



ELECTORAL EDUCATION LUCKY DIP ACTIVITY

Introduction

OBJECTIVE: To assess student understanding gained from the *Voting in Australia's Democracy* session and clarify any concepts or information presented. This activity is suitable for years 5-9.

Materials

Question pages
Scissors or guillotine
Container

Instructions

Preparation:

- Print the question pages, cut them into individual slips and fold in half so the question can't be seen.
- Place all question slips into a box or other container for the lucky dip.

Running the activity:

Option 1: Whole class

- Offer the lucky dip container to the first student
- The student draws a slip, reads the question aloud, and gives their answer
- Encourage the rest of the class to:
 - Add their thoughts
 - Ask follow-up questions
- Continue around the class until each student has drawn a question (time permitting).

Option 2: Small groups

- Divide students into small groups
- Instruct students not to look at their questions until every student/group (see 2.1 and 2.2 options) in the class has a question
- Each student/group draws a question from the container
- The group has to discuss before presenting their answer. Set allocated time (for example, 30-sec or one minute).
- After each group responds, invite the rest of the class to:
 - Add comments
 - Ask related questions
 - Build on the group's response

2.1: One question per small group (for younger students or when time is limited)

Assign one question to each group. Each group discusses and presents their answer to the class.

2.2: One question per student within each group (for older students)

Each student in a group takes their own question. They can discuss as a group before sharing to encourage deeper engagement and ensures everyone participates.

Tips for facilitators:

- If a question has a simple answer (e.g., yes/no or a number), you can move on quickly unless discussion is needed.
- The number of questions covered will depend on class level, time and length of discussions.
- Modify or add new questions to suit learning level if preferred.
- Use a timer to keep the pace lively.
- Award points or tokens for thoughtful answers or creative thinking.



Answer key	
1. What personal details would you need to update for your enrolment?	Change of name, change of address. Also, a family member may wish to notify the commission if a voter on the roll has passed away.
2. Other than going to a polling place on election day, what are some other ways to vote?	Vote early at an early polling place, request postal vote.
3. What is democracy?	<p>The word democracy comes from the ancient Greek language. It is made up of two words: <i>demos</i>, which means "people," and <i>kratos</i>, which means "rule" or "power". So, the literal meaning of democracy is "rule by the people".</p> <p>Australia is a <i>representative democracy</i>. We choose the people to represent us and our views in parliament by <i>voting</i>.</p>
4. Why do you get two ballot papers when you go to vote?	<p>For federal and state elections, there are two ballot papers because there are two houses of parliament. The small ballot paper is for the lower house and the large ballot paper is for the upper house.</p> <p><i>Additional information:</i> In WA state parliament, the lower house is referred to as the Legislative Assembly and the upper house is the Legislative Council.</p> <p>In federal parliament, the lower house is referred to as the House of Representatives. The upper house is called the Senate.</p>
5. Why should people vote?	People should vote because it's a way to have a say in how the country is run. Voting helps choose the leaders who make decisions that affect our lives, about things like schools, healthcare, and the environment. In Australia, voting is also a responsibility—it's part of being an active citizen in a democracy.
6. How do you enrol to vote?	You enrol (if you are 18 years or older and an Australian citizen) by completing and returning the enrolment form found on the Electoral Commission website, or using hard copies found at post offices or WA or Australian Electoral Commission offices.
7. What are the names of the two houses of WA state parliament?	In WA state parliament, the lower house is referred to as the Legislative Assembly and the upper house is the Legislative Council.
8. What is the leader of a local government called?	In metro local governments, the leader is called the Major. In regional local governments, the leader is called the Shire President.
9. What age can you enrol to vote?	You can enrol when you turn 16. You can vote once you turn 18.
10. How do you fill in the small ballot paper?	By starting at the number '1' then numbering every square in order of your preference.
11. What is a secret ballot? Why is it important?	<p>A secret ballot is a way of voting where a person's vote is kept private. Voters make their choice in a confidential way by marking a ballot paper without anyone else seeing.</p> <p>It is important because it protects voter privacy. It helps keep elections fair and honest elections and encourages people to vote truthfully, based on their own beliefs.</p>
12. How do people work out who to vote for?	People work out who to vote for by learning about the candidates and their policies. They can do this by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Watching debates or interviews▪ Reading campaign materials and websites▪ Talking to others about their views▪ Looking at news reports or trusted online sources▪ Attending community events or forums
13. Who can vote in Australian elections?	Australian citizens aged 18 and over who are enrolled to vote.



14. Where are Polling Places located?	Schools, town halls and other public places.
15. What happens if you are enrolled to vote, but you don't vote?	You will be sent a fine. Unless you have a valid reason for not voting, you will have to pay the fine.
16. Do you put your name on the ballot paper?	No, you do not put your name, or any identifiable information on the ballot paper.
17. What level of government is responsible for defence?	The federal government is responsible for defence.
18. What level of government is responsible for emptying household rubbish bins?	Local governments are responsible for emptying household rubbish bins.
19. What level of government is responsible for schools?	State governments are responsible for schools.
20. Is it compulsory to vote in a local election?	No. You do not have to vote in a local election, but it is encouraged. It is compulsory to vote in federal and state elections.
21. What do we call a candidate who is not part of a political party?	A candidate who is not part of a political party is called an independent candidate.
22. What does MP stand for?	MP stands for Member of Parliament.
23. What is the name of the big list of voter names and addresses?	The big list of voter names and addresses is called the electoral roll.
24. How do you work out the Absolute Majority?	To work out the Absolute Majority, you halve the number of votes and add 1. To be elected in a preferential vote, a candidate needs to win the Absolute Majority.
25. Name one of the political parties in Australia.	Labor, Liberal, National, Greens, United Australia Party – and others.
26. What level of government is the Prime Minister the leader of?	The Prime Minister is the leader of the Federal Government.
27. Name one thing the Federal government is responsible for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Defence▪ Immigration▪ Taxation▪ Currency▪ Overseas trade▪ Foreign Affairs▪ Post
28. Name one thing State governments are responsible for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Schools▪ Hospitals▪ Public transport▪ Police & Emergency Services▪ Roads & railways
29. Name one thing Local governments are responsible for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Rubbish & recycling▪ Parks & libraries▪ Sporting facilities & swimming pools▪ Local roads & footpaths▪ Pet registration & control▪ Town planning & building approvals

What personal details would you need to update for your enrolment?



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Electoral Commission

1

Other than going to a polling place on election day, what are some other ways to vote?



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2

What is democracy?



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3

Why do you get two ballot papers when you go to vote?



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4

Why should people vote?



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5

How do you enrol to vote?



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What are the names of the two houses of WA state parliament?



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What is the leader of a local government called?



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What age can you enrol to vote?



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How do you fill in the small ballot paper?



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10

What is a secret ballot, and why is it important?



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11

How do people work out who to vote for?



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12

Who can vote in Australian elections?



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13

Where are polling places located?



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What happens if you are enrolled to vote, but you don't vote?



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15

Do you put your name on the ballot paper?



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16

What level of government looks after defence?



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17

What level of government is responsible for emptying household rubbish bins?



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18

What level of government is responsible for schools?



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19

Is it compulsory to vote in a local government election?



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What do we call a candidate who is not part of a political party?



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What does MP stand for?



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What is the name for the big list of voter names and addresses?



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How do you work out the absolute majority?



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Name one of the political parties in Australia.



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What level of government is the Prime Minister the leader of?



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Name one thing the federal government is responsible for.



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Name one thing state governments are responsible for.



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Name one thing local governments are responsible for.



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29



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