

Change to National Politics (2007 – 2010)

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority has approved a change to Unit 3, Outcome 2 of VCE National Politics. The Authority's decision follows feedback received from teachers throughout the year, as well as the examination panel and assessors during the first year of implementation of the study.

The feedback indicated that Area of Study 2 contained too much content and did not allow the teaching of the designated areas of the Australian political system in sufficient depth.

The VCAA consulted with teachers on possible changes during December and decided that, although late in the year, a change was necessary to improve teaching and learning for 2007.

The change affects the description of Area of Study 2 and the key knowledge for Unit 3, Outcome 2 on page 20 of the VCE International Politics Study design. An updated version of the page will be printed in the February VCAA Bulletin and is now available on the VCAA website at: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/intpolitics/interpoliticssd.pdf>

Students will no longer be required to have a detailed understanding of one suggested area of change; they will be required to have an understanding of

- *areas of suggested change to the Constitution, the electoral system and the parliament.*

This change will take effect from 1 January 2007 until the accreditation period of the study expires on 31 December 2010.

An updated version of Unit 3, Area of Study 2 is reprinted below.

Any enquiries about this amendment or the VCE International Politics Study design may be directed to Patricia Hincks, Curriculum Manager, Humanities on (03) 9651 4439 or hincks.patricia.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

AREA OF STUDY 2

Continuity and change

This area of study focuses on the strengths and weaknesses of the Australian political system. Students are encouraged to critically analyse Australian political institutions and consider the need for change. Consideration is given to the extent to which the Australian political system reflects democratic values and is relevant to contemporary Australia. Students consider forces promoting and resisting change, including social movements, interest groups, public opinion, lobbyists, the media, economic factors and international pressures.

Outcome 2

On completion of this unit the student should be able to critically analyse Australian political institutions, consider the need for and the merits of continuity and change, and identify forces that promote or resist change.

To achieve this outcome the student will draw on knowledge and related skills outlined in area of study 2.

Key knowledge

This knowledge includes

- the concept of democracy and democratic values;
- the extent to which Australia's political structures and institutions fulfil democratic values and reflect contemporary Australian society;
- the extent to which the Australian political system has undergone change, and forces which can effectively resist or promote change;
- areas of suggested change to the Constitution, the electoral system and the parliament.