

VCE Politics

Units 1 and 2: 2024-2028

Units 3 and 4: 2025-2028

Implementation Essentials

Acknowledgement of Country

The VCAA respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.



VCE Politics familiarisation

Implementation Essentials

- Characteristics
- Structure
- Interpreting Study Design
- Internal and external assessment
- Support materials

Other videos

- Characteristics
- Unit breakdowns
- Assessment

Structure

Outcomes

Key Knowledge and
Key Skills

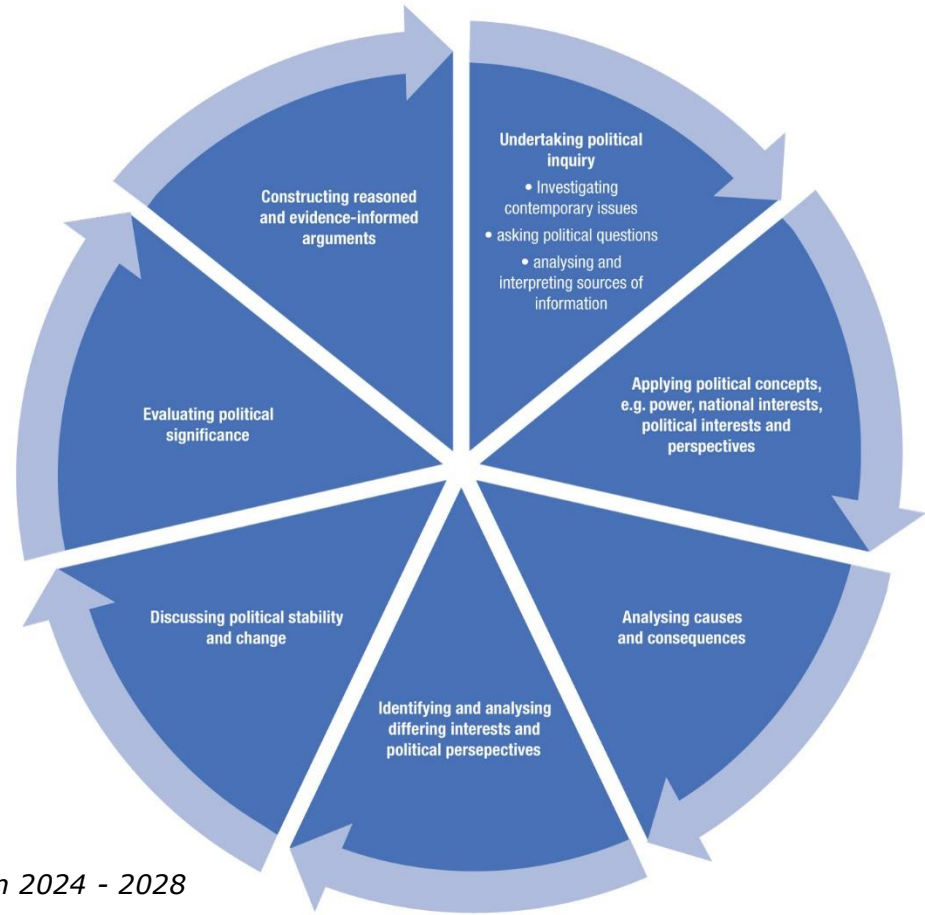
SACs
Assessment Tasks

Characteristics of the study

Units of study

Scope of study, Rationale and Aims

Characteristics of the study



VCE Politics Study Design 2024 - 2028

Characteristics and Key Skills

Characteristics of the study	Unit 3 Outcome 1	Unit 3 Outcome 2	Unit 4 Outcome 1	Unit 4 Outcome 2
Undertaking political inquiry	Ask and analyse a range of political questions to investigate one global issue	Ask and analyse a range of political questions to investigate one contemporary crisis	Use and analyse a range of political questions to investigate how an Indo-Pacific state uses power to achieve its national interests	Use and analyse a range of political questions to investigate how Australia acts in the region to achieve its national interests
	Analyse and interpret a range of sources of information on one global issue	Analyse and interpret a range of sources of information on one contemporary crisis	Analyse and interpret a range of sources of information on one Indo-Pacific state and its pursuit of its national interests	Analyse and interpret a range of sources on Australia's national interests
Applying political concepts	Assess the impact of global interconnectedness on one global issue	Discuss the drivers of conflict and cooperation in the resolution of one contemporary crisis.	Analyse the power of one Indo-Pacific state	Evaluate the effectiveness of Australia's cooperation with three states in the region
Analysing causes and consequences	Analyse the causes and consequences of one global issue	Analyse the causes and consequences of one contemporary crisis	Analyse the causes and consequences of one Indo-Pacific state's use of power and foreign policy instruments	Analyse the causes and consequences of Australia's use of power and foreign policy instruments in the region
Identifying and analysing differing political interests	Analyse how the interests of different global actors may contribute to the causes and consequences of one global issue	Analyse the impact of political actors' interests on the causes, course and consequences of one contemporary crisis	Analyse the different national interests of one Indo-Pacific state	Analyse the impact of Australia's pursuit of its national interests on other regional actors
Identifying and analysing differing political perspectives	Analyse the different perspectives of global political actors on one global issue and the reasons for those different perspectives	Distinguish between different perspectives of global political actors on one contemporary crisis	Analyse different perspectives on one Indo-Pacific state's national interests	Analyse different perspectives on Australia's national interests and actions in the region
