

Yr 12 Legal Studies transition/holiday work

1. Write a page or half page on what you understand to be the political situation in Australia at present. Imagine you have a visitor staying at your house who knows nothing of the way politics, government and law-making works here. Inform them and include anything you think may be unusual or interesting.

You can do this either before you learn anything else or after the transition program and when you have finished the holiday homework.

2. Explain the relationship between the criminal and civil law. Page 6-8
Use the Dr James Peters case (page 8) to assist.
3. Write a short paragraph on each of the following features of our parliamentary system, explaining what they are and why they are significant. **Chapter 2**
 - Federation/federal system
 - The Constitution
 - The Westminster system
 - Bicameral parliament
 - The separation of powers
 - The legislative power
 - The executive power
 - The judicial power
4. Commonwealth Parliament
 - a. Briefly describe the House of Representatives. p22
 - b. Outline the role of the HoR – dot points with one sentence. p 22
 - c. Describe the Senate. p 23
 - d. Outline the role of the Senate – dot points with one sentence. p 23
5. Comment on the state of the House and the Senate in the current parliament.
Read the article on page 24 and include any ideas from that if needed.
Also, use the 2013 election results sheet attached.
6. The Crown is the formal Head of State in Australia (The Queen).
The Crown is represented in Australia by the Governor-General.

Outline the role of the GG. Dot points 1 - 5 and 8 are the most important and you should know them. p 25

7. How government is formed. Read the Case file pages 26-7.

Explain

- a. how government is formed
- b. how a prime minister is selected
- c. what a minister is
- d. what cabinet is
- e. what the Executive Council is

8. State Parliament

- a. Briefly describe the Legislative Assembly. P 28
- b. Outline the role of the LA – dot points with one sentence. p 28
- c. Describe the Legislative Council. P 28
- d. Outline the role of the LC – dot points with one sentence. p 29

Note that the Legislative Council cannot block supply (money bills).

The role of the Crown in Victoria is similar to the commonwealth except the title is 'Governor'.

9. Representative government.

This is an extremely important concept. It has been used by the High Court to decide on the rights of people. p 30

Explain it as best you can in with a number of examples.

10. Responsible government

Use the dot points and a sentence for each to explain. p 30

11. Complete the 'Parliament online' activity on p 31

12. Complete the accompanying sheets as part of your transition/holiday work.

There will be a short SAC in the second week back on this material.

2013 Federal Parliament Elections

House of Representatives

Party	Votes	%	Swing	Seats	Change
Australian Labor Party	4,311,365	33.8	-4.61	55	-17
Coalition					
Liberal Party of Australia	4,134,865	32.2	+1.56	58	+14
Liberal National Party (QLD)	1,152,217	8.92	-0.20	22	+1
National Party of Australia	554,268	4.29	+0.56	9	+2
Country Liberal Party (NT)	41,468	0.32	+0.01	1	0
Australian Greens	1,116,918	8.65	-3.11	1	0
Palmer United Party	709,035	5.49	+5.49	1	+1
Katter's Australian Party	134,226	1.04	+0.73	1	+1
Independents	177,217	1.37	-0.84	2	-2
Other	583,348	4.52	+0.41	0	0
Total	12,914,927			150	
Two-party-preferred vote					
Liberal/National Coalition		53.5	+3.65	90	+18
Australian Labor Party		46.5	-3.65	55	-17

Independents: Andrew Wilkie, Cathy McGowan

Government (90)

Liberal (58)
 QLD LNP (22)
 National (9)
 NT CLP (1)

Opposition (55)

Labor (55)

Crossbench (5)

Independent (2)
 Green (1)
 Palmer (1)
 Katter (1)

Senate

Party	Votes	%	Swing	Seats won	Total seats	Change
Liberal/National Coalition	5,057,218	37.0	-0.59	17	33	-1
Australian Labor Party	4,038,591	30.1	-5.02	12	25	-6
Australian Greens	1,159,588	8.65	-4.46	4	10	+1
Palmer United Party	658,976	4.91	+4.91	2	2	+2
Liberal Democratic Party	523,831	3.91	+2.10	1	1	+1
Xenophon Group	258,376	1.93	+1.93	1	1	0
Family First Party	149,306	1.11	-0.99	1	1	+1
Democratic Labor Party	112,549	0.84	-0.22	0	1	0
Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party	67,560	0.50	+0.50	1	1	+1
Australian Sports Party	2,997	0.02	+0.02	1	1	+1
Other	1,384,027	10.2	+1.82	0	0	0
Total	13,413,019			40	76	

NB. Western Australia may face a Senate re-election after a Court of Disputed Returns decision. The new Senate does not sit until July 2014.