



# VCE POLITICS

## INFORMATION GUIDE



**120** CELEBRATING 120 YEARS  
1904 2024

**Kilbreda College**

# VCE POLITICS

## RATIONALE

Australian Politics increases awareness of the nature of power and its influence. It allows students to become informed observers of, and active participants in, their political system. As students begin to think critically, they recognise that democratic ideals are often difficult to achieve in practice. Global Politics provides students with an insight into the political, social, cultural and economic forces that shape our rapidly changing world. Students develop a critical understanding of the world in which they live and of contemporary global issues. In doing so, students are provided with the opportunity to develop the awareness and the critical thinking skills that underpin active citizenship and an ability to more deeply appreciate and contextualise the global environment in which they live.

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## UNIT 1

### Area of Study 1

#### Power and national political actors

This area of study provides students are introduced to the central concepts of power and legitimacy. Power comes in different forms and arises from different sources, such as legal authority, or military, economic, diplomatic, cultural and technological capacities. This capacity can be thought of as 'power to...' do something. Political actors can also use power in more coercive, even illegitimate, ways that can be thought of as 'power over...' other political actors or ordinary people.

### Area of Study 2

#### Power and global political actors

In this area of study students focus on the political actors who can move beyond and across national and regional boundaries to pursue their interests globally. This has been facilitated by the increasing interconnectedness of the world. These 'global' actors are predominantly states and their leaders, institutions of global governance or of regional cooperation, non-government organisations, transnational corporations of all kinds and some high-profile individuals.

## UNIT 2

### Area of Study 1

#### Issues for Australia's democracy

In this area of study students analyse the operation of Australian democracy, democratic institutions and processes, and assess the political significance of challenges to democratic principles. Students investigate at least one of the issues detailed below and consider its relationship to the success of Australian democracy, the tensions and conflict between forces working for political stability and those working for change, and how the democratic rights of citizens may challenge established policies, practices and norms.

### Area of Study 2

#### Global challenges to democracy

In this area of study students analyse global challenges to the principles of democracy and assess threats to their effectiveness, legitimacy, spread and impact. Students explore at least one global issue or crisis that challenges the importance of democratic principles and consider the causes and consequences of this issue or crisis.

## CAREER OPTIONS

- Court Officer
- Historian
- Human Rights Activist
- Lawyer
- Librarian
- Judge
- Policy Analyst
- Politician
- Sociologist

## UNIT 3

### Area of Study 1

Global issues, global responses

### Area of Study 2

Contemporary Crises: conflict, stability and change

In this unit, students investigate an issue and a crisis that pose challenges to the global community. Students begin with an investigation into an issue of global scale, such as climate change, global economic instability, the issue of development or weapons of mass destruction. Students also examine the causes and consequences of a humanitarian crisis that may have begun in one state but which has crossed over into neighbouring states and requires an emergency response. This crisis must be chosen from the areas of human rights, armed conflict and the mass movement of people.

They consider the causes of these issues and crises, and investigate their consequences on a global level and for a variety of global actors.

## UNIT 4

### Area of Study 1

Power and the national interest

### Area of Study 2

Australia in the India-Pacific

In this unit, students investigate the strategic competition for power and influence in the India-Pacific region. They consider the interests and perspectives of global actors within the region, including the challenges to regional cooperation and stability. Building on their study of global issues and contemporary crises in Unit 3, students develop their understanding of power and national interests through an in-depth examination of one state's perspectives, interests and actions.

Students must choose one state from the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia or the United States of America. Students also examine Australia's strategic interests and actions in the region and consider how Australia's responses to regional issues and crises may have contributed to political stability and/or change. They do this within the context of Australia's relationships with one Pacific Island state and two other regional states.



To find out more information  
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This flyer is correct as of July 2024, however may be subject to change.

