

*Insert school name here!*

# Year 9 Commerce



# Political Involvement

## Work Booklet

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

# INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

What do these words mean to you and a friend?



My meaning	Political Involvement term	A friend's meaning
	Back bencher	
	Federal parliament	
	Federal government	
	Election	
	Double dissolution	
	Independents	
	Political party	
	Cabinet	

# INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

(their name, party, role) and political activities do you know?

What politicians



POLITICIANS	POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
	<p><b>E</b> _____ Voting for a representative</p>
	<p><b>L</b> _____ Trying to get an elected representative to fund / push an idea/activity/venue/development</p>
	<p><b>C</b> _____ When members of a political party meet to elect a leader, discuss policy, etc</p>
	<p><b>C</b> _____ When two political parties join forces</p>
	<p><b>C</b> _____ <b>the floor</b> When members of a political party walk to the other side of the chamber to vote with their opponents on an issue of conscience</p>
	
	



## Political Involvement

### Content focus

Students develop an understanding of how laws affect individuals and groups and regulate society, and how individuals and groups participate in the democratic process. Students examine various legal and political systems and learn how strategies are used to resolve contentious legal and political issues.

Skills to be integrated in this topic as appropriate: developing questions, gathering and processing relevant information, analysing familiar and new situations, evaluating options, developing and implementing plans, developing evidence-based conclusions/decisions and reasoned arguments, working independently and collaboratively.

### Content

## PART ONE: Law reform, political action and decision-making

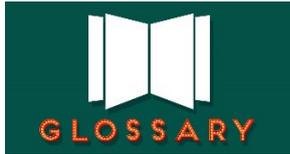
Students:

- investigate why laws change, how they change and the effect of the changes
- research methods an individual or group has taken to influence politicians and evaluate their effectiveness, for example individual action, actions of lobby groups and political parties and the
- use of the media
- outline the process by which referendums to change the Australian Constitution are initiated and
- decided

## PART TWO: Current issues

Students investigate a current issue relating to Australia's political process, for example:

– an issue of interest to young people and actions that could be taken to influence this issue



	Half the number of formal votes received in an election PLUS one			
	The economic, social and environmental performance of a business			
	The detailed actions to be undertaken in order to achieve an objective			
	The upper house of the Federal Parliament, sometimes called the State's House			
	The power an individual or party has by holding the casting vote. The vote of the person or party holding the balance of power will swing the decision one way or another.			
	A vote by electors on a proposed change to the Australian Constitution			
	A piece of paper on which a voter records his or her vote			
	The number of votes that a senate candidate must get to win a Senate Seat			
	The group of select government ministers that meets regularly to decide major issues of government			
	The system used in Australia to elect senators. Each senator must win a set proportion of votes, or quota, to win a Senate seat.			
	A government that becomes possible because two or more parties agree to work together, and hence gain the majority of the votes			
	A counting system that is designed to allow the majority of Australians to have their say in an election by stating the order in which they prefer candidates			
	A document which sets out how an organisation or country will be governed			
	Order in which voters list other candidates at an election, after they have made their first choice			
	The House of Representatives and the Senate			
	An area of government responsibility, such as health or defence			
	When separate countries or states agree to join together as one			
	A vote that has been correctly marked on a ballot paper in accordance with the rules and not signed or made unreadable in any way			
	To attempt to enlist popular and political support for some particular cause			
	The lower house of Federal Parliament, sometimes called the People's House			
Absolute majority	Action plan	Balance of power	Ballot paper	cabinet
Lobby	Coalition	Federal Parliament	Federation	Senate
	Portfolio	Preferences	Preferential system	Quota
	Proportional Representation	Referendum	House of representatives	

## PART ONE:

### Law reform, political action and decision-making

#### The Election

##### *TRUE OR FALSE!*

1. An election is an informal process. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Elections are required for all 3 levels of government. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The two houses are also called chambers of parliament. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Voting

1. Compulsory voting is for all Australian citizens over 18 years of age. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Voting in Australia is administered by the **Australian Electoral Commission**. \_\_\_\_\_

##### *FILL IN THE GAPS!*

#### Voting Methods

##### 1. **First Past the Post**

This refers to a simple method of voting where individuals simply \_\_\_\_\_ **ONE vote to their chosen candidate**. So this is like a school election, where you might be required to put a \_\_\_\_\_ next to your school captain of choice. The candidate with the most votes is \_\_\_\_\_ .

