

UNIT 1 & 2 POLITICS

UNIT 1

Politics, power, and political actors

Students learn that politics is about how political actors use power to resolve issues and conflicts over how society should operate. Each area of study focuses on concepts that form essential disciplinary knowledge, and which allow students to gradually build on their understanding of what it is to think politically.

They examine the various types of political actors, activities they engage in, how they influence other. Political actors may be local, national, regional or global.

Political issues typically arise from the tension between political stability and change. A political issue will involve a conflict between political actors with different interests and perspectives and may be resolved through cooperation, compromise, coercion, or not at all.

Students consider the concept of power by examining why and how political power is used, with special attention to the way national and global political actors exercise power and the consequences of that use.

AREA OF STUDY 1: Power and national political actors

- Sources of political power and legitimacy
- Use of power to achieve political stability and/or change
- Key political actors in Australia
- How power is legitimized, distributed and used in Australia

OUTCOME 1 Explain the sources of power and legitimacy of national political actors and analyse the political significance of Australian political actors' use of power in a contested domestic political issue.*

AREA OF STUDY 2: Power and global political actors

- Which actors can act globally?
- What makes a global political actor powerful?
- Interests and perspectives of global actors
- Impact of global interconnectedness on power
- Political significance of global actors

OUTCOME 2 Analyse the power, interests and perspectives of global political actors and evaluate their political significance in at least one global issue.

UNIT 2

Democracy: stability and change

Students investigate the key principles of democracy and assess the degree to which these principles are expressed, experienced and challenged, in Australia and internationally. They consider democratic principles in the Australian context and complete an in-depth study of a political issue or crisis that inherently challenges basic democratic ideas or practice. Students also investigate the degree to which global political actors and trends can challenge, inhibit or undermine democracy, and evaluate the political significance of these challenges.

AREA OF STUDY 1: Issues for Australia's democracy

- Australia's democratic culture
- Principles, values and features that nurture Australia's democracy
- How democratic are Australia's political institutions and processes?
- Political issues facing Australia's democracy

OUTCOME 1 The student should be able to analyse at least one Australian political issue and evaluate the extent to which Australian democracy and democratic principles are upheld.

AREA OF STUDY 2: Global challenges to democracy

- Global challenges to the legitimacy and spread of democracy
- Political significance of global challenges to democracy
- To what extent does democracy contribute to global stability and/or opportunities for change

OUTCOME 2 The student should be able to analyse at least one global challenge to the legitimacy and spread of democracy and evaluate the political significance of this challenge to democratic principles.