VCE Politics

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|  | **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 | 2: Power and global political actors | Issues for Australia’s democracy | Global challenges to democracy | Global issues, global responses | Contemporary crises: conflict, stability and change | Power and the national interest | Australia in the Indo-Pacific |
| **OUTCOME** | 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 | analyse the power, interests and perspectives of global political actors and evaluate their political significance in at least one global issue | analyse at least one Australian political issue and evaluate the extent to which Australian democracy and democratic principles are upheld | analyse at least one global challenge to the legitimacy and spread of democracy and evaluate the political significance of this challenge to democratic principles | analyse the causes and consequences of a global issue and evaluate the effectiveness of global actors’ responses in resolving the issue | analyse the causes and consequences of one contemporary crisis and discuss how global actors' responses have contributed to political stability and/or change | 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 | 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 |
| **KEY CONCEPTS** | Choose case studies that will enable the explicit teaching of the key concepts and other key knowledge | | Choose case studies that will enable the explicit teaching of the key concepts and other key knowledge | | Concepts to use in the analysis of case studies | | Concepts to use in the analysis of case studies | |
| power, legitimacy, authority, participation, popular sovereignty, parliamentary sovereignty, federalism, responsible government, separation of powers, political interests, political perspectives, political significance and political stability and/or change | power, legitimacy, sovereignty, global interconnectedness, state, nation, causes and consequences, ideology, political interests, political perspectives and political significance | political culture, liberal democracy, responsible government, constitutional government, constitutional monarchy, commitment to a rules-based order | International law, rules-based order, states, nations, sovereignty, liberal democracy, authoritarianism, ideology, global governance | Global issue, interests, perspectives and responses of global actors; cause and consequence, political stability and/or change; global interconnectedness; International law | Contemporary crisis, interests, perspectives and responses of global actors; cause and consequence, political stability and/or change; sovereignty, state, nation; International law, diplomacy, conflict, cooperation | Power, national interests, foreign policy instruments, different perspectives of regional actors, cause and consequence, political stability and/or change | Power, national interests, foreign policy instruments, different perspectives of regional actors, cause and consequence, political stability and/or change, conflict, cooperation, regional relationships |
| **INQUIRY / OPTION** | One example of a contested political issue: e.g. different state / federal policies on a referendum proposal | Political significance of key global political actors in at least one global issue | Evaluation of Australia’s democracy in relation to at least one political issue | Investigation into at least one global challenge to the legitimacy and spread of democracy | Investigation into one global issue: climate change, global economic instability; development, WMDs | Investigation into one contemporary crisis: human rights, armed conflict, mass movement of people | Inquiry into one Indo-Pacific state’s pursuit of its national interests in the region. | Inquiry into Australia’s relations with thee states in the region and its impact on cooperation and conflict |
| **POSSIBLE CASE STUDIES** | **National political actors**   * Congress and Separation of powers in the USA * Parliament and responsible government in Australia or the UK * Representation in the Indonesian parliament * Members of a protest movement in Australia and the government response * Activities of an Australian lobby group, e.g. Business Council of Australia or the Mining Council of Australia, and their impact on a policy * TEAL Independents input into policy compared with other political parties’ inputs * Media reporting of a domestic issue, e.g. referendum proposal | **Global political actors**   * UN’s role in managing relations between states * Japanese and Australia’s response to WMDs * China’s, and /or European Union’s responses to the Ukraine / Russia war * UN and TNCs responses to climate change * accountability of communications technology / social media companies * Non-state actors’ involvement in a global issue, e.g. Amnesty International * A nation’s fight for sovereignty and statehood, e.g. Palestine, Kurds * Impact of global interconnectedness on a developing state, e.g. Somalia, Philippines, or a developed state, e.g. Australia | **Inquiry options** – consider which national actors will be relevant:  Australia’s First Nations peoples; challenges to democratic policy-making; Australia’s constitution; the protection of rights and freedoms in Australia; integrity, trust and accountability in government and politics; media ownership, media bias and disinformation; representation of all Australians; women and power; big money and democracy; Australia’s federal system; party politics, participation and partisanship; Australia and global citizenship  Links to key concepts: depending on the inquiry option chosen, focus on relevant key concepts | **Inquiry options –** consider which global actors will be relevant:  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  Links to key concepts: depending on the inquiry option chosen, focus on relevant key concepts | **Responses by global actors (states, IGGs, NSAs)**   * UN: The Paris Agreement (COP 21) * the SDGs; the IMF; the influence of financial and other TNCs on the issue * India’s response to nuclear proliferation * China, Japan and Australia’s response to climate change, nuclear weapons or development * Pacific Island Forum’s response to climate change and development * US / China’s response to global economic instability * Indonesia’s response to climate change, global economic instability and development issues as outlined in the SDGs | **Sample crises:**   * genocide alerts in Myanmar Xinjiang / Afghanistan / India / Serbia * violence against women in Iran * child labour in the DRC * structural racism in the USA; immigration and refugee policy in the USA * discrimination against religious minorities, women and girls, LGBTI people and West Papuans by Indonesia * Japanese companies’ complicity in HR abuses * China’s response to the pandemic / climate change / human rights / development issues, Hong Kong protests, Taiwan independence   Responses by global actors (states, IGGs and/or regional grouping, NSAs) | **Indo-Pacific state actor options**  People’s Republic of China  Japan  Republic of India  Republic of Indonesia  United States of America  **Case studies of national** **interests**: national security, economic prosperity, regional relationships and regional standing | **Australia’s relations with regional states options**  One of the countries at left  One Pacific Island forum country, e.g. PNG, Solomons, Vanuatu, which may have a significant relationship with one of the countries at left  One other regional country, e.g. Philippines, South Korea, North Korea, India, USA, that may have a significant relationship with one of the countries at left and with Australia  Australia’s responses to regional issues such as climate change, development, global economic instability, WMDs, armed conflict, human rights, refugees, for at least one of the chosen states  Regional relations through ASEAN, PIF, APEC, the QUAD, AUKUS |
| **KEY SKILLS**  **evident in the outcome** | Inquiry  Apply key concepts  Analyse political significance | Apply key concepts  Analyse power, interests and perspectives  Evaluate political significance | Inquiry  Apply key concepts – liberal democracy (principles and processes)  Analyse political significance | Inquiry  Apply key concepts  Evaluate political significance | Analyse cause and consequence  Evaluate effectiveness of responses | Analyse cause and consequence  Evaluate how responses have contributed to political stability and/or change | Apply key concepts  Evaluate significance and effectiveness of the state’s pursuit of its national interests | Analyse different perspectives  Apply key concepts  Analyse cause and consequence  Evaluate political significance of Australia’s actions in the region |