

Citizen Pass

300 Australian Citizenship Test Questions & Answers

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The most complete free practice set for the Australian citizenship test, built from Our Common Bond, the official study resource.

Covers every testable section plus the five mandatory Australian Values questions, with a glossary of key terms.

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Australia and Its People 76

Q1. What is the name given to the original inhabitants of Australia?

A: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Q2. Which of the following best describes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures?

A: Many diverse cultures with different languages and traditions

Q3. What is the traditional way Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples passed on knowledge and culture?

A: Through songs, stories, dance, art and ceremony

Q4. The Torres Strait Islander peoples are originally from which area?

A: The islands between Queensland and Papua New Guinea

Q5. What is the name of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag that features black, red and yellow?

A: The Aboriginal flag

Q6. Which statement about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is correct?

A: They have the world's oldest continuous cultures

Q7. What was the First Fleet?

A: The 11 convict ships sent from Great Britain in 1788

Q8. Who was the commander of the First Fleet and the first Governor of New South Wales?

A: Captain Arthur Phillip

Q9. Why were convicts sent to Australia by the British Government?

A: Because British prisons and jails were overcrowded

Q10. What major event in the 1850s attracted people from all over the world to Australia?

A: The gold rushes

Q11. Which groups of people came to Australia during the gold rush era?

A: People from many lands, including China and Europe

Q12. On what date did the six colonies unite to form the Commonwealth of Australia?

A: 1 January 1901

Q13. How many colonies joined together at Federation in 1901?

A: Six

Q14. What is the Australian Constitution?

A: The legal document setting out the rules of government

Q15. How many territories does Australia have on the mainland?

A: Two

Q16. What is the capital city of Australia?

A: Canberra

Q17. What is the capital city of New South Wales?

A: Sydney

Q18. What is the capital city of Queensland?

A: Brisbane

Q19. What is the capital city of Western Australia?

A: Perth

Q20. What is the capital city of Tasmania?

A: Hobart

Q21. Which is the largest state in Australia by area?

A: Western Australia

Q22. What are the three elements on the Australian national flag?

A: The Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross

Q23. What does the Commonwealth Star on the Australian flag represent?

A: The six states and the territories of Australia

Q24. Why is the Union Jack on the Australian flag?

A: To represent our history as a group of British colonies

Q25. Which two animals appear on the Australian Coat of Arms?

A: A kangaroo and an emu

Q26. What is Australia's national anthem?

A: Advance Australia Fair

Q27. What is Australia's national flower?

A: The golden wattle

Q28. What is the national gemstone of Australia?

A: Opal

Q29. What is Anzac Day?

A: A day to remember Australians who served and died in war

Q30. On what date is Anzac Day commemorated?

A: 25 April

Q31. Where did the Anzacs land on 25 April 1915?

A: Gallipoli, Turkey

Q32. What does "mateship" mean in Australian culture?

A: A sense of loyalty, friendship and equality with others

Q33. What does "a fair go" mean in Australian culture?

A: Everyone deserves an equal opportunity to succeed

Q34. According to the archaeological record, when did Aboriginal peoples arrive in Australia?

A: Between 65,000 and 40,000 years ago

Q35. Aboriginal peoples believe their creation stories commence with the beginning of time.

A: True

Q36. Approximately how many distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are valued in Australia?

A: More than 100

Q37. Approximately what proportion of the Australian population do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make up?

A: About three per cent

Q38. Where did Australia's early free settlers come from?

A: Great Britain and Ireland

Q39. During the gold rush, which group were the first large group of migrants who did not come from Europe?

A: Chinese people

Q40. What happened to Australia's population in the 10 years after the gold rush began?

A: It more than doubled

Q41. After which event were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples included in official estimates of the Australian population?

A: The Referendum of 1967

Q42. A large wave of non-British migration came to Australia after which event?

A: World War II

Q43. People from more than how many countries have made Australia their home?

