

Sem	Week	Topic and key teaching points	Syllabus content	WALT & WILF	Assessment
1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a liberal democracy? • The operating principles of a liberal democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ equality of political rights-gender/ ethnicity/age ▪ majority rule ▪ political participation ▪ political freedom • Meaning of the above concepts, when achieved historically and when achieved in Australia 	Operating principles of a liberal democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equality of political rights • majority rule • political participation • political freedom 	<p>WALT: Define a liberal democracy and explain the key principals and how they apply to Australia.</p> <p>WILF: Express an understanding of the principles of liberal democracy in short answer form using examples.</p> <p><i>Democracy and Justice</i> -Chapter 1</p>	
1	2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of the political and legal system in Australia, including the federal structure/ overview • Roles of legislative, executive and judicial branches of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ in general ▪ in Australia 	Structure of the political and legal system in Australia Roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government	<p>WALT: Explain the structure and mechanism of the Australian system of government.</p> <p>WILF: Use the short answer format to explain the structure of Australia's legal and political systems.</p>	<p>Week 3 Task 1: Answer three, three-part questions based on the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia and the operating principles of a liberal democracy



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The doctrine of the separation of powers• The federal structure in Australia and the division of powers• The Westminster system<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ key elements▪ how it is reflected in the Australian political system• Representative government and responsible government• Review of the doctrine of the separation of powers and the Australian political system• The American and Canadian federal systems<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ key elements▪ what is reflected in the Australian federal system• The Swiss referendum process and section 128 of the Commonwealth Constitution	<p>Key influences on the structure of the political and legal system in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the Westminster system of government▪ English common law▪ the American federal system▪ the Canadian federal system▪ the Swiss referendum process	<p><i>Democracy and Justice</i> -Chapter 2 and 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure of the Australian political and legal system• Roles of the three branches of government• Influences on the Australian political and legal system• Terms and doctrines: separation of powers; division of powers; representative and responsible government; federalism.
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1	4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Australia as an example of a democratic political and legal system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ overall review ▪ any qualifications, in terms of structure and processes, within the operation of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government ▪ the extent that the operating principles of a liberal democracy exist ● The meaning of judicial independence and its existence in Australia ● China as an example of a non-democratic political and legal system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the structure of the Chinese system in terms of executive, legislative and judicial branches ▪ the processes within each branch; the relationship between the branches; the extent that the operating 	<p>Political and legal research skills</p> <p>Research provides the opportunity to examine aspects of political and legal systems. The following skills will be developed in this unit.</p> <p>Research and analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● identify, define, distinguish, analyse and evaluate principles and terms, describe, discuss, analyse and evaluate the operation and key features of a political and legal system, analyse statute law, common law, political decisions and legal decisions, distinguish between fact and opinion, theory and practice and formal and informal processes, identify and evaluate alternative conclusions, identify or propose solutions, predict intended or unintended consequences 	<p>WALT: Using examples compare a Liberal Democracy to a non-democratic political and legal system.</p> <p>WILF: Using inquiry skills investigate the political and legal structures of a non-democratic system of government.</p>	<p>Hand out week 4</p> <p>Task 2: Research and present a written report on the role and power of the executive and legislature in a non-democratic system.</p> <p>Week 6</p> <p>Task 3: Essay Unseen question on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Australia as an example of a democratic political and legal system ● An example of a non-democratic political and legal system.
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		<p>principles of a liberal democracy are practised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the terms 'constitutionalism' and 'the rule of law' and the extent that each is upheld in Australia and China.• Similarities and differences between a democratic and non-democratic political and legal system	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use political and legal formats, terminology and techniques to suit an audience, utilise techniques to explore ideas and construct reasoned arguments, use an appropriate method of referencing <p>ESSAY:</p> <p>structures and processes of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ one democratic political and legal system▪ one non-democratic political and legal system		
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1	7-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parliament and statute law: legislative process of the Commonwealth Parliament using an example of a bill that has gone through most stages in each House ● Use the bill to examine a contemporary issue (last three years) involving the legislative process, especially executive dominance and/or minor party influence ● Courts and common law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English common law ▪ common law in Australia ▪ the court hierarchy in Western Australia/Australia ▪ the doctrine of precedent and how it operates ▪ methods of statutory interpretation ● Use relevant examples to explain courts and law making ● The relationship between statute law and common law using a relevant example ● The sovereignty of parliament 	<p>Types of laws made by parliaments, courts and subordinate authorities</p> <p>Legislative processes at the State or Commonwealth levels</p> <p>The court hierarchy, methods of statutory interpretation and the doctrine of precedent</p>	<p>WALT: Explain the law making process for both state and federal parliament and the role of the courts.</p> <p>WILF: Prepare short answer responses demonstrating an understanding of law making processes and the relationship between statute and common law.</p>	<p>Week 9</p> <p>Task 4 : short answer questions related to the Law making process including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parliament and lawmaking process ● Courts and law making process, including precedent ● Relationship between statute and common law
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		Subordinate authorities and delegated legislation			
1	11-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key processes of civil and criminal trials in Western Australia: pre-trial, trial and post-trial stages Use the problems associated with a jury trial to examine a contemporary issue (last three years) involving the judicial process 	Key processes of civil and criminal trials in Western Australia	<p>WALT: Describe the court processes in both civil and criminal trials</p> <p>WILF: Apply knowledge of court processes to respond to a series of legal sources</p>	<p>Week 12</p> <p>Task 5: An extract and a series of open and closed questions. The source is related to the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes of criminal and civil trials in Western Australia
1	14-15	Key processes of the Indonesian legal system: pre-trial; trial and post-trial	Key processes of at least one non-common law system	<p>WALT: Examine the processes in a non-common law systems</p> <p>WILF: Respond to sources relating to a non-common law system</p>	