Discussing political stability and change	Discuss how responses by global actors and challenges to resolutions have contributed to political stability and/or change	Discuss how global actors' responses and their ability to resolve one contemporary crisis have contributed to creating political stability and/or change	Discuss the extent to which one Indo-Pacific state has contributed to political stability and/or change in the region	Discuss the extent to which Australia has contributed to political stability and/or change in the region
Evaluating political significance	Evaluate the political significance of one global issue	Evaluate the political significance of one contemporary crisis	Evaluate the political significance of one Indo-Pacific state's use of power	Evaluate the political significance of Australia's actions in the region
Constructing reasoned and evidence-informed arguments	Construct an argument to evaluate the ability of global actors to respond effectively to one issue, using evidence from sources	Construct an argument to evaluate the significance and effectiveness of global actors' ability to respond to and resolve one contemporary crisis, using evidence from sources	Construct an argument to evaluate the significance and effectiveness of one Indo-Pacific state's pursuit of its national interests, using evidence from sources	Construct an argument to evaluate the significance and effectiveness of Australia's pursuit of its national interests, using evidence from sources

VCE Politics Units

Unit 1: Politics, power and political actors	Unit 2: Democracy: stability and change	Unit 3: Global cooperation and conflict	Unit 4: Power in the Indo- Pacific
Area of Study 1: Power and national political actors	Area of Study 1: Issues for Australia's democracy	Area of Study 1: Global issues, global responses	Area of Study 1: Power and the national interest
Area of Study 2: Power and global political actors	Area of Study 2: Global challenges to democracy	Area of Study 2: Contemporary crises: conflict, stability and change	Area of Study 2: Australia in the Indo-Pacific

Inquiry Questions

Area of Study 1

Power and national political actors

What is the source of political power and legitimacy within a state?

How do political actors use power to achieve political stability and/or change within states?

Who are the key political actors within states and within Australia?

How is power legitimised, distributed and used in Australia?

In this area of study, students are introduced to the central concepts of power and legitimacy. Power comes in different forms and arises from different sources, such as legal authority, or military, economic, diplomatic, cultural and technological capacities. This capacity can be thought of as ‘power to...’ do something. Political actors can also use power in more coercive, even illegitimate, ways that can be thought of as ‘power over...’ other political actors or ordinary people.