A: More than 200

Q44. What is Australia's national language?

A: English

Q45. Which colony was the first established by the British in Australia?

A: New South Wales

Q46. Which is the nation's largest city?

A: Sydney

Q47. Which two structures are described as national icons of Sydney?

A: The Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House

Q48. Many fine buildings in Victoria were built from the wealth created by which event?

A: The gold rush of the 1850s

Q49. Which of these is listed as an icon of Victoria?

A: The Melbourne Cricket Ground

Q50. Along which state's eastern coast does the world-famous Great Barrier Reef run?

A: Queensland

Q51. The Torres Strait Islands lie to the north of which state?

A: Queensland

Q52. What is the landscape of the south-west of Western Australia like?

A: A rich agricultural and wine-growing area

Q53. Which of these is listed as an icon of Western Australia?

A: The Kimberley region

Q54. Which statement about Australia's states is correct according to the guide?

A: Western Australia is largest, Queensland second largest

Q55. South Australia is known for which two natural and geographic features described in the guide?

A: A rugged coastline and many famous wine regions

Q56. Which city is described as having many examples of fine colonial architecture?

A: Adelaide

Q57. Tasmania is separated from the Australian mainland by which body of water?

A: The Bass Strait

Q58. Much of Tasmania is described in the guide as having unspoilt wilderness landscapes.

A: True

Q59. Where is the Australian Capital Territory located?

A: Between Sydney and Melbourne

Q60. Which national institutions are located in Canberra according to the guide?

A: Parliament House and the High Court of Australia

Q61. Which of these are listed as icons of the Northern Territory?

A: Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon

Q62. Who performs a Welcome to Country?

A: An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander local custodian

Q63. What was the traditional purpose of a Welcome to Country?

A: To welcome visitors and ensure them a safe journey

Q64. When is a Welcome to Country usually performed at an event?

A: As the first item to open the event

Q65. Who can deliver an Acknowledgement of Country?

A: Anyone, generally the Chair or Master of Ceremonies

Q66. Why are the Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country protocols performed?

A: To show respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Q67. Australia Day is a public holiday in every state and territory in Australia.

A: True

Q68. What does the Prime Minister announce in Canberra during Australia Day celebrations?

A: The Australian of the Year Awards

Q69. After whom is Anzac Day named?

A: The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps

Q70. The Union Jack on the Australian National Flag is positioned in which part of the flag?

A: The top left corner

Q71. On the Australian Aboriginal Flag, what does the yellow circle represent?

A: The sun

Q72. On the Torres Strait Islander Flag, what does the blue panel in the centre represent?

A: The sea

Q73. Each Australian state and territory has its own flag.

A: True

Q74. What is the Commonwealth Coat of Arms?

A: The official symbol of the Commonwealth, showing national unity

Q75. What forms the background of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms?

A: The golden wattle, Australia's national flower

Q76. According to Aboriginal legend, how were the colours of the opal created?

A: A rainbow touched the earth

Australia's Democratic Beliefs, Rights and Liberties 64

Q77. What type of government does Australia have?

A: A parliamentary democracy

Q78. In Australia's parliamentary democracy, who do the people elect to make decisions on their behalf?

A: Representatives to sit for them in parliament

Q79. What is a key feature of Australia's parliamentary democracy?

A: Laws are made by elected representatives in parliament

Q80. Which of the following is true about the freedom and dignity of the individual in Australia?

A: Every person is treated with dignity regardless of their background

Q81. What does freedom of speech mean in Australia?

A: People are free to express their views, within the law

Q82. Which of the following is an example of freedom of expression in Australia?

A: Being able to criticise the government peacefully

Q83. What does freedom of religion mean in Australia?

A: People may follow any religion, or none at all

Q84. What does it mean that Australia has a secular government?

A: The government does not have an official religion

Q85. What does freedom of association mean in Australia?