1	16	Semester 1 examination	The exam will cover all Political and legal systems points from Semester 1. ▪		Task 6: Semester 1 examination (2.5 hours)
2	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electoral and voting systems since Federation in Western Australia/ Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ simple majority; preferential and optional preferential system; proportional representation ▪ extension of the franchise; compulsory voting; group ticket voting ● The advantages and disadvantages of the voting systems used in Australia with reference to at least one recent election ● Should changes be made to the current regulations governing donations to political parties in Australia by individuals and groups? (electoral reform) 	<p>The Western Australian and Commonwealth electoral and voting systems since Federation</p> <p>Advantages and disadvantages of the electoral and voting systems in Australia with reference to at least one recent (the last ten years) election</p> <p>A recently implemented or proposed reform (the last ten years) to the electoral and voting systems in Australia</p> <p>The electoral and voting systems of another country.</p>	<p>WALT: Examine advantages and disadvantages of different voting systems</p> <p>WILF: Construct an essay response evaluating Australia's voting system</p>	<p>Week 3</p> <p>Task 7: An unseen topic based on the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electoral and voting systems since Federation ● Advantages and disadvantages of the electoral and voting systems in Australia, with reference to at least one election.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How fair are Australian elections? • The electoral and voting system of the USA including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ simple majority; the franchise; non-compulsory voting ▪ the Electoral College and the election of the President • frequency of Congressional elections 			
2	4-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ what is a political party? ▪ what is the role of major, minor and micro political parties active in the Australian political system? ▪ what is a pressure group? ▪ what is the role of pressure groups in the Australian political and legal system? • Examine the various ways political parties and pressure groups participate in the political and legal system • How individuals, political parties and pressure groups can 	<p>Political representation with reference to the role of political parties and pressure groups</p> <p>Ways individuals, political parties and pressure groups can participate in the electoral processes in Australia</p>	<p>WALT: Examine political representation in Australia and the ways that people can participate in the electoral process</p> <p>WILF: Construct written responses on political representation and the role of political parties in Australia</p>	<p>Week 7</p> <p>Task 8: An extract and a series of open and closed questions. The source is related to the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political representation and political participation with reference to the role of political parties and pressure groups • Ways individuals, political parties and pressure groups can participate in the

		<p>participate in the electoral processes in Australia</p> <p>The difference between political parties in terms of female representatives in Australian parliaments (contemporary issue centering on representation)</p>			<p>electoral processes in Australia</p>
2	8-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths and weaknesses of Western Australia's adversarial criminal law processes • Strengths and weaknesses of Western Australia's adversarial civil law processes (Investigation) 	<p>Strengths and weaknesses of Western Australia's adversarial civil and criminal law processes</p>	<p>WALT: Examine the extent to which civil and criminal trial processes achieve justice</p> <p>WILF: Answer a set of short answer questions regarding issues in the legal system</p>	<p>Week 9</p> <p>Task 9: Answer three, three-part questions based on the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths and weaknesses of Western Australia's criminal law processes • The implications of the cost of legal representation • The abolition of the jury trial • The issue of justice.

2	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the implications of the cost of legal representation (a contemporary issue centering on justice) 	<p>Strengths and weaknesses of Western Australia's adversarial civil and criminal law processes</p> <p>Political and legal research skills</p> <p>Research provides the opportunity to examine aspects of political and legal systems. The following skills will be developed in this unit.</p> <p>Research and analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify, define, distinguish, analyse and evaluate principles and terms, describe, discuss, analyse and evaluate the operation and key features of a political and legal system, analyse statute law, common law, political decisions and legal decisions, distinguish between fact and opinion, theory and practice and formal and informal processes, identify and evaluate alternative conclusions, identify or propose 	<p>WALT: Examine contemporary issues regarding justice</p> <p>WILF: Investigate an issue relating to justice and follow up the investigation with an essay response</p>	<p>Hand out week 9</p> <p>Validation Essay Week 12</p> <p>Task 10:</p> <p>Part A: Identify and research a contemporary issue centering on justice</p> <p>Part B: Validation essay based on the research associated with the investigation and classwork.</p>
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			<p>solutions, predict intended or unintended consequences</p> <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use political and legal formats, terminology and techniques to suit an audience, utilise techniques to explore ideas and construct reasoned arguments, use an appropriate method of referencing 		
2	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments for and against the abolition of the jury trial in Western Australia (a proposed reform to the criminal process in Western Australia) with reference to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ particular jury trials ▪ exemptions from a jury trial and trial by judge alone ▪ eligibility of jurors • juror exemption 	<p>A recently implemented or proposed reform (the last ten years) to the civil or criminal law process in Western Australia</p>	<p>WALT: Evaluate the pros and cons of jury trials and proposed legal reforms</p> <p>WILF: Respond to sources relating to proposed legal reforms</p>	



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2	14-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strengths and weaknesses of the processes and procedures of the Indonesian (non-common law) legal system	Strengths and weaknesses of the processes and procedures of at least one non-common law system	WALT: Compare strengths and weaknesses of the Indonesian legal system WILF: Prepare for exams	
2	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Semester 2 exam			Task 11: Semester 2 examination (3 hours)