A contemporary study

- Contemporary case studies
- Contemporary political issues
- ‘Contemporary’ is considered within the last 10 years
- Causes – may be need for brief historical context

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Area of Study 2: Power and global political actors	Area of Study 2: Global challenges to democracy	Area of Study 2: Contemporary crises: conflict, stability and change	Area of Study 2: Australia in the Indo-Pacific

Unit 1

- Political actors
 - AOS 1: domestic
 - AOS 2: global

- Power

Unit 1: Politics, power and political actors

Area of Study 1: Power and national political actors

Area of Study 2: Power and global political actors

Unit 2

• Specific Case Studies

AOS 1

- Australia's First Nations peoples: voice, treaty, truth
- Challenges to democratic policy-making
- Australia's constitution
- Human rights for all: the protection of rights and freedoms in Australia
- Integrity, trust and accountability in government and politics
- Media ownership, media bias and disinformation
- The people's voice: representation of all Australians?
- Women and power
- Big money and democracy
- Australia's federal system: fractured or fit for purpose?
- Party politics, participation and partisanship
- Australia and global citizenship

Unit 2:

Democracy: stability and change

Area of Study 1:

Issues for Australia's democracy

Area of Study 2:

Global challenges to democracy

AOS 2

- Sovereignty and the national interest
- Problems with the current rules-based international order
- Authoritarianism
- 'Big tech' and the media
- Sustainability and resource security
- State use of violence
- Populism
- Global interconnectedness

Unit 3

- Specific Focus

AOS 1: Global Issues

Climate change

Global economic instability

Development

Weapons of mass destruction

Unit 3:

Global cooperation and conflict

Area of Study 1:

Global issues, global responses

Area of Study 2:

Contemporary crises: conflict, stability and change

AOS 2: Humanitarian Crisis

Human rights crises

Armed conflict

Mass movement of people

Unit 4

AOS 1: Indo-Pacific State (choose one)

People's Republic of China

Japan

Republic of India

Republic of Indonesia

The United States of America

Unit 4:

Power in the Indo-Pacific

Area of Study 1:

Power and the national interest

Area of Study 2:

Australia in the Indo-Pacific

- Potential for relationships between Australia and AOS 1 chosen state

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Area of Study 2: Power and global political actors	Area of Study 2: Global challenges to democracy	Area of Study 2: Contemporary crises: conflict, stability and change	Area of Study 2: Australia in the Indo-Pacific

Structure

Outcomes

Key Knowledge and
Key Skills

SACs
Assessment Tasks

Characteristics of the study

Units of study

Scope of study, Rationale and Aims

Unpacking an Outcome Statement

- **Outcome Statements**

- On completion of this unit the student should be able to **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. (Unit 1, Outcome 1)
- On completion of this unit the student should be able to **analyse** different perspectives on Australia's national interests in the Indo-Pacific region and **evaluate** the degree to which Australia's pursuit of its national interests has resulted in cooperation or conflict with three states in the region. (Unit 4, Outcome 2)

Unpacking an Outcome Statement

- **Outcome Statements**

- On completion of this unit the student should be able to **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. (Unit 1, Outcome 1)
- On completion of this unit the student should be able to **analyse** **different perspectives** on Australia's national interests in the Indo-Pacific region and **evaluate** the degree to which Australia's pursuit of its national interests has **resulted in cooperation or conflict** with three states in the region. (Unit 4, Outcome 2)

Key Knowledge

Key Knowledge

- the sources and forms of power used by the selected state in pursuit of its national interests, including political, economic, military, diplomatic and cultural power
- the national interests of the selected state, including security, economic prosperity, regional relationships and regional standing
- the state's use of foreign policy instruments in the region to achieve its national interests, including diplomacy, trade and foreign aid
- the effectiveness of the state in achieving its national interests
- challenges to the state in achieving its national interests
- the consequences of at least two of the state's national interests for other regional actors
- the extent to which the actions and national interest outcomes of the selected state bring about stability and change in the Indo-Pacific region.

Introduction

National interests are used by states to inform and justify domestic and foreign policy actions. They are often multifaceted and changeable, and subject to competing perspectives and interests. Students learn that although states in the Indo-Pacific vary markedly, they share common interests in the pursuit of security, economic prosperity, regional relationships and regional standing. To achieve these outcomes, states draw on their sources and forms of power and channel them through foreign policy instruments. The application of these forms of power can, at times, produce favourable outcomes for the state. However, it can also provoke reactions from other global actors, resulting in unintended consequences that challenge the pursuit of national and strategic interests.

