

How will this help me in the future?

The benefits of studying Sociology, Politics and Civics and Citizenship

This fact sheet identifies some of the ways that Civics and Citizenship, Sociology and Politics can support you in the future. It explores how skills and knowledge that you develop in this subject can help your career in surprising ways.

What are Sociology, Politics and Civics and Citizenship?

There are some jobs that are clearly related to what you're studying now. If you want to be a politician or a sociologist, to work for the government or as a solicitor (lawyer), you should be paying attention right now. But no matter what job you're interested in, did you know that you're building skills that will make you really stand out to employers?

Skills like critical thinking, evaluating evidence and using it to support your ideas are highly sought after transferable skills that employers increasingly need.

Critical thinking – the ability to take in detailed information, think deeply about it, ask questions, and suggest practical solutions to challenges – is one of the key employability skills needed in lots of industries and it is something you are building in this class.

Every industry has situations where you need to be able to make sense of new information, problem-solve and communicate your perspective using evidence.

If robots are taking over, who will take over the robots?

Researchers are predicting that a lot of jobs that used to exist will be performed by machines and computers in the future. In fact, this is already happening. What is less often discussed is that employers will need people with the skills to make sure that this is done in a way that benefits, and works well with, people.

Some jobs that have been seen as secure in the past will be less in demand in the future, as suggested by this quote from a business leader:

We are going through the process where software will automate software, automation will automate automation. I would not want to be a CPA right now. I would not want to be an accountant right now. I would rather be a philosophy major.—Mark Cuban, Chairman, AXS TV

Source: Deloitte, 'The value of humanities', <https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/economics/articles/value-humanities.html>



Things to think about

Discuss in pairs, small groups, in writing or as a class.

Read the quote on the previous page. Why do you think Mark Cuban would say something like that?

- Does this confirm or challenge what you thought about future careers? Why?
- Can you suggest reasons why tech companies might need people skilled in humanities?

Suggested curriculum links

Year 9/10 Civics and Citizenship

Students evaluate a range of factors that sustain democratic societies and analyse ways they can be active and informed citizens in different contexts, taking into account multiple perspectives and ambiguities.

Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship

Students identify the importance of shared values, explain different points of view, and explain the diverse nature of Australian society.

Careers in Civics and Citizenship

Government and democracy	Laws and citizens	Citizenship, diversity and identity
public policy expert/policymaker	solicitor	community support worker
politician	barrister	sociologist
journalist	judge	criminologist
diplomat	law clerk	development worker
university lecturer/academic	community liaison officer	travel writer
union organiser	campaign manager	psychologist
public relations specialist	police officer	public health worker
lobbyist	social worker	community development worker

This chart identifies the careers that directly relate to the three strands of the Civics and Citizenship curriculum.



What is Australian and Global Politics and why study it?

Do you want to be an active and informed member of the community but don't know what that means? Find out by studying Australian and Global Politics.

- You will explore and understand the contemporary world.
- You will be able to tap into current events and make sense of them with others.
- Politics is contemporary, evolving, interesting and vital for you as a citizen of the world.

Politics is too serious a matter to be left to politicians—Charles de Gaulle

Tackle the big questions

- Why is the world the way it is?
- What is power and who has it?

What will you learn about in Year 11 Australian and Global Politics?

Unit 1: Ideas, actors and power

Power and ideas

What is politics? What is meant by power and how can it be exercised? How is power distributed in the Australian political system? How do non-democratic systems distribute power?

Political actors and power

What roles do political parties play in the Australian political system? How influential are political parties, interest groups and the media in shaping the Australian political agenda?

Unit 2: Global connections

Global links

How are citizens of the 21st century linked – politically, socially and economically? How have people's lives been affected by globalisation? Do citizens and states have global responsibilities?

Global cooperation and conflict

How does the global community work in the 21st century and what are its responsibilities? What challenges do key global actors such as the United Nations and NGOs face in resolving issues such as war, conflict, environmental challenges, people movement and international crime?

Source: VCE Australian and Global Politics Study Design, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

In Units 3 and 4, students can study either VCE Global Politics or VCE Australian Politics.



How will Politics help my career?

Studying Politics will teach you important skills that are transferable across industries

Note: Politics is sometimes called 'political science' and can be classified as both a humanities subject and one of the social sciences.

Employers need employees who can think critically, who are informed about society and who can support their ideas with evidence. You will learn this, and so much more, in VCE Australian and Global Politics. These transferable skills are needed in every industry and can help to give you an edge!

Did you know?

- Humanities graduates are more likely to be employed three years after completing their degree than mathematics graduates
- Humanities skills are in demand and Politics will help you to be adaptable, no matter what career or industry you choose
- Automation is changing the nature of work, and political skills and knowledge will help you to be 'futureproof'
- Politics will help you to make decisions about volunteering and employment in line with your values so that your work will be REWARDING, both in terms of money and life satisfaction.

Politics will help you be a leader

International research into careers pathways identified that 55 per cent of survey respondents in leadership positions across government, corporate and non-profit sectors had a degree in the humanities or social sciences. Younger leaders were even more likely to have a humanities background than their older counterparts, who were more likely to have studied STEM subjects. This global trend is echoed in the Australian context, where two-thirds of chief executive officers (CEOs) of Australian Stock Exchange (ASX)-listed companies have degrees in the humanities.

