

South Australian elections

Year 5

This learning:

- ✓ Is non-partisan and neutral
- ✓ Focuses on process, not political views

Session 1: What is democracy and why do we vote?

Curriculum links:

AC9HC5K01, AC9HC5K02

Learning intention:

Students understand that elections are part of democracy and reflect shared values.

Key concepts:

Democracy, fairness, participation, voting

Learning activities:

- Class discussion:
“How do groups make decisions fairly?”
- Introduce democracy using classroom examples
- Connect to the SA election: > “Adults are about to vote to choose leaders for South Australia.”

Student task:

- Create a simple definition of democracy
- Identify one democratic value seen in voting

Assessment (formative):

- Oral responses
- Exit slip: “One reason we vote is...”

Session 2: How elections work in South Australia

Curriculum links:

AC9HC5K02, AC9HC5S02

Learning intention:

Students understand key features of elections.

Key concepts:

Secret ballot, counting votes, fairness

Learning activities:

- Explain stages of an election:
 - Electoral Writ is issued
 - Candidates nominate
 - Ballot papers are printed
 - Voting period
 - Counting the votes
 - Results announced
 - Writ is returned

2022 State election report

Student task:

- Create a **flow chart** showing how an election works

Assessment (formative):

- Flow chart accuracy
- Correct use of vocabulary

Session 3: Mock election – Democracy in action

Curriculum links:

AC9HC5K02, AC9HC5S01

Learning intention:

Students experience democratic participation.

Key concepts:

Participation, fairness, decision-making

Learning activities:

- Class vote on a neutral topic (e.g. class mascot or reward)
- Set up:
 - Ballot papers
 - Voting booths
 - Ballot box
- Count votes together - [How the votes are counted HA](#)

Guided reflection questions:

- Was the vote fair? Why?

- Why was voting in secret important?
- How was this similar to a real election?

Assessment (observational):

- Participation
- Reflection responses

Session 4: Who is elected and what do they do?**Curriculum links:**

AC9HC5K03

Learning intention:

Students understand the role of elected representatives.

Key concepts:

Representation, responsibility, Parliament

Learning activities:

- Explain:
 - Members of Parliament represent communities
 - They make laws and decisions
- Local focus: > “South Australia elects MPs to make decisions for the state.”

Student task:

- Complete a role chart:
What MPs do / Who they are responsible to /

Guiding question:

- “Who do MPs work for?”
→ “The people and the whole community.”

Session 5: Why elections matter**Curriculum links:**

AC9HC5S03

Learning intention:

Students explain how elections support democracy.

Assessment task (summative): Choose ONE:

- Poster: “How elections support democracy”
- Short explanation: “Why voting is important in Australia”

- Illustrated information page on MPs' responsibilities

Success criteria:

- Uses correct civics terminology
- Explains at least one democratic value
- Links elections to fair decision-making