. New South Wales: UNSW.  
ISBN 0868408581

This is a useful reference for the section on 'representation' in Unit 2.

HEYWOOD, A. (2004). *Political theory: An introduction*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.  
ISBN 0333961803

This is a useful reference for 'Understanding of democracy and the rule of law' in Unit 1.

MADDOX, G. (2005). *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice*. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Frenchs Forest, New South Wales: Pearson Longman (an imprint of Pearson Education Australia).  
ISBN 174091094x

This is a useful reference for 'Understanding of democracy and the rule of law' in Unit 1, and the section on 'representation' in Unit 2.

PARKIN, A., SUMMERS, J., & WOODWARD, D. (Eds.). (2009). *Government, politics, power and policy in Australia*. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Frenchs Forest, New South Wales: Pearson Education Australia.  
ISBN 9781442508736

This is a useful reference for 'Understanding of democracy and the rule of law' and the Australian political system in Unit 1, and the sections on 'representation' and 'contemporary issue centring on representation' in Unit 2.

PHILLIPS, H., BLACK, D., BOTT, B., & FISCHER, T. (1998). *Representing the people: Parliamentary government in Western Australia*. Fremantle, Western Australia: Fremantle Arts Centre Press.  
ISBN 9781863682565

This is a useful reference for the section on 'representation' in Unit 2.

VINES, P. (2009). *Law and justice in Australia – Foundations of the legal system*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). South Melbourne, Victoria: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780195551440  
This is a useful reference for the section on 'types of laws made by Parliament, courts' and subordinate authorities (statutory interpretation and precedent) in Unit 1.

WILLMOTT, J. (2008). *Civics and citizenship: an introduction to politics and law in Australia*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Bullcreek, Western Australia: Politics Law Publishing. ISBN 978064656182-0  
This new edition has been updated and is a useful text for providing supporting background information for Units 1 and 2.

### **Year 12 (Unit 3 and Unit 4)**

ALDOUS, J., LAPSANAS, K., BLAKSTON, V., & Shaw, G. (2010). *Making and breaking the law: VCE units 3 & 4*. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). South Yarra, Victoria: MacMillan Education Australia. ISBN 9780732997816  
This is a useful reference for the sections on 'roles and powers of the High Court'; 'lawmaking process in Parliament and the courts with reference to the influence of individuals, political parties, pressure groups'; and 'methods of judicial interpretation' in Unit 3 and the section on 'the ways of protecting rights in Australia including constitutional, common law, statutory rights' and 'the ways human rights are protected in one other country' in Unit 4.

ANNEN, R. (2011). *Creelman Exam questions: Politics and Law 3AB*. Alfred Cove, Western Australia: Academic Taskforce. ISBN 9781740980838  
This is a student study guide containing sample test and examination questions and answers from the previous (pre 2016) Politics and Law course.

BEAZER, M., HUMPHREYS, M., & FILIPPIN, L. (2010). *Justice and outcomes*. (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). South Melbourne, Victoria: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780195571028  
This is a useful reference for the sections on 'Roles and powers of the High Court of Australia' and 'methods of judicial interpretation' in Unit 3.

BURNSIDE, J. (2008). *Watching brief: Reflections on human rights, law and justice*. Carlton North, Victoria: Scribe Publications. ISBN 9781921372360  
This is a useful reference for the Unit 4 section 'the ways human rights are protected in Australia including constitutional, common law, statutory rights, and charter of rights', and 'the way human rights are protected in one other country'.

BUCKLEY, S. (2006). *The Prime Minister and Cabinet*. Edinburgh, United Kingdom: Edinburgh University Press. ISBN 9780748622894  
This is a useful reference for the section on 'roles and powers of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Ministry' in Unit 3.

CARNEY, G. (2006). *The constitutional systems of the Australian States and Territories*. Port Melbourne, Victoria: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521681728  
This is a useful reference for the 'functions of the Commonwealth Parliament in theory and in practice' section of Unit 3.

COOK, I. (2004). *Government and democracy in Australia*. South Melbourne, Victoria: Oxford University Press. ISBN 019551405x  
This is a useful reference for providing supporting background information for Unit 4.

EVANS, H. (2008). *The Senate, accountability and government control*. Canberra: Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University. ISBN 0731534085

This is a useful reference for the section on 'the accountability of the Executive and public servants' in Unit 4.