A: People may join or not join any lawful group they choose

Q86. In Australia, are men and women equal under the law?

A: Yes, men and women have equal rights under the law

Q87. Is it against the law in Australia to discriminate against someone because of their race or ethnicity?

A: Yes, racial discrimination is against the law

Q88. In Australia, can a person be treated unfairly because of their age or disability?

A: No, discrimination by age or disability is unlawful

Q89. Which of the following best describes equality under the law in Australia?

A: All people are treated equally before the law, regardless of background

Q90. What does the "rule of law" mean in Australia?

A: No person, group or religious rule is above it

Q91. Under the rule of law in Australia, who must obey the law?

A: Everyone in Australia, including the government

Q92. Which of the following is true about the rule of law in Australia?

A: Everyone is considered innocent until found guilty in a court

Q93. Is voting compulsory in Australia?

A: Yes, for all citizens aged 18 years and over

Q94. What can happen to an Australian citizen who does not vote in an election?

A: They may be fined

Q95. Is voting compulsory for both federal and state or territory elections in Australia?

A: Yes, for both federal and state elections

Q96. Which of the following is true about voting in Australia?

A: Citizens aged 18 and over must vote in elections

Q97. What is jury service in Australia?

A: Helping a court decide guilty or not guilty

Q98. Is jury service a responsibility of Australian citizenship?

A: Yes, citizens may be called to serve

Q99. Is defending Australia a responsibility of Australian citizenship?

A: Yes, citizens may be called to defend Australia

Q100. Which of the following is a civic responsibility of Australian citizens?

A: Defending Australia should the need arise

Q101. Can Australian citizens vote in federal and state or territory elections?

A: Yes, it is both a right and a responsibility

Q102. Can Australian citizens stand for election to parliament?

A: Yes, if aged 18 or over and not a dual citizen

Q103. Can Australian citizens register their children born overseas as Australian citizens by descent?

A: Yes, as Australian citizens by descent

Q104. Which of the following is a responsibility, not a right, of Australian citizenship?

A: Serving on a jury when called to do so

Q105. Which of the following is a right of Australian citizens?

A: Freedom of speech and expression

Q106. Which of the following is something Australian citizens CAN do, but are not required to do?

A: Join a trade union or community group

Q107. In Australia, what does "presumption of innocence" mean?

A: A person is considered innocent until proven guilty by a court of law

Q108. If a person believes they have been discriminated against in Australia, what can they do?

A: They can make a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission

Q109. In Australia, what is the relationship between rights and responsibilities?

A: Rights come with responsibilities like voting

Q110. According to Australia's democratic beliefs, how should change to a person's mind or to the law come about?

A: Through discussion and the democratic process

Q111. In Australia, the power of the government comes from where?

A: The people, who vote for representatives

Q112. Why must representatives in parliament answer to the people?

A: Through elections, for the decisions they make

Q113. Australia's democratic system is based on the principle that every individual, regardless of background, has rights and equality under Australian law.

A: True

Q114. All Australians are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect regardless of which of the following?

A: Their race, gender, age, religion and more

Q115. Which of the following is given as an example of freedom of expression in Australia?

A: Expressing views through art, film, music and literature

Q116. In Australia, people are free to meet in public or private places for social or political discussion.

A: True

Q117. Even while exercising freedom of speech and expression, what must always happen?

A: Australia's laws must always be obeyed

Q118. In Australia, a person can be forced to join an organisation against their will.

A: False

Q119. When Australians gather to protest against a government action, what is required of the gathering?

A: It must be peaceful and harm no person or property

Q120. Which of the following Australian public holidays fall on Christian days?

A: Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Christmas Day

Q121. What does it mean that the government in Australia is secular?

A: It operates separately from religious entities

Q122. In Australia, the government and the law treat all citizens equally, whatever their religion or beliefs.

A: True

Q123. What does the Australian value of a 'fair go' mean?