Key Knowledge

Key Knowledge

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- the national interests of the selected state, including security, economic prosperity, regional relationships and regional standing
- the state's use of foreign policy instruments in the region to achieve its national interests, including diplomacy, trade and foreign aid
- the effectiveness of the state in achieving its national interests
- challenges to the state in achieving its national interests
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Key Knowledge and Key Skills

Key Knowledge

- the sources and forms of power used by the selected state in pursuit of its national interests, including political, economic, military, diplomatic and cultural power
- the national interests of the selected state, including security, economic prosperity, regional relationships and regional standing
- **the state's use of foreign policy instruments in the region to achieve its national interests, including diplomacy, trade and foreign aid**
- the effectiveness of the state in achieving its national interests
- challenges to the state in achieving its national interests
- the consequences of at least two of the state's national interests for other regional actors
- the extent to which the actions and national interest outcomes of the selected state bring about stability and change in the Indo-Pacific region.

Key Skills

- use and analyse a range of political questions to investigate how an Indo-Pacific state uses power to achieve its national interests
- analyse and interpret a range of sources of information on one Indo-Pacific state and its pursuit of its national interests
- analyse the power of one Indo-Pacific state
- **analyse the causes and consequences of one Indo-Pacific state's use of power and foreign policy instruments**
- analyse the different national interests of one Indo-Pacific state
- analyse different perspectives on one Indo-Pacific state's national interests
- discuss the extent to which one Indo-Pacific state has contributed to political stability and/or change in the region
- evaluate the political significance of one Indo-Pacific state's use of power
- construct an argument to evaluate the significance and effectiveness of one Indo-Pacific state's pursuit of its national interests, using evidence from sources

Key Skills and Characteristics

Key Skills

- use and analyse a range of political questions to investigate how an Indo-Pacific state uses power to achieve its national interests → Undertaking political inquiry
- analyse and interpret a range of sources of information on one Indo-Pacific state and its pursuit of its national interests → Constructing reasoned and evidence-informed arguments
- analyse the power of one Indo-Pacific state → Applying political concepts
- analyse the causes and consequences of one Indo-Pacific state's use of power and foreign policy instruments → Analysing causes and consequences
- analyse the different national interests of one Indo-Pacific state → Identifying and analysing differing political interests
- analyse different perspectives on one Indo-Pacific state's national interests → Identifying and analysing differing political perspectives
- discuss the extent to which one Indo-Pacific state has contributed to political stability and/or change in the region → Discussing political stability and change
- evaluate the political significance of one Indo-Pacific state's use of power → Evaluating political significance
- construct an argument to evaluate the significance and effectiveness of one Indo-Pacific state's pursuit of its national interests, using evidence from sources → Constructing reasoned and evidence-informed arguments

Assessment Tasks – Units 1 and 2

Suitable tasks for assessment in this unit may be selected from the following:

- a political inquiry
- analysis and evaluation of sources
- a multimedia presentation
- a political debate
- a political simulation
- a political brief
- extended responses
- short-answer questions
- an essay.

Where teachers allow students to choose between tasks, they must ensure that the tasks they set are of comparable scope and demand.