##### 2. **Preferential**

Australia now uses a \_\_\_\_\_ system of voting in elections. Preferential voting involves \_\_\_\_\_ **candidates** on the ballot paper in order of preference. For a candidate to win the election, they need the **absolute majority** OR \_\_\_\_\_ PLUS of votes. Elections for members of the \_\_\_\_\_ involve a different voting method. This system is called **optional preferential voting** (or proportional representation) because senators need a certain \_\_\_\_\_ of the votes to be elected into parliament.



Supplementary Questions.

1. Differentiate between the Liberal Party and the Labor Party.

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2. Name 2 minor Australian political parties.

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3. Do you lean towards a particular party? Why?

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4. Which party or coalition of parties is in power a) in NSW right now? and b) in Australia federally?

NSW: \_\_\_\_\_

AUSTRALIA: \_\_\_\_\_

# Developing Government Policy

Read the section in your textbook or the section provided by your teacher/s on Government Policy and complete the supplementary questions to the best of your ability.

## Supplementary Questions.

1. What sort of things do politicians often promise but then don't fully deliver on?

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2. Why are back-benchers important but paid less than front benchers (ministers)?

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3. What are some front bench roles?

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4. Who selects the PM? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who selects the cabinet (senior front bench ministers)? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How is the cabinet and front bench different?

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7. What is the main role of the PM?

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8. What is the role of the opposition?

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9. How is the opposition formed/decided upon?

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10. Who is the current?

<b>Prime Minister</b>		<b>Opposition leader</b>	
<b>Deputy PM</b>		<b>Deputy Opposition leader</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>Shadow Treasurer</b>	
<b>Attorney General</b>		<b>Shadow Attorney General</b>	
<b>Minister for Foreign Affairs</b>		<b>Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs</b>	















### My own political party!

1. Brainstorm your ideas about what you are passionate about, what your platforms would be for your own political party.

2. Is there anyone in the class who has similar interests, who could join your party?  
Who? Why?



**RECAP Quiz!**

1. Which of the following are levels of government in Australia?
  - A. Local, Democracy, Federal
  - B. State, Federal and Republicans
  - C. Democracy, Republicans and Local
  - D. Local, State and Federal
  
2. Which of the following is a system of government?
  - A. democracy
  - B. anarchy
  - C. tyranny
  - D. none of the above
  
3. Who is in the Cabinet?
  - A. an individual or party holding the casting vote in parliament
  - B. the group of government ministers who decide major issues of government
  - C. the king or queen who is the head of state in a constitutional monarchy
  - D. all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate

4. Match each term to its best definition.

adversarial system    constitutional monarchy    hierarchy    absolute majority preferential system    judiciary

	system in which two opposing parties present their arguments to a magistrate or judge
	There are usually constitutional limits on their power
	half the number of formal votes received in an election plus one
	the system of courts that interprets and applies the law in a country
	a grading system based on order of importance
	a counting system that is designed to allow the majority of Australians to have their say in an election by stating the order in which they prefer candidates
	a form of government in which a non-elected monarch acts as the head of state.

5. A bill that is introduced by a backbencher, not the government is called:
  - A. a waste of money
  - B. a Dorothy Dixier
  - C. a private member's bill
  - D. All of the above



Read, highlight



and discuss



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## MEDIA ARTICLE

### 'Factional battle': Liberals drop problem councils in local government elections



By [Angus Thompson](#)

November 3, 2021 — 7.30pm

Sydney's second city will not have an endorsed Liberal Party presence as the state executive distances itself from several problematic councils in the upcoming elections.

Parramatta Council, whose current and previous mayors are Liberal, and contains members on the state executive, has been ditched by party headquarters following court battles and factional warring in the chaotic run-up to the polls.



Parramatta Liberal councillor Ben Barrack is facing a charge of intimidation.

Blacktown, Cumberland, Bayside and Strathfield councils will also be without endorsed candidates, with some party members saying the vacuum would lead to less accountability, while others said reducing political interference in local government was a positive step.

One Liberal member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as it was about internal matters, said the councils had been left out by different camps trying to wrest control.

“The chaos is nothing more than a factional battle between a few individuals,” the party member said.

### **Police hired to guard Liberal branch meeting chaired by powerbroker**

Another party member said the executive should have grasped the opportunity to find better candidates.

“While it was a good opportunity to clean up councils, we left it too late to endorse candidates. It’s a shame, we should’ve had them ready to go in the first place.

Parramatta Liberal councillor and lawyer Benjamin Barrack is caught up in his own criminal proceedings after being charged with intimidation after a confrontation with Lakemba branch president Mohammad Zaman earlier this year. Mr Barrack has not entered a plea and the *Herald* was unable to reach him for comment.

Another Parramatta Liberal hoping to recontest as an endorsed candidate, state executive member Martin Zaiter, launched Supreme Court proceedings against the party earlier this year over rules concentrating nomination powers in the executive.



