

Stage 1 Legal Studies Presentation Task

Mock Referendum

Students will work in small groups to run a referendum campaign. Two groups must join together to pick one central idea to reform the Constitution. One group will act as the 'Yes' campaign promoting the change to the Constitution to the Australian public, while the other group will act as the 'No' campaign with the intention to convince the Australian public to vote 'No' at the referendum.

Each group will complete the following tasks:

- Research your proposed constitutional reform. Create a reference list that documents your sources.
- Consult with the community about your proposal. For example, interview a range of people, conduct a focus group, create a survey to gauge the opinions of the public on the issue. Briefly describe the consultation process your group chose and summarise the results (300 words).
- Collaborate with the opposing group to decide on the exact wording of the question that will be put to the Australian public at the referendum. This question will appear on your ballot paper (see below).
- Create a short campaign video (using WeVideo or iMovie) which aims to convince the Australian public to vote 'Yes' or 'No' to the constitutional reform. (2-3 minutes)

In the Campaign Video you must consider the concepts, for example:

- > Rights - How effectively will the reform protect rights? Why are constitutional rights important?
- > Fairness and Justice - To what extent will the reform make Australia a more fair and just nation?
- > Power - How will the reform affect the exercise of power? Will the parliament, government or judiciary be affected? Will some people gain power, while others will lose power?
- > Change - How will the reform positively or negatively impact Australian society? How appropriate is the change to the Constitution having regard to the need for stability in Australian governance?

- Conduct the vote. The Australian public (symbolised by the entire class, divided into "states") will then vote at a mock referendum. With teacher assistance, the opposing groups will collaborate to create ballot papers to be used at the referendum, conduct the vote and count the ballot papers to determine the success of the proposed reform, having regard to the double majority criteria.
- Reflect. After the referendum, students will complete an **individual reflection** (500 words) addressing the following:
 - > The importance of the Constitution generally, the merits of your proposed reform and the strengths and weaknesses of the referendum process.
 - > Your group collaboration - was the group able to work collaboratively to consider a range of different perspectives? Was your group the winning campaign? If yes, what does this suggest about how your proposal was considered, worded and put to the Australian people. If the referendum failed and you were from the "yes" campaign, what were the flaws in your group's process and implementation of the proposal?

All information must be presented clearly and accurately in your own words. To ensure you do not offend the rules regarding plagiarism, you must reference your work appropriately using the Footnoting Referencing System (please refer to attached sheet on referencing).

The referendum will take place on Friday, Week 4 Term 4.



Performance Standards for Stage 1 Legal Studies

	Understanding and Application	Analysis and Evaluation	Communication Collaboration and Reflection
A	<p>Astute application of concepts to demonstrate understanding</p> <p>Astute application of legal principles and processes to demonstrate understanding</p> <p>Thorough and focused research to select and appropriately acknowledge a range of relevant sources</p>	<p>Perceptive analysis of legal principles, processes and concepts or problems</p> <p>Sophisticated evaluation of legal arguments to reach a convincing conclusion and where appropriate make persuasive recommendations</p>	<p>Highly effective in the communication of concepts, legal principles and arguments</p> <p>Highly effective and consistent collaboration to achieve insightful, and effective outcomes</p> <p>Insightful and perceptive reflection on learning, and the personal and group skills required to achieve a successful collaborative outcome</p>
B	<p>Substantial application of concepts to demonstrate considerable understanding</p> <p>Substantial application of legal principles and processes to demonstrate considerable understanding</p> <p>Substantial research to select and appropriately acknowledge a range of relevant sources</p>	<p>Substantial analysis and application of legal principles, processes and concepts or problems</p> <p>Well-considered evaluation of legal arguments to reach a mostly convincing conclusion and where appropriate make appropriate recommendations</p>	<p>Effective in the communication of concepts, legal principles and arguments</p> <p>Effective and consistent collaboration to achieve effective outcomes</p> <p>Well-considered reflection, on learning, and the personal and group skills required to achieve a successful collaborative outcome</p>
C	<p>Adequate application of concepts to demonstrate generally sound understanding</p> <p>Adequate application of legal principles and processes to demonstrate generally sound understanding</p> <p>Adequate research, selection and acknowledgement of a range of relevant sources</p>	<p>Moderately considered analysis and application of legal principles, processes and concepts or problems</p> <p>Mostly sound evaluation of legal arguments to reach a conclusion and where appropriate make recommendations</p>	<p>Moderately effective in the communication of concepts, legal principles and arguments</p> <p>Moderately effective collaboration to achieve satisfactory outcomes</p> <p>Adequate reflection on learning, and the personal and group skills required to achieve a successful collaborative outcome</p>
D	<p>Some application of concepts to demonstrate partial understanding</p> <p>Some application of legal principles and processes to demonstrate partial understanding</p> <p>Basic research, selection and acknowledgement of a range of relevant sources</p>	<p>Some analysis and application of some legal principles, processes and concepts or problems</p> <p>Partial evaluation of legal arguments and where appropriate, some substantiated recommendations</p>	<p>Some communication of concepts, legal principles and arguments</p> <p>Some collaboration with other students</p> <p>Some reflection on learning, and the personal and group skills required to achieve a successful collaborative outcome</p>
E	<p>Limited application of concepts to demonstrate emerging understanding</p> <p>Limited application of legal principles and processes to demonstrate emerging understanding</p>	<p>Limited analysis of some legal principles, processes and concepts or problems</p> <p>Limited consideration of some legal arguments with no or uninformed recommendations.</p>	<p>Limited success in the communication of concepts, legal principles and arguments</p> <p>Limited collaboration with other students</p> <p>Rudimentary reflection on learning, and the personal and group skills required to achieve a successful collaborative outcome</p>