A: Achievement comes from work, not wealth or background

Q124. Equal opportunity in Australia, the 'fair go', is meant to ensure there are no formal class distinctions in society.

A: True

Q125. In Australia, who can be called to serve on a jury?

A: Citizens who are on the electoral roll

Q126. What is one reason jury service is important in Australia?

A: It helps ensure the court system is open and fair

Q127. What is a referendum in Australia?

A: A vote to change the Australian Constitution

Q128. Voting may not be compulsory in which type of election in some states?

A: Local government elections

Q129. Why do Australia's elected representatives make laws?

A: To keep an orderly, free society and protect rights

Q130. As a privilege of citizenship, what kind of jobs can an Australian citizen apply for?

A: The Public Service or the Defence Force

Q131. Which of the following is an example of a job in the Australian Public Service?

A: Working for Services Australia or the ATO

Q132. A person can only seek election to parliament if they are 18 or over and not a dual citizen.

A: True

Q133. At which levels of government can an Australian citizen seek election?

A: Federal, state or territory level

Q134. Where can an Australian citizen ask for consular help while overseas?

A: At an Australian embassy, high commission or consulate

Q135. Which of the following is a situation where consular assistance may help an Australian overseas?

A: An emergency such as civil unrest or a natural disaster

Q136. When an Australian citizen is in another country, whose laws must they obey?

A: The laws of that country

Q137. Which of the following is a way to participate in Australian society?

A: Volunteering or joining a community group

Q138. In Australia, paying tax is required by law.

A: True

Q139. Besides income, what else is taxed in Australia?

A: Many goods and services

Q140. Which of the following services are funded by taxes in Australia?

A: Healthcare, education, defence, roads and railways

Government and the Law in Australia 95

Q141. When did the Australian Constitution come into effect?

A: 1 January 1901

Q142. How can the Australian Constitution be changed?

A: By a referendum in which all Australian citizens vote

Q143. For a referendum to succeed in Australia, what is required?

A: A majority of voters nationally and in at least four states

Q144. Which of the following is NOT one of the three levels of government in Australia?

A: Regional government

Q145. Which level of government is responsible for defence and immigration?

A: Federal government

Q146. Which level of government is responsible for schools, hospitals and police?

A: State and territory government

Q147. What are the two houses of the Australian federal Parliament?

A: The Senate and the House of Representatives

Q148. Where does the Australian federal Parliament meet?

A: Canberra

Q149. Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

A: Australian voters in each electorate

Q150. How is the government of Australia formed?

A: By the party or coalition with a majority in the House of Representatives

Q151. What is another name for the House of Representatives?

A: The people's house or lower house

Q152. How many senators represent each of the mainland territories in the Senate?

A: Two

Q153. What is the total number of senators in the Australian Senate?

A: 76

Q154. What is the main role of the Senate?

A: To review, amend and vote on bills from the lower house

Q155. Who appoints the Governor-General of Australia?

A: The King, on the advice of the Australian Prime Minister

Q156. What is Royal Assent?

A: The Governor-General's approval that turns a bill into law

Q157. What is the role of the Prime Minister?

A: To lead the federal government and the Cabinet

Q158. What is the Cabinet?

A: Senior ministers chosen by the PM to decide government policy

Q159. What is a bill?

A: A proposed new law, or change to a law, put to Parliament

Q160. What is an Act of Parliament?

A: A bill passed by both houses that received Royal Assent

Q161. What is the highest court in Australia?

A: The High Court of Australia

Q162. What is one of the main roles of the High Court of Australia?

A: To interpret the Australian Constitution

Q163. What is a key principle of the Australian court system?

A: Everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty

Q164. What is the separation of powers?

A: Dividing power between the legislative, executive and judicial arms

Q165. Which branch of government puts laws into action and manages government services?

A: The executive

Q166. Which branch of government interprets and applies the law?

A: The judicial (the courts)

Q167. Why is the separation of powers important in Australia?

