



Civics and Citizenship: where to find advice for teaching

Purpose

Part 1: Years kindergarten to 10 (K–10)

Information for schools and teachers of K–10 students about the teaching of Civics and Citizenship can be found in a range of curriculum support materials. This section helps teachers to locate these materials.

Part 2: Senior years of schooling

Schools have the opportunity to offer students in years 11 and 12 the *Politics and Law Course* for stages 1, 2 and 3. In addition they may offer students enrolment in Endorsed programs which have a strong citizenship focus and which also contribute to WACE graduation.

Schools also have the opportunity to have student's participation in voluntary community service in Years 10, 11 and 12 recorded on their Curriculum Council Statement of Results.

Background

Curriculum

The need for students to become active and informed citizens is explicitly expressed in the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (2008) as part of Goal 2.

In 2005 a National project which focused on the development of *Statements of Learning* commenced in the domains of Civics and Citizenship, English, Mathematics, Science, and Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

The *Statements of Learning* describe the essential skills, knowledge, understandings and capacities that all young Australians should have the opportunity to learn by the end of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. These are the years at which learning has been identified as accessible and challenging for students. This project was a means of achieving greater national consistency in curriculum outcomes across the eight States and Territories.

In Western Australia, the *Statements of Learning* were incorporated into the *Curriculum Guides*, *Elaborated Curriculum Guides* and *K–10 Syllabuses*.

National testing for years 6 and 10

National testing of students' performance in Civics and Citizenship began in 2004 with the National Assessment Program: Civics and Citizenship (NAP-CC). These tests are conducted across Australia on a 3-year-cycle for years 6 and 10.

The focus of this testing is on civic knowledge and understandings, citizenship in a democracy, and the skills and values needed for developing the disposition for participation in a democracy.

Part 1: Years kindergarten to 10 (K–10)

Western Australia

The Western Australian *Curriculum Framework* also identifies the importance of students having the *knowledge, skills and values necessary for active participation in life in Australia (Curriculum Framework, Overarching outcome 8)*.

While curriculum that supports students learning about Civics and Citizenship is part of all learning areas, it is the Society and Environment Learning Area (*Curriculum Framework*, p. 251) which has civic responsibility and social competence as a focus.

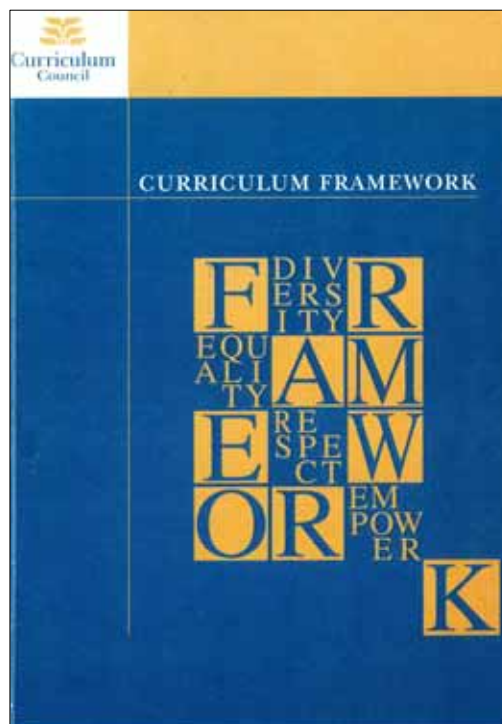
The *Curriculum Framework* can be found at:

<http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au>

- > Years K-10
- > Curriculum Framework

Other main links to Civics and Citizenship are:

- > Curriculum Framework Overarching Statement
- > Curriculum Framework Learning Statement for Society and Environment



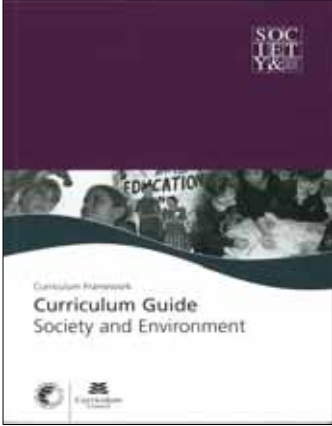
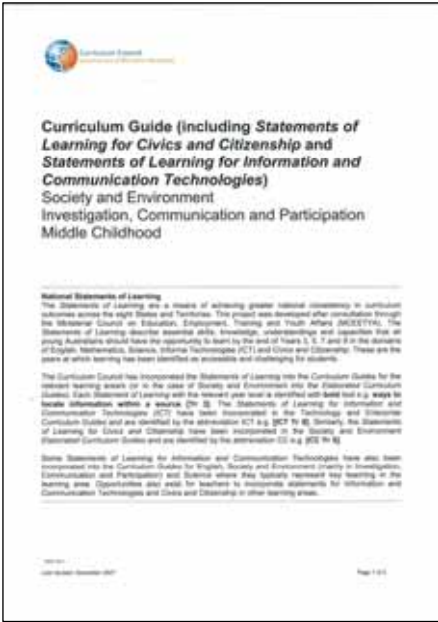
Society and Environment

For the Society and Environment Learning Area, the full details from the *Statements of Learning for Civics and Citizenship* are found across all the Society and Environment outcomes.

