

ATAR Politics and Law

What is Politics and Law?

Politics and law is the study of the ways that decisions are made to determine society's collective future. It examines the structures and systems, processes and procedures and rights and responsibilities of different societies. The primary focus is Australia's democratic system, but this is contrasted with a non-democratic society in Year 11 as well as other democratic societies.

How will Politics and Law help me in the future?

Politics and law will enable you to engage with big ideas and grapple with current issues. It will help you to think more critically about the world around you and expose you to interesting issues with which you can engage your family and friends. You will develop critical thinking skills and will be able to form a logical argument. Studying politics and law can lead to a range of exciting careers in areas such as law, international relations, political staffer, public administration, elections analyst, campaign manager, election analyst, policy writer, the police, journalism, diplomacy.

What content will I study in Year 11 and 12?

Year 11	
Unit 1 Democracy and the Rule of Law You will consider the answers to questions like: What principles underpin our democratic society? How do the government and the legal system operate? What is the role of parliament and the courts?	Unit 2 Representation and Justice You will find out about: How does our electoral system ensure that our democracy is strong? What are the strengths and weaknesses of our justice system? Can things improve?
Year 12	
Unit 3 Political and Legal Power You will unpack and analyse the power established by the Australian Constitution and the way that this power is wielded through a close examination of the way the Australian parliament, government and judiciary works. Examples will be drawn from current events.	Unit 4 Accountability and Rights You will come to understand the extent to which political and legal systems are held to account in Australia and one other country. We consider the threats to democracy, the safeguards that are in place and how well they work, and the extent to which rights are protected.

How will I know if Politics and Law is right for me?

If you currently enjoy Humanities and English or Literature, you are likely to enjoy Politics and Law. If you want to find out about contemporary society and the issues faced by groups and individuals, you are likely to enjoy Politics and Law. If you would like a set of skills and knowledge that can be applied after school and enable you to play an active role as a responsible global citizen, Politics and Law is for you.

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