A: It prevents any one branch of government from having too much power

Q168. What is the title of the head of a state government in Australia?

A: Premier

Q169. What is the title of the head of a territory government in Australia?

A: Chief Minister

Q170. What is the role of a state Governor in Australia?

A: To represent the King in the state, like the Governor-General

Q171. Which of the following is a responsibility of state and territory governments?

A: Public transport and roads

Q172. What is the role of local government in Australia?

A: To provide local services such as rubbish and local roads

Q173. How are local council members chosen?

A: They are elected by the residents of the local area

Q174. Is voting compulsory in Australian federal elections?

A: Yes, voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over

Q175. What is the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)?

A: The independent body that runs federal elections

Q176. If you are not correctly enrolled, you are still able to vote in an election.

A: False

Q177. Is voting compulsory in Australian elections and in referenda on constitutional change?

A: Yes, voting is compulsory

Q178. Who can influence the decisions of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)?

A: No one, the AEC is independent

Q179. How is voting carried out in an Australian election?

A: By secret ballot

Q180. What may happen if you do not vote in an election and do not have a good reason?

A: You may have to pay a fine

Q181. How can Australian citizens raise concerns about government policy?

A: By contacting their elected representative

Q182. Before 1901, how was Australia made up?

A: As six separate self-governing colonies

Q183. Before federation, each colony had its own constitution and its own laws on matters such as defence, immigration, postage, trade and transport.

A: True

Q184. On what date were the colonies united into the federation called the Commonwealth of Australia?

A: 1 January 1901

Q185. What is the full name of the legal document also known as the Australian Constitution?

A: The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900

Q186. In the 1967 Referendum, more than 90 per cent of Australians voted 'Yes' to allow Aboriginal peoples to be counted in the Census.

A: True

Q187. The Australian Constitution divides the power of government in order to stop one person or one group from holding all the power.

A: True

Q188. What is legislative power?

A: The power to make laws

Q189. Government ministers are responsible for government departments.

A: True

Q190. Courts and judges in Australia are independent of parliament and government.

A: True

Q191. On whose advice does the King of Australia appoint the Governor-General?

A: The Australian Prime Minister

Q192. Which statement best describes a constitutional monarchy in Australia?

A: The King is Head of State but must follow the Constitution

Q193. The Australian system of parliamentary democracy reflects British and North American traditions combined in a way that is uniquely Australian.

A: True

Q194. Which of the following is a role of the Governor-General?

A: Signing the bills passed by Parliament into law

Q195. Performing ceremonial duties is one of the roles of the Governor-General.

A: True

Q196. Which of these does the Governor-General do?

A: Starts the process for a federal election

Q197. The Governor-General has special powers that can only be used in specific circumstances. What are these called?

A: Reserve powers

Q198. What is a government minister?

A: A Member of Parliament chosen to be responsible for an area of government

Q199. What is a senator in the Australian system of leaders?

A: An elected representative of a state or territory in the Australian Parliament

Q200. The Australian Government is also known by which other names?

A: The Federal Government or the Commonwealth Government

Q201. How many members are elected to the House of Representatives?

A: Over 150 members

Q202. The Senate is sometimes called the Upper House, the House of Review or the States' House.

A: True

Q203. How are the states represented in the Senate?

A: All states are equally represented, regardless of size or population

Q204. Each state government in Australia has its own parliament and constitution.

A: True

Q205. Which statement about the rights of states and territories under the Constitution is correct?

A: States have rights recognised by the Constitution while territories do not.

Q206. How do the law-making powers of states and self-governing territories differ?

A: States make laws in their own right; territory laws can be revoked by the federal government

Q207. What may a local government area be called in Australia?

A: A city, shire, town or municipality

Q208. Every local government area in Australia has its own local council.

A: True

Q209. What are local councils in Australia responsible for?

A: Planning and delivering services to their local community

Q210. Which of these is a responsibility of the Australian (federal) Government?

