Power, Accountability & Rights

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Acknowledgements:

PLEAWA is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to foster the development of Politics and Law & Civics and Citizenship as a subject for students and teachers. It aims to promote an interest in, the teaching, research and analysis of the Australian political and legal system as well as other countries. We seek to extend the knowledge and skills of students and teachers through publications and the conduct of seminars on topical issues or events. This textbook is an important step towards facilitating these goals and accordingly PLEAWA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following persons in the development of this textbook:

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Preface

Power, Accountability & Rights has been written as a student textbook to address the syllabus content of the Western Australian Politics and Law ATAR course in senior schools from 2016. This text is designed to facilitate the teaching and learning for Year 12 study of Unit 3 & Unit 4 principles, knowledge and skills.

The text provides the opportunity to learn the theoretical and practical operation of the Australian and American political and legal systems. Evidence and examples, including contemporary and recent examples, have been utilised to demonstrate principles and knowledge as well as model the importance of students applying their knowledge to particular contexts. At all times we have endeavoured to replicate the standards reasonably expected of a successful and perceptive student in the course.

The chapters and topics are arranged in line with the syllabus as accredited by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. Syllabus points are emphasised on the chapter cover pages. The inclusion of relevant pictures, cartoons, graphics, diagrams and tables enhance and support the content to create a visually appealing text.

Each chapter is supplemented by a summary and activities. Activities have been deliberately designed and scaffolded to reflect, in so far as possible, the assessment types and WACE examination structure. Subsequently, each chapter’s activities reflect the style, expected level of difficulty and number of questions as is found in the WACE examination. Furthermore, these activities will provide ample opportunity to review the principles and knowledge of the chapter as well as practice for the penultimate examination.

The Political and Legal Educators Association of WA recommends this textbook to both students and teachers of the Year 12 Politics and Law ATAR course in WA. The enthusiasm of the membership for this publication has been most welcome and we look forward to their feedback for further editions and future publications.
Contents

Unit 3

Chapter 1
Limits to power – Australia and the USA ................................................................. 1
Democratic constitutions ......................................................................................... 3
Australia’s Constitution and the separation of powers ........................................ 3
A non-Westminster Case Study: The United States Constitution and the separation of powers .................................................. 5
Checks and balances in Australia and the USA .................................................... 7

Chapter 2
Power and the Commonwealth Parliament ............................................................. 13
Parliamentary power flows through its functions ................................................. 17
The Decline of Parliament Thesis ......................................................................... 25
Is the decline of Parliament thesis valid for the modern Commonwealth Parliament? ...................................................... 27

Chapter 3
Roles and Powers of the Governor-General ......................................................... 35
The Office of the Governor-General .................................................................... 36
Appointment of the Governor-General ................................................................. 36
Roles of the Governor-General .............................................................................. 37

Chapter 4
Power and the ‘Real’ Executive ............................................................................ 45
Components and operation of the ‘real’ executive ................................................. 46
Roles and powers of the Prime Minister ............................................................... 52
Cabinet .................................................................................................................... 61
The expansion of the Ministry .............................................................................. 64

Chapter 5
Scrutinising power: The Opposition and Shadow Ministry ................................ 71
Roles of the Opposition ......................................................................................... 73
A case study: the Abbott Opposition ................................................................... 83

Chapter 6
Claims to power: Political mandates .................................................................... 89
Historical reactions to illegitimate power ............................................................ 90
Accountability and the Parliament .......................................................... 187
Accountability through elections .............................................................. 188
Accountability through privileges committees .......................................... 197
Accountability through parliamentary procedures and processes .......... 199
Accountability through judicial review ...................................................... 205