Key points from *Statements of Learning for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)* are included and identified in the *Curriculum Guide* for the Investigation, Communication and Participation outcome.

Further information and practical support can be found at

www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculum/support/civicsandcitizenship

Resource:	How to find:
<p>Curriculum Guides The Curriculum Guides inform you about what you need to teach.</p> 	<p>Locate a copy in your department or school library.</p>
<p>The revised Curriculum Guides (electronic version)</p> <p>The revised <i>Curriculum Guides</i> include the <i>Statements of Learning</i>.</p>  <p>The revised Curriculum Guides for the <i>Investigation, Communication and Participation</i> and the <i>Active Citizenship Outcomes</i> include some of the <i>Statements of Learning for Civics and Citizenship</i> and <i>Statements of Learning for Information and Communication Technologies</i></p>	<p>Find http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Years K-10 > Curriculum resources <p>Then select the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > revised Curriculum Guides > Society and Environment Learning Area > phase of schooling that you require (early childhood, middle childhood, or early adolescence) > Search resources <p>From the page that comes up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > select the outcome that you need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation Communication Participation* • Place and Space • Resources • Culture • Time, Continuity and Change • Natural and Social Systems especially the Political and Legal System* • Active Citizenship* <p>* These guides are a good starting point.</p>

Resource:	How to find:
<p>Curriculum Guide Society and Environment—Active Citizenship</p> <p>These documents give finer detail about what to teach and show how it may develop.</p> <p>Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a focus for learning for each phase (early childhood, middle childhood, or early adolescence) • shows how behaviours and actions may develop across all years of schooling • identifies behaviours that students need to be taught to educate them in how to take responsible action, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ decision-making and social action skills that can be used in a democracy ○ actions that show care, respect and concern for others and that support social justice ○ actions to demonstrate respect and concern for the environment within a school and community context. 	<p>Find</p> <p>http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Years K–10 > Curriculum resources <p>Then select from the following (all are on the one page):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Curriculum Guides > Society and Environment Learning Area > Phase of schooling that you require (early childhood, middle childhood, or early adolescence) > Search resources <p>Then select</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Society and environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – early childhood revised curriculum guide - Active Citizenship

NOTE

For Active Citizenship the **Curriculum Guide** and the **K–10 Syllabus** complement each other and can be used together.

1. Curriculum Guide for the Active Citizenship Outcome:

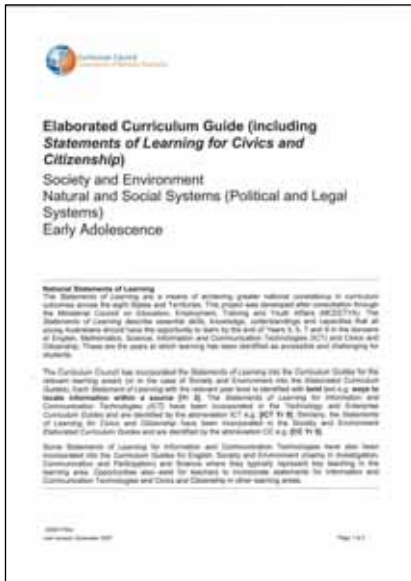
- The focus is on the behaviour students should demonstrate while being active citizens.
- There is a separate document for this outcome.

2. K–10 Syllabus

- The focus is on programs, events or opportunities that schools should provide for students to be active citizens.
- The information for Active Citizenship is found at the end of the information for each conceptual outcome and is not in a separate document.

Resource:

Elaborated Curriculum Guides (electronic version only)



The revised Elaborated Curriculum Guides include the full versions of the *Statements of learning for Civics and Citizenship*. These documents inform you about what you need to teach.

Start with the **Natural and Social Systems** outcome under 'Political and Legal Systems'.

Once you are familiar with the civics in this outcome you may like to explore how other outcomes also relate to learning civics understandings, skills and values.

Note

The following outcomes are not elaborated

- **Investigation Communication and Participation**
- **Active Citizenship**

See the Curriculum Guides for advice in these areas.

K–10 Syllabuses

The K–10 syllabuses for Society and Environment are also on the Curriculum Council web site



How to find:

Find

<http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au>

- > Years K–10
- > Curriculum resources

Then select from the following:

- > Revised Elaborated Curriculum Guides
- > Society and Environment Learning Area
- > Phase of schooling that you need (early childhood, middle childhood, early adolescence)
- > Search resources

From the page that comes up > select the outcome that you need

- Place and Space
- Resources
- Culture
- Time, Continuity and Change
- Natural and Social Systems (Political and Legal System)*

* The elaborated guide for NSS is the best place to start when planning what to teach.

