



# Australian Constitution Online Program

## Lesson Plan

Australian Constitution Online Program is designed specifically for Year 7 students. The program is divided into two parts in order to explore the concepts in more depth. Part A focuses on the Australian Constitution and Part B on the three arms of government and the separation of powers. Each part takes approximately 45 minutes or longer to complete.

<p><b>Learning intentions</b></p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the purpose and value of the Australian Constitution.</li> <li>• Understand the structure and roles of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Federal Parliament.</li> <li>• Understand the concept of the separation of powers between the three arms of government, the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary, in order to prevent an excess of power.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain what the Australian Constitution is and discuss or debate the positive and negative aspects of the Constitution.</li> <li>• Identify some of the key democratic institutions set up by the Constitution such as The House of Representatives, the Senate; the Monarchy; the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and the High Court.</li> <li>• Identify the features of the three arms of government and why the concept of the separation of powers exists.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Resources required for this lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smartboard or projector and screen</li> <li>• Students personal devices e.g. laptops or tablets (optional)</li> <li>• Internet connection</li> <li>• Print out of background notes and information sheet from the <a href="#">“Additional Resources”</a> section on our website.</li> </ul>
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## Western Australian curriculum links

Curriculum Code	Knowledge & Understanding
Year 7 Humanities & Social Sciences (HASS)	
WA7HAKUC1	The purpose and value of the Australian Constitution.
WA7HAKUC2	The three branches of government including the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
WA7HAKUC3	The different roles of the House of Representatives and the Senate in Australia’s bicameral parliament.

Curriculum links are taken from: <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/humanities-and-social-sciences#year-7-syllabus>



<p><b>Activity 3 - The structure of the Federal Parliament</b></p> <p>Students can refer to the five sections and one convention in order to complete the Venn diagram activity. In this activity the buttons on the left need to be categorised as aspects of the Senate; the House of Representatives or shared aspects of both houses.</p> <p>If learning as a whole class, students can take turns to drag and drop a button where they think it belongs on the diagram. Or students can complete in pairs or individually.</p> <p>The House of Representatives has four correct buttons, the Senate has three correct buttons, and there are two shared aspects in the centre.</p>	7 minutes
<p><b>Activity 4 - Federal Parliament Knowledge Check</b></p> <p>As a whole class or in pairs using personal devices, use this activity to revise a few key concepts. Think-pair-share the three questions and answers.</p>	5 minutes
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<p><b>Activity 5 - Advantages and Disadvantages of the Australian Constitution: Debate</b></p> <p>As a class read through the six statements about the Australian Constitution.</p> <p>Divide the class into groups of three and allocate one statement per two groups of three. One group argues for the statement and the other against.</p> <p>Students spend a short amount of time researching and preparing their argument. Depending on time, the students can either provide a one minute argument per group or else each student in the group provides a one minute argument, and the session is run like a debate.</p>	Preparation 20 minutes  Debate  12 – 36 minutes



<p><b>Activity 2 - Three Arms of Government Knowledge Check</b></p> <p>As a whole class or in pairs using personal devices, use this activity to revise a few key concepts. There are three multiple-choice questions.</p>	5 minutes
<p><b>Slide show - What is the Separation of Powers?</b></p> <p>As a class, follow the slides of the slideshow “What is the Separation of Powers?”</p> <p><b>Activity 3 - True or False Revision</b></p> <p>As a whole class or in pairs using personal devices, read the statement in the red box and decide if it is true or false. There are eight statements to categorise. If doing it as a whole class, ask students to read out each text box. Invite students up to the front to drag and drop the card onto true or false.</p>	5 minutes
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p>	
<p><b>Australian Constitution Word Wall</b></p> <p>This activity can be used as a way to revise some of the main concepts explored in Part A and Part B of the Australian Constitution program. Students can complete individually or if as a class ask students to provide a definition of each word.</p>	5 minutes



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The Constitutional Centre of WA

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**Acknowledgement of Country** The Department of the Premier and Cabinet acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.