MADDOX, G. (2005). *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice*. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Frenchs Forest, New South Wales: Pearson Longman (an imprint of Pearson Education Australia). ISBN 174091094x

This is a useful reference for the whole of Unit 3 and it provides information on the Unit 4 sections: 'essential understandings of accountability and rights'; and 'the accountability of the Governor-General including the '1975 crisis'.' This reference also provides useful material for the source analysis assessments.

PARKIN, A., SUMMERS, J., & WOODWARD, D. (Eds.). (2009). *Government, politics, power and policy in Australia*. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Frenchs Forest, New South Wales: Pearson Education Australia. ISBN 9781442508736

This is a useful reference for much of Unit 3 and in particular the sections on the High Court and federalism. It also provides information on the Unit 4 sections: 'the accountability of the Commonwealth parliament'; and 'the ways human rights are protected in Australia, including the Constitution, common law, statutory rights and charter of rights' and 'the ways human rights are protected in one other country'.

SAWER, M., ABJORENSEN, N., & LARKING, P. (2009). *Australia – The state of democracy*. Annandale, New South Wales: Federation Press. ISBN 9781862877252

This is a useful reference for both Unit 3 and Unit 4 in providing multiple case studies and materials which test theory against practice. It also provides useful material for the source analysis assessments.

SAUNDERS, C. (2000). *The Australian Constitution*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Carlton, Victoria: Constitutional Centenary Foundation. ISBN 0958690820

This is a useful reference for Unit 3 as it provides an explanation of each section of the Australian Constitution.

SOLOMON, D. (2007). *Pillars of power: Australia's institutions*. Annadale, New South Wales: Federation Press. ISBN 9781862876453

This is a useful reference for the section on 'the accountability of the Governor-General and the Office of the Governor-General', including 'the 1975 crisis' in Unit 4.

WELLAR, P. (2007). *Cabinet Government in Australia, 1901–2006*. Sydney, New South Wales: University of New South Wales Press. ISBN 9780868408743

This is a useful reference for the section on 'roles and powers of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Ministry' in Unit 3.

WILLMOTT, J. (2010). *Power and governance: Politics and law in Australia*. Perth, Western Australia: Politics Law Publishing. ISBN 9780957846999

This is a useful reference for providing supporting background information for Units 3 and 4.

## **Websites**

The Authority has no control over the content of materials accessible on the sites that are from any of the following sites. It is the responsibility of the user to make decisions about the relevance and accuracy, currency and reliability of information found on these websites.

Listing to these sites is not an endorsement of any kind.

### **1. ABC TV Homepage**

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/>

The following programs are available to view on the web site and transcripts of individual reports are also available. Past programs have been archived. These programs are excellent sources of information that serve to make politics and law relevant to the real world while providing an Australian focus.

#### **ABC News**

This program is useful for brief stories on Australian politics and current events from around the world.

#### **7:30 Report**

This program is useful for current political issues.

#### **Foreign Correspondent**

This is a topical program with stories from around the world and it is very useful for comparative political and legal issues.

#### **Four Corners**

This is a useful program providing an insight into issues affecting Australia and the world.

#### **The Insiders**

This is a useful program for Australian political issues.

### **2. ABC Elections**

<http://www.abc.net.au/elections/home/>

This web site provides a wealth of archival material on past State and Commonwealth elections.

### **3. Administrative Appeals Tribunal**

<http://www.aat.gov.au/>

The web site provides a description of the work of the AAT and written reasons for recent decisions. This is a useful resource for the section on tribunals in Unit 4.

### **4. Australian Electoral Commission**

<http://www.aec.gov.au/>

The AEC has responsibility for conducting federal elections and referendums and the web site explains the Australian voting and election processes. The Education section outlines the AEC resources available to teachers and students. This site is particularly useful for Unit 1 and Unit 2.

### **5. Australian Law Reform Commission**

<http://www.alrc.gov.au/>

This federal agency has responsibility for reviewing Australian laws to ensure equity and fairness and to keep laws current. The web site contains discussion and policy papers, news reports and media releases about legislation currently under review.

## **6. Australian Politics and Elections Database**

<http://elections.uwa.edu.au/>

This web site contains a database of Commonwealth, State and Territory elections and political parties. The database can be searched by election, political party and period in office. This is a useful resource, particularly for Unit 2.

