Chapter 3
The School Assessment Booklet

The school assessment of civics and citizenship comprises a pencil-and-paper assessment, with 38 multiple-choice and short-answer type questions. The assessment is designed to assess all five proficiency levels (page 15 Table 7.1) and both Key Performance Measures of the national civics and citizenship assessment domain.

A summary of the skills and understandings assessed by each item in the school assessment is provided in Table 3.1.

Preparing the Assessment Booklet

The Year 10 School Assessment Booklet can be found at Appendix 2. It has been formatted to be suitable for printing or copying.

When photocopying the test for a class, it is important to ensure that the format displayed in the resources is maintained in the back-to-back mode, with pages 2 and 3 facing one another.
Table 3.1 Summary of assessment structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qn</th>
<th>Unit Name</th>
<th>KPM</th>
<th>Item Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Voltaire Quote</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Infers a principle of free speech from a well-known quotation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sovereignty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Generalises about countries’ motives for signing treaties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sovereignty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies the right of democratically elected governments to make decisions within general mandate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Citizenship Pledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies freedom of religion as manifested in the Australian citizenship pledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Citizenship Pledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies that some shared values exist within Australian society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Citizenship Pledge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises that Australian citizens have both freedoms and responsibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Citizenship Pledge</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Explains the principle of the precedence of the common good over individual rights in Australia’s democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Early Colonial Times</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies a complaint of the Australian free settlers about their governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9a</td>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>States the meaning of the Union Jack as a symbol on the Australian national flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9b</td>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>States the meaning of the Southern Cross as a symbol on the Australian national flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9c</td>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>States the meaning of the Federation Star as a symbol on the Australian national flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10a</td>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>States the meaning of the black colour as a symbol on the Australian Aboriginal flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10b</td>
<td>Flag</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>States the meaning of the red colour as a symbol on the Australian Aboriginal flag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>GG Responsibility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises a responsibility of the Governor General.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Human Rights Declaration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises that human rights are universal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Human Rights Declaration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises a likely effect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Human Rights Declaration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises a likely human rights violation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Human Rights Declaration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Explains how the power of international agreements is affected by their level of international support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Human Rights Declaration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Explains why a country may choose not to sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Iraq Marches</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>States outcomes sought by people who demonstrate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Iraq Marches</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Explains how the media can help demonstrators achieve their aims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Iraq Marches</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Explains how the media can hinder demonstrators from achieving their aims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Media Bias</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Recognises the importance of fair reporting by the media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Media Ownership</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies that media ownership laws exist to support public access to a diversity of opinion and information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Letter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies the responsibility of government to protect the interests of the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Letter</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>States ways in which letters to newspapers can influence government decision making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Referendum A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises that the Australian constitution can only be changed through referendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sorry Day</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Recognises the purpose of material encouraging social action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sorry Day</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Explains how recognition of the concerns of a group might support social harmony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sorry Day</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Explains how publicising the concerns of a group might lead to social disharmony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Sorry Day</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Analyses the political motivation for the inclusion of specific information in promotional material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identifies the historical event remembered on Australia day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Explains the significance for some that the British colonisation of Australia was without treaty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>WEF Protest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises the responsibility of protestors to respect the rights of others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>WEF Protest</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Recognises that respecting others is a commonly stated Australian value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>WEF Protest</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Recognises one way in which participation in protest can enhance the common good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Analyses reasons refugees may have for seeking safe refuge in another country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises that the UNHCR advocates due process for refugees’ claims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises a method of persuasion available to the UNHCR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Unpopular Decisions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Explains why a democratic government may act against the wishes of the electorate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>State and Federal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recognises a feature of the relationship between the Federal and State and Territory governments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: KPM 1 = Civics: Knowledge & Understanding of Civic Institutions & Processes

KPM 2 = Citizenship: Dispositions & Skills for Participation
Appendix 2
Year 10 Assessment Booklet
Name: ________________________

National Assessment Program:
Year 10 Civics and Citizenship School Assessment

2004 Released Items
Below you will find four Practice Questions

Below is a letter to a local newspaper.
Read the letter and answer Practice Questions 1 and 2.

Dear Editor,
Two weeks ago my neighbour pulled down part of my fence. He did not even ask me and now my chickens keep escaping. He refuses to speak to me about the fence. I have telephoned the council but they haven’t helped.

Ms C Finch

PQ1 What is the first thing the neighbour should have done before pulling down the fence?
☐ telephoned the local council
☐ built a cage for Ms Finch’s chickens
☐ told Ms Finch that he was going to pull down the fence
☐ asked for Ms Finch’s permission to pull down the fence

PQ2 Ms Finch wants to have the fence fixed.
Do you think that writing a letter to the local newspaper is the best way to make this happen?
☐ Yes  OR  ☐ No
Put a ✓ in one box and give a reason for your choice.
The table below contains a statement about Australia.

Decide whether you think the statement is true or false. Indicate your answer by circling ‘True’ or ‘False’ in the table as shown in the shaded example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hobart is the capital city of Australia.</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PQ3</td>
<td>Australia has six states and two territories.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practice Question 4**

PQ4  Parliament House is the building that houses the Australian Parliament.