Find

<http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au>

- > Years K-10
- > Curriculum Resources

Then select from the following:

- > K-10 Syllabuses
- > Society and Environment Learning Area
- > Phase/s of schooling that you require (early childhood, middle childhood, or early adolescence)
- > Search resources

Resource:	How to find:
<p>Values in the <i>Curriculum Framework</i> The values in the <i>Curriculum Framework</i> support the values that are important to Australian democracy.</p> <p>The <i>Curriculum Framework</i> has five clusters of values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A pursuit of knowledge and a commitment to achievement of potential 2. Self acceptance and respect for self 3. Respect and concern for others and their rights 4. Social and civic responsibility 5. Environmental responsibility <p>Cluster 4: Social and Civic responsibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Participation and citizenship 4.2 Community 4.3 Diversity 4.4 Contribution 4.5 Authority 4.6 Reconciliation 4.7 Social justice 4.8 Responsibility and freedom 4.9 Benefits of research <p>This cluster has a particular focus relevant when teaching civics and citizenship.</p> <p>However, the values in all clusters need to be understood, developed and demonstrated when people participate as active citizens in a democracy.</p>	<p>Find http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au > Years K–10 > Values in the Curriculum Framework</p> <p>Then: Scroll down the page to select the documents that you need to use.</p>

Part 2: Senior years of schooling

For students studying in year 11 and 12 the following have a strong civics and citizenship focus:

- the Politics and Law course
- Endorsed programs
- Community service programs

Politics and Law Course

To find the resources for this course:

<http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au>

- > Senior secondary
- > Courses
- > Politics and Law
- > Display all content

Politics and Law

Implementation


2009 was the first year of implementation. The first WACE examinations for Politics and Law will be conducted in 2010.

Summary

Politics and Law is a study of the processes of decision-making concerning society's collective future. It aims to develop knowledge of the principles, structures, institutions and processes of political and legal systems primarily in Australia. It brings together the judicial, executive and legislative arms of government to demonstrate how society is governed and examines the philosophy and values on which society is governed.



Support materials

The materials on this public website include the course syllabus and the grade descriptor package. In addition, teachers can access sample teaching, assessment and examination materials on the Curriculum Council online learning and support extranet.

Please click on one of the headings below to view the relevant documents which are available in PDF  (Portable Document Format) and rich text  format.

Course Syllabus

  [Course](#)

  [Course 2010 \(Year 11 and 12 2010\)](#) **UPDATED** as per e-Circular 30/06/09


Assessment and other Support Materials

  [Course design \(Scope and sequence\)](#)

 [Grade Descriptors](#)

 [Additional exemplars](#) **NEW** 16/06/09

Exams

 [Stage 2 design brief \(written\)](#)

 [Stage 3 design brief \(written\)](#)

[Display all content](#) / Hide all content

Endorsed programs

In addition to the courses which are discipline-specific there are programs which also contribute to WACE graduation that have a strong civics and citizenship focus.

These are:

- Endorsed programs
- Community service programs

Resources:	How to find:
<p>Endorsed programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed programs offer Year 10, 11 and 12 students the opportunity to use workplace learning, VET stand alone and nationally accredited courses, university studies, community organisation and personal development program. • These programs can be used to meet the completion requirement of the WA Certificate of Education (WACE). • Students can be involved in any of these types of learning activities during or outside of school time through a variety of strategies. • Endorsed programs are given 'unit equivalence'. This effectively means that one or a combination of programs is considered equal to one unit of a WACE course. A maximum of ten unit equivalents can be counted towards the WACE. • Achievement of endorsed programs must be reported to the Council in the year they are achieved or completed. • Endorsed programs are categorised into one of five types of learning. The programs endorsed in each category. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace learning • VET stand alone and nationally accredited courses • University studies • Community organisation • Personal development 	<p>Find http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Senior secondary > Endorsed programs
<p>Endorsed programs—personal development</p> <p>Personal development programs recognise activities that develop skills, knowledge and attitudes for the achievement of personal goals, civic responsibility and/or improved health and fitness, for which no formal certificate or award is issued.</p> <p>Schools can develop their own personal development programs and apply to the council for endorsement, or select from a range of programs that have already been endorsed by the council.</p> <p>For details of endorsed personal development programs that see the list provided.</p>	<p>Find http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Senior secondary > Personal development

Resources:	How to find:
<p>Community Service Program</p> <p>Students participating in voluntary community service in Years 10, 11 and 12 can have the total number of hours completed recorded on their Curriculum Council Statement of Results.</p> <p>Community Service Program Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines • Log book order form • Log book (schools may amend as necessary) <p>Useful links</p> <p>Examples of activities that can be undertaken to meet the community service requirement, and ideas and information about volunteering, can be found on the Volunteering WA 'Give20' website located at www.give20.org.au.</p> <p>Practical information and useful resources can also be found on the Department of Education and Training website http://www.det.wa.edu.au/behaviourandwellbeing (>Student Engagement>Community Service).</p> <p>Community service implementation report 2008 Planning, management and communication documents</p>	<p>Find:</p> <p>http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au</p> <p>> Senior secondary > Community service program</p>