## **7. Commonwealth Ombudsman**

<http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

This web site details the work of the Commonwealth Ombudsman in protecting the community in their dealings with Australian Government agencies. This work includes handling complaints from the community, and conducting investigations, audits and inspections among other things. This site is useful for Unit 4.

## **8. Democratic Audit of Australia**

<http://democraticaudit.org.au/>

The ANU began its audit of the strengths and weaknesses of Australia as a democratic system in 2002 and since 2008 the audit has been based at the Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology. The audit uses a detailed set of questions based on a U.K. framework that has been used internationally. The web site provides information on each audit, and discussion papers and reports regarding the Australian political and legal system. This site is particularly useful for Unit 4.

## **9. Get Up**

<http://www.getup.org.au/>

Get Up is an independent, not-for-profit advocacy group that gives members of the community an opportunity to become part of the accountability process of the Australian political system through direct action and campaigns. This is a useful resource for Unit 2 and Unit 4.

## **10. Global Education**

<http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au>

This web site was established by AusAID to provide Australian students with information on international issues. This is a useful resource for issues such as non-democratic political and legal system in Unit 1 and human rights in Unit 4.

## **11. High Court of Australia**

<http://www.hcourt.gov.au/>

The High Court web site has a section for students which details the work of the High Court. Cases before the Court and cases that have been heard in the current year and case summaries are available from the web site.

## **12. Kudelka Cartoons**

<http://www.kudelka.com.au/>

This web site is a useful resource for cartoons and animations concerning Australian politics and economics. The cartoons can be searched by topic.

## **13. Nicholson Cartoons**

<http://www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au/>

This web site is a useful resource for cartoons and animations concerning Australian politics and economics. The cartoons can be searched by topic.

## **14. NSW HSC online – Legal Studies**

[http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au/legal\\_studies/](http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au/legal_studies/)

A useful resource for the rights section of Unit 4 and the criminal trial processes covered in Unit 2.



**15. One World Centre**

<http://www.oneworldcentre.org.au>

The One World Centre has local library resources available to teachers.

**16. Parliamentary Education Office**

<http://www.peo.gov.au/>

This web site has a range of student and teacher resources on Parliament including multimedia resources.

**17. Parliament of Australia**

<http://www.aph.gov.au>

The Parliament of Australia web site provides a range of educational resources including factsheets and Senate Briefs. The web site provides the weekly parliamentary schedule, live webcasts of parliamentary sittings, Hansard transcripts and transcripts of Bills.

**18. Political Compass**

<http://www.politicalcompass.org>

This interactive web site allows students to identify and examine their own political ideology in a different light from the usual left-wing/right-wing split.

**19. The Australian**

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au>

This web site provides coverage of Australian and international political issues and events. The site contains news reports, video-clips, opinion pieces and blogs.

**20. The Constitutional Centre of Western Australia**

<http://www.constitutionalcentre.wa.gov.au/CivicEducatorsNetwork/Pages/TheConstitutionalCentreOfWesternAustralia.aspx>

The Constitutional Centre has revised their materials to reflect the new Politics and Law Syllabus and provide excursions, loan boxes for regional and remote WA, free publications and online education resources for teachers.

**21. The Law Report**

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lawreport/default.htm>

The Law report web site contains podcasts and transcripts of the radio show. The show deals with current legal events and issues in Australia.

**22. The Law Society of Western Australia**

<http://www.lawsocietywa.asn.au/page.php?id=58>

The Law Society of Western Australia web site contains the pages for the Francis Burt Law Education Programme (FBLEP). These pages contain pre and post-visit resources addressing Politics and Law Units 2 through to 4. These resources can also be downloaded by teachers not visiting FBLEP.

**23. The New York Times**

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

This site provides coverage of U.S. and international politics (from an American perspective). The site contains news reports, video-clips, opinion pieces and blogs.

**24. Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)**

- International Politics <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/intpolitics/summary.html>
- Legal Studies <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/legalstudies/legalindex.html>  
This web site provides information and resources for both politics and law topics.

## 25. Western Australian Court system

These websites provide information about the roles and powers of each level of the court system in W.A.

- **Magistrates Court of Western Australia**  
<http://www.magistratescourt.wa.gov.au/>
- **District Court of Western Australia**  
<http://www.districtcourt.wa.gov.au/>
- **Supreme Court of Western Australia**  
<http://www.supremecourt.wa.gov.au/>