Why do you think that Parliament House is in Canberra?

________________________________________________________________________

This is the end of the Practice Questions.

The National Civics and Citizenship School Assessment Questions begin on the next page.

Please do NOT turn the page until told to do so.
Question 1

Read the comment below. Many people see it as an important statement about free speech in a democracy.

*I don’t like what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it.*

Q1 What does this comment suggest about free speech?
- People should agree to disagree about free speech.
- Free speech encourages people to agree with each other.
- Free speech should only be given to people who deserve it.
- People have a right to free speech no matter what they believe.

Questions 2 and 3

Treaties are agreements between countries. National legislation must be passed before a treaty can take effect. Australia has signed many treaties with many countries on issues such as the environment, human rights, national security and trade.

A political commentator said the following about such treaties:

- By signing a treaty, a country gives up some of its independence. We then end up having citizens forced to obey laws that they haven’t voted for.

Q2 Why might a national government still be prepared to sign a treaty even if it meant giving up ‘some of its independence’?

Q3 The political commentator claims that we ‘end up having citizens forced to obey laws that they haven’t voted for’.

What is the best argument you can think of against this opinion?
The Australian Citizenship Pledge is made by people when they become citizens of Australia.

**The Australian Citizenship Pledge**
From this time forward, under God*,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
Whose democratic beliefs I share,
Whose rights and liberties I respect, and
Whose laws I will uphold and obey.
*The words ‘under God’ are optional.

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Q4 Why do you think that people are allowed to choose whether or not they say the words ‘under God’?

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Q5 Why do you think that people who are Australians by birth or grow up as Australian citizens are **not** asked to make this pledge?

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Q6 The pledge suggests that Australian citizens
- have both freedoms and responsibilities.
- are required to be loyal only to Australia.
- should always agree with each other.
- have more freedoms than citizens of other countries.

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Q7 One principle of democracy is that all people are entitled to hold their own opinions.
The Citizenship Pledge includes the line ‘Whose democratic beliefs I share’.
Do you think it is right for the pledge to require people becoming Australian citizens to have democratic beliefs?

☐ Yes **OR** No ☐

Put a ✓ in one box and explain your answer.
Question 8

Q8 In early colonial times one of the major complaints of the free settlers was that they
☐ did not have the same rights as convicts.
☐ could not avoid customs taxes.
☐ were not represented in government.
☐ were not able to return to Britain.

Questions 9 and 10

Below is a picture of the Australian flag. It was selected as the winning design from a public competition and first raised on 3 September 1901.

Q9 Complete the table below by explaining what each of the symbols represents about Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Represents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The Union Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>The Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>The seven-pointed star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Australian Aboriginal flag below was designed by Harold Thomas, an Aboriginal rights activist and artist. This flag was first raised on 12 July 1971.

The yellow circle in the middle of the flag represents the sun.

**Q10** Complete the table below by explaining what each of the symbols represent about Aboriginal Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Represents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The black colour at the top of the flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>The red colour at the bottom of the flag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question 11**

**Q11** Which of the following is one of the Governor General’s official responsibilities?
- to suggest new laws
- to sit on the High Court
- to swear in new Governments
- to control Australia’s Government
At the United Nations in 1948 Australia, along with many other countries, signed a document called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration provides a set of principles about the way people should be treated.

**Q12** Which of the following is likely to be a key element of the Declaration?
- Human rights apply to every person in the world.
- Human rights make a nation’s own laws unnecessary.
- Human rights are ideals only and not expected to be put into practice.
- Human rights apply only to citizens of countries which have agreed to the Declaration.

**Q13** Which of the following has been the most likely effect of the Declaration?
- There are no longer any abuses or violations of human rights in the world.
- Law and order in countries which have signed the Declaration has been undermined.
- All national governments are under greater pressure to protect the human rights of their inhabitants.
- Those countries which have signed the Declaration are no longer monitored by the United Nations regarding their human rights record.

**Q14** Which of the following is most likely to be an abuse of human rights?
- A person is
  - found guilty of a crime and is sent to jail.
  - imprisoned without trial.
  - sacked from his or her job for poor performance.
  - photographed in a public place without his or her permission.

**Q15** The United Nations encourages nations to sign other documents which are similar to this Declaration.

**Why is it better if many countries sign documents like this Declaration?**
Q16 Why might some countries refuse to sign such documents?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Questions 17 to 19

Australia’s involvement in the war against Iraq in 2003 resulted in demonstrations and street marches taking place in Australia.

Q17 List three things people might hope to gain by marching.
   1. ______________________________________________________
   2. ______________________________________________________
   3. ______________________________________________________

Q18 How could the media help the marchers to achieve their aims?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Q19 How could the media hinder the marchers from achieving their aims?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
A government minister publicly criticised a government-funded radio station because he felt the way it reported some of the government's actions was unfair.

Which of the following would be the **most acceptable** reason in a democracy for a government minister criticising the media?

- The government is entitled to fair reporting like everybody else.
- If a government helps fund a radio station, it can expect favourable reporting.
- Criticism of the government by the media makes life uncomfortable for politicians.
- Criticism of the government by the media is unnecessary because we have elections.