Former Strathfield mayor Antoine Doueihi has been found guilty of misconduct for failing to declare property interests.

He was unsuccessful, along with Blacktown councillor Jess Diaz and Cumberland councillor Ned Attie, who jointly launched similar proceedings. Crs Diaz and Attie are now running as independents.

Strathfield will be another council area without the party's endorsement in the run-up to the December 4 elections, with former mayor Antoine Doueihi having been recently found by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal to have breached local government rules for failing to declare his property interests after the council watchdog took action.

Bayside's Liberal councillors have had their own public spats, with Cr Michael Nagi's Arncliffe kebab shop becoming the scene of a brawl in June 2018. There is no suggestion of wrongdoing by Cr Nagi.

The NSW Electoral Commission closed nominations at midday on Wednesday, with the ballot paper draw, to determine the order of parties and individual candidates contesting the poll, to be held from 10am on Thursday.

### **Ceasefire at dysfunctional north shore council ahead of elections**

The fate of some of the councils forgone by the party was only recently decided upon, adding to the internal disarray the Liberals have suffered in the past few years due to infighting over the local government elections.

The party has also been divided over whether to allow property developers to run for local government, given the risk of conflicts of interest arising out of planning decisions due to their occupations.

According to party insiders not authorised to speak publicly, a concerted effort to weed out developers was the reason for pre-selections being delayed before the elections, initially due to take place in 2020 before COVID-19 struck.

Labor and the Greens tried to push a bill through, banning developers by tying it with COVID-19 measures, however the legislative attempts were split.

The NSW government was also criticised from within its own ranks about a bill to help monitor suspicious donations to council candidates as being too little too late.

**Answer these questions:**

1. Why did the local Parramatta Liberals not endorse their own candidates for the Local government elections in 2021?

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2. Who were some of the personalities involved?

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3. What were some of the actions that took place?

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## Councillor Sameer Pandey elected new Lord Mayor of Parramatta



*Lord Mayor Sameer Pandey*

City of Parramatta Council tonight elected Councillor Sameer Pandey as its new Lord Mayor. Councillor Pandey, who represents the Parramatta Ward, is the City's first Lord Mayor of Indian origin. Cr Pandey said it was a privilege to lead the council of one of the fastest-growing centres in Australia. "The City of Parramatta is the geographical heart of Greater Sydney and a major economic powerhouse as well as the best place in Sydney to live," Cr Pandey said. "Parramatta is home to a vibrant and diverse community and I'm excited to lead the City as it cements itself as Sydney's second CBD and the focus of some of its most exciting opportunities." Councillor Donna Davis MP stepped down from the role following her election as the State Member for Parramatta. Cr Davis MP will continue as a councillor until the next local government elections in September 2024.

<https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/about-parramatta/news/media-release/councillor-sameer-pandey-elected-new-lord-mayor-of-parramatta>

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

## **Cr Pierre Esber elected new Lord Mayor of Parramatta**

City of Parramatta Council tonight elected Councillor Pierre Esber as its new Lord Mayor.



*Lord Mayor Pierre Esber and Deputy Mayor, Patricia Prociv*

Councillor Esber, who represents the Dundas Ward and has been helping shape Parramatta as a councillor for more than 20 years, said he is looking forward to leading the City as it embarked on the next chapter of its transformation.

“Parramatta has cemented its position as the true heart of Greater Sydney and is attracting global attention for its diversity, vibrant nightlife and commitment to our community,” Cr Esber said.

“Council is committed to making it the best place to live and raise a family, to work and build a business and a magnet for our smartest minds, most brilliant creatives and promising sporting talent.

“The next 10 years will shape the future of this great City and we want to make every day count. I am proud to lead Council into this next formative period.”

Council also elected Councillor Dr Patricia Prociv as its Deputy Lord Mayor at the meeting. Councillor Prociv, who represents Rosehill Ward, said it was an honour to be elected as Deputy Lord Mayor at Council.

“It is a privilege to work alongside Lord Mayor Cr Esber and my fellow councillors to keep progressing our great City and driving cultural investment,” Cr Prociv said.

“Parramatta really is where it’s at.”

Lord Mayor Esber and Deputy Lord Mayor Prociv will hold the positions until the next local government elections to be held in September 2024.

<https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/cr-pierre-esber-elected-new-lord-mayor-of-parramatta/>

September 25, 2023

**Answer these questions:**

1. Comment on the stability, or otherwise, of the Labor held Council of the city of Parramatta

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2. Who were some of the personalities involved?

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3. What were some of the actions that took place?

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