Networks – a Politics superpower

Many young people work casual jobs after they finish high school. Casual jobs don't always enable students to build their skills and networks. The skills and knowledge you gain in Politics can help you to make decisions about rewarding ways to engage with your community and volunteer. This experience will grow your networks and develop your skills even further – you will be unstoppable!

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What is Sociology and why should you study it?

We hear words like ‘culture’, ‘power’ and ‘society’ an awful lot, but what do they really mean? Find out by studying Sociology.

I love to study people, and that's basically what sociology is.—Kamaru Usman

Explore big questions

- Why is society the way it is?
- What is family?
- Who holds power in society?
- What is a community and why do we think it's a good thing?
- Why are some people included and some excluded in society?

Sociological knowledge and skills will help you in your career by exploring how the different parts of society fit together, how groups of people are idolised or stigmatised, and so much more. It will also help you to understand how we measure aspects of society, and how we research and learn about people.

Sociology will help you to:

- understand people, society and culture
- understand how to ethically answer research questions about the world around you
- understand how groups in society hold power.

What will I learn in Units 1 and 2 Sociology?

Unit 1: Youth and family

Experience of youth

This area of study introduces students to the discipline of Sociology and the nature of sociological inquiry through the study of youth.

Are these really the best days of your life? What does it mean to be young and what role do you play in society?

The family

This area of study explores different definitions of the family and how families have changed over time.

What is a family, anyway?

Why do stereotypes about families matter?

Unit 2: Social norms: breaking the code

Deviance

This area of study focuses on the concept of deviance, including how what is considered deviant may differ according to age and social status and across time and space.

Why is society scared of those that deviate from the norm?

Crime

In this area of study students develop an understanding of the concept of crime. They learn that crime and its definition are shaped by a community's sense of what is considered right and wrong.

Is there such a thing as a victimless crime?

Source: VCE Sociology Study Design, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority



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Sociology will help you be a leader

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What do pathways in the humanities look like in the real world?

The skills and knowledge that you are learning in Civics and Citizenship – skills like critical thinking and using evidence to support your perspective, as well as knowledge about the contemporary world – are powerful. This fact sheet includes information and profiles about interesting and rewarding careers where people use their political and sociological skills and knowledge.

Humanities skills are in demand in all industries

Did you know that leaders in business, politics and the non-profit sector are extremely likely to have humanities degrees?

In Australia, an impressive two-thirds of chief executive officers (CEOs) of Australian Stock Exchange (ASX)-listed businesses – the leaders of some of our biggest companies – completed degrees in the humanities. And it isn't just leadership roles that require these skills. Humanities skills and knowledge are in demand in the other jobs as well.

Many employers are looking for people with transferable skills like critical thinking, evaluating evidence and decision-making – exactly the kinds of skills you are building in Civics and Citizenship.





Career profile: Mahad

Role: Public health officer with the Department of Health

'When I was a teenager, I didn't know what I wanted to do. But once I engaged in the social sciences it helped me understand where I wanted to take things, which is why I studied public health.'

Mahad is helping to control the COVID-19 outbreak by tracing the contacts of people who have been exposed to or diagnosed with the virus. He is doing valuable and rewarding work that uses humanities skills like critical thinking and evaluating evidence. Mahad uses knowledge about contemporary society, built through subjects like Civics and Citizenship, to understand the communities that he works with. To help him build skills and confidence, he completed a community leadership program and volunteered, which also helped him grow his networks.

How does knowledge about contemporary society help Mahad with his work?

'Knowledge about contemporary society plays a major role in my work for the state government. We deal with people from different backgrounds and communities, so it's important to understand how they do things and how we do things so we can find middle ground. It's also a major asset in terms of career progression by helping you understand how the organisation works, as well.'



Career profile: Etienne

Role: Field officer in the federal public service

In his current role as field officer, Etienne travels around Victoria interviewing people and gathering data on a range of topics, which is used to help businesses, governments and non-profits understand Australian society better. Etienne has always been interested in politics and society, so he completed a degree in International Studies – but he's been surprised by the twists and turns that his career has taken. After he finished studying, Etienne worked in media monitoring but the role became automated while he was working there. Luckily, Etienne had developed transferable skills and knowledge, which meant he could easily move to a new role in another industry.

What does Etienne think about building transferable skills and knowledge?

'I think one of the strengths of learning something to do with the humanities, arts, politics, sociology is that we're shifting into an economy of knowledge and skills where being multidisciplinary is going to be a big advantage, and limiting yourself to one hard skill, especially at a time when the job market is going through such radical change and that job may not exist in five to ten years' time is essentially limiting what you're capable of.'



Career profile: Urvi

Role: Creative workshops producer with Footscray Community Arts, stand-up comedian and writer for Channel 10's The Project

As a creative workshops producer, Urvi combines her interests in the arts, education and community to coordinate artistic workshops and programs. Urvi was passionate about the arts and humanities when she was a student, but she had heard that the job prospects were not good. She stuck to the subjects that interested her, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree. Urvi then trained as a teacher and worked in education until her talent for stand-up comedy and her continued love of the arts drew her to begin writing and to seek out more creative work.

How can knowledge about politics and society help you make decisions?

'The knowledge and skills that I developed about politics and society through my interest at school, through the subjects that I did, as well as in university, really help me ground to who I am and what my values are. I'm really interested in looking at the ethics of that and how it can really engage with communities.'

Wait, is politics connected to comedy as well?

'It helps me to have my values to begin with and then use them to analyse the discrepancies in what's going on in society around us. As you might notice, not everything makes sense. And often that's funny, so we laugh at it.'