In Australia, there are laws that limit the number of newspaper, TV and radio companies that one person or one company can own.

What is the purpose of having such media ownership laws?
Questions 22 and 23

Read the letter to the newspaper below.

Dear Editor,
The recent urgent recall of a number of medicines by the government is evidence that the pharmaceutical industry should be brought under stricter control. The government must act now.

Mrs N. Regan

Q22 Mrs Regan wants the government to act because the government is responsible for controlling medicines.
Why is the government responsible for controlling medicines?

Q23 State two ways that letters to newspapers can influence government decision making.
1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________

Question 24

Q24 Before the Australian government can change the Constitution it must
   ○ call a referendum.
   ○ call a general election.
   ○ consult the state governments.
   ○ seek the approval of the United Nations.
The following advertisement for the first National Sorry Day appeared on a media website in 1998.

If someone did something to you that you thought was bad, you’d expect them to apologise.

Today is ‘Sorry Day’, and the people who are organising it have a rather big apology in mind.

For decades Australian governments took Indigenous* children away from their families and sent them to live with white families.

Now, Indigenous Australians want an apology. Many groups have been prepared to say sorry.

Today is a chance for all Australians to recognise the pain thousands of Indigenous people went through. It’s the first ‘Sorry Day’ and there are hundreds of activities organised to take place around the country.

The Australian Federal Government isn’t taking part in ‘Sorry Day’.

It says people who removed Indigenous children thought they were doing the right thing. It also says people now shouldn’t have to say sorry for what people did in the past.

*Indigenous Australians are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Q25  The main purpose of this advertisement was to

- show people that ‘Sorry Day’ would be a lot of fun.
- explain why people should take part in ‘Sorry Day’ activities.
- make people feel guilty about what happened to Indigenous people.

Q26  The advertisement states that ‘Sorry Day’ is ‘a chance for all Australians to recognise the pain thousands of Indigenous people went through’.

Why would the organisers of ‘Sorry Day’ feel it is important that Australians have the chance to recognise this pain?

__________________________________________________________________________

Q27  What problems might an event such as ‘Sorry Day’ create for Australian society?

__________________________________________________________________________
Q28  Read the last paragraph of the advertisement. In this paragraph the writers have given two reasons they say explain why the Australian Federal Government was not taking part in ‘Sorry Day’. Why did the writers include this paragraph in their advertisement?


Questions 29 and 30

Q29  What event is remembered on Australia Day?


Q30  Why is Australia Day also known by some Australians as ‘Invasion Day’?
On 11 September 2000, protests were held in Melbourne at a meeting of the World Economic Forum. Because of the actions of some of the protestors, many of the delegates were unable to get into the meeting. Police were called in, and some of the protestors were arrested.

**Q31** In Australia, which of the following would be seen as most democratic?
- ☐ protests being banned whenever international visitors are present
- ☐ the delegates cancelling their conference to avoid conflict with the protestors
- ☐ protestors being forcibly removed by the police so the conference can continue
- ☐ protestors expressing their views loudly while allowing the conference to continue

A local politician later said about the incident:

I condemn outright some of the protestors for the action they have taken. It is not Australian – it is very un-Australian – and it's obviously a matter which is of enormous regret to me, and I think to most decent Australians as well.

**Q32** What do you think the politician meant when he used the phrase ‘un-Australian’ to describe the protestors' actions?
- ☐ Australians do not normally take part in public protests.
- ☐ A large number of the protestors must have been foreigners.
- ☐ Australians are normally respectful of the rights of other people.

**Q33** Which of the following reasons for becoming involved in a public protest is most likely to enhance the common good?
- ☐ to promote a political party
- ☐ to feel part of something one believes in
- ☐ to promote a more equal society
- ☐ to improve one’s own status in the community
Questions 34 to 36

The following information is from the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNHCR’s primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.
UNHCR strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country, and to return home voluntarily.

Q34 Why do refugees need to ‘find safe refuge in another country’?

Q35 Which of the following actions by a country would probably be of most concern to the UNHCR?

- sending asylum seekers who are not genuine refugees back to their countries
- sending asylum seekers back to their countries without having their claims assessed
- allowing asylum seekers to live among the local population while their refugee status is being assessed
- granting asylum seekers from one country refugee status more often than granting it to those from other countries

Q36 The UNHCR would often like countries to increase the number of refugees they take.

Which one of the following actions is the UNHCR able to take to achieve this aim?

- send more refugees to that country
- urge the government to take in more refugees
- freeze a country’s assets if it does not take in more refugees
- threaten to replace the government if it does not take in more refugees
Question 37

Sometimes democratic governments make decisions that they believe the majority of the public disagrees with.

Q37 Give a good reason for a democratic government to do this.

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Question 38

Q38 Which of the following is a true statement about the relationship between the Australian Federal Government and the State and Territory Governments?

- The Federal Government chooses the State and Territory Governments.
- The Federal Government is elected by the State and Territory Governments.
- The Federal Government gives money to the State and Territory Governments.
- The Federal Government is made up of all of the State and Territory Governments working together.