Assessment Tasks – Units 3 and 4

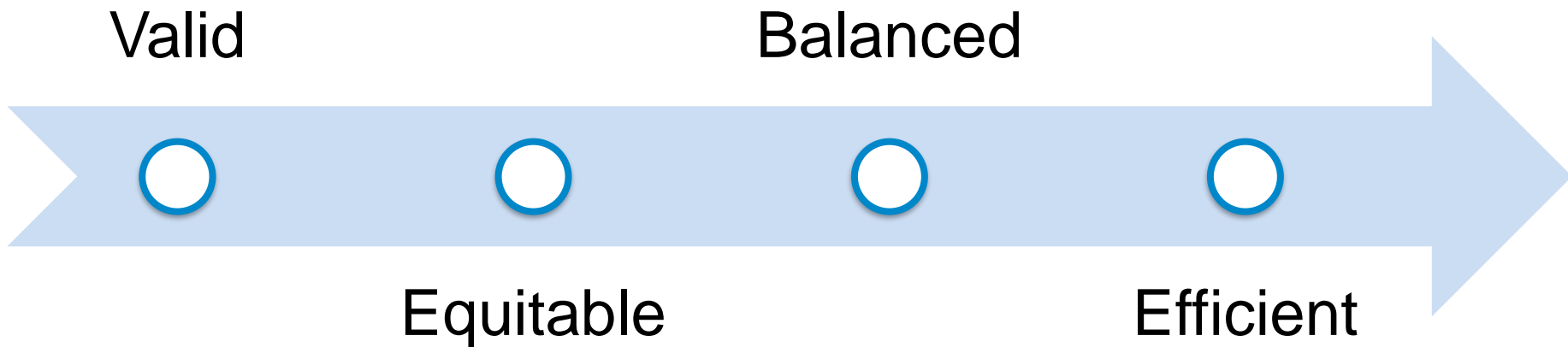
Contribution to final assessment

School-assessed Coursework for Unit 4 will contribute 25 per cent to the study score.

Outcomes	Marks allocated	Assessment tasks
Outcome 1 Analyse the various sources and forms of power used by a state in the Indo-Pacific region and evaluate the extent to which it is able to achieve its national interests.	50	Each of the following assessment tasks must be completed over Units 3 and 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a political inquiry• analysis and evaluation of sources• extended responses• short-answer questions• an essay.
Outcome 2 Analyse different perspectives on Australia's national interests in the Indo-Pacific region and evaluate the degree to which Australia's pursuit of its national interests has resulted in cooperation or conflict with three states in the region.	50	Teachers may choose to select one or more assessment tasks for each outcome. The assessment tasks may be undertaken in any order.
Total marks	100	

- SAC 50%
- Exam 50%
- Compulsory SAC tasks

VCE assessment



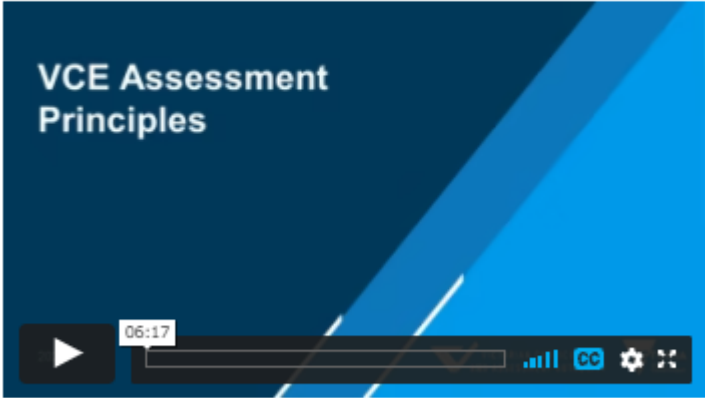
For more information

VCE Assessment Principles

This video will explore the VCE Assessment Principles that underpin all VCE assessment practice.

VCE Assessment Principles

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[VCE Assessment Principles transcript \(docx - 27.29kb\)](#)

For more information

- Five teachers discuss their work addressing the requirement that VCE assessments should be **valid and reasonable; equitable; balanced; efficient and be able to be authenticated**

TEACHERS DISCUSS SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT

The VCAA invited five teachers who have developed excellent school-based assessment tasks, identified by the VCAA through the school-based assessment audit process, to discuss their work addressing the requirement that VCE assessments should be **valid and reasonable; equitable; balanced; efficient and be able to be authenticated**.

School-based Assessment – Valid and reasonable



[School-based Assessment – Valid and reasonable video transcript](#)

School-based Assessment – Equitable



School-based Assessment – Efficient



[School-based Assessment – Efficient video transcript](#)

School-based Assessment – Authentic and moderated



[School-based Assessment – Authentic and moderated video transcript](#)

Support Materials

- There are also support materials on the VCAA website that provide further guidance and advice regarding:
 - Planning
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Assessment

VCE resources



Take the time to read the whole study

Take time to look at the other videos that will focus on particular units, the characteristics and assessment

Contact me with any questions or clarifications



Contact

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Thank you!

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