A: Foreign affairs and national defence

Q211. Postal services and the communications network are a responsibility of the Australian (federal) Government.

A: True

Q212. Which of these is a responsibility of local government?

A: Street signs and traffic controls

Q213. What is a political party?

A: People who share similar ideas about how a country should be governed

Q214. What are parliamentarians who do not belong to any political party called?

A: Independents

Q215. After a federal election, which group forms the Opposition?

A: The party or coalition with the second largest number of members in the House

Q216. What is the leader of the Opposition called?

A: The Leader of the Opposition

Q217. What is a minister's area of government called?

A: A portfolio

Q218. What happens after the House of Representatives and the Senate consider, debate and vote on a Bill?

A: If a majority in each House agrees, the Bill goes to the Governor-General

Q219. State and territory parliaments make their own laws in a similar way to the Australian Parliament.

A: True

Q220. What can a court only base its decision on?

A: The evidence before it

Q221. The police in Australia are independent of the government.

A: True

Q222. If the police believe someone has broken the law, what can they do?

A: Arrest them and bring them before a court of law

Q223. What is the role of a jury in an Australian court?

A: To decide in court if a person is innocent or guilty

Q224. In a criminal trial, who explains the law to the jury?

A: The judge

Q225. Which statement about Australia's police forces is correct?

A: States and the Northern Territory have their own forces for state and territory crimes

Q226. Which of these does the Australian Federal Police (AFP) investigate?

A: Crimes against federal laws, such as drug trafficking and national security

Q227. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is responsible for general police work in which area?

A: The Australian Capital Territory

Q228. In Australia, it is a crime to even offer a bribe to a police officer.

A: True

Q229. Which of the following is one of the most serious crimes in Australia?

A: Armed robbery or theft

Q230. Having sexual relations with children or young people below the legal age of consent is one of the most serious crimes in Australia.

A: True

Q231. What can domestic and family violence include?

A: Hitting, isolating a family member, or threatening children or pets

Q232. A person who commits these crimes can go to jail, whether they are a man or a woman.

A: True

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Q236. Which of the following is an Australian value?

A: Respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual

Q237. In Australia, what does respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual mean?

A: People are free to make their own life choices

Q238. Which of the following is NOT an Australian value?

A: Obedience to a single political leader

Q239. In Australia, are people free to express their own opinions and beliefs?

A: Yes, provided they do so within the law

Q240. What does commitment to the rule of law mean in Australia?

A: All people are subject to and equal before the law

Q241. A community leader tells a new citizen that their cultural practices are above Australian law. Is this correct?

A: No, all people in Australia are subject to Australian law

Q242. Which of the following best describes the rule of law in Australia?

A: Laws apply equally and no one is above the law here

Q243. Which of the following is a value that supports Australia's system of government?

A: Parliamentary democracy

Q244. What does parliamentary democracy mean in Australia?

A: Citizens elect representatives to make the laws

Q245. Why is parliamentary democracy considered an important Australian value?

A: It allows citizens to have a say in how they are governed

Q246. Which of the following is NOT consistent with Australian democratic values?

A: Seizing power through force or intimidation

Q247. In Australia, what does equality of opportunity mean?

A: People get an equal chance regardless of background

Q248. What Australian expression captures the value of equality of opportunity?

A: A fair go

Q233. Which level of government controls road and traffic rules in Australia?

A: State and territory governments

Q234. It is against the law to use a hand-held mobile device while driving in Australia.

A: True

Q235. It is illegal to drive after taking drugs or if you are above the blood alcohol limit.

A: True

Q249. An employer refuses to hire someone because of their ethnicity. Is this consistent with Australian values?

A: No, it goes against the value of equal opportunity

Q250. In Australia, are men and women treated equally?

A: Yes, men and women have equal rights under the law

Q251. How should disputes be resolved in Australia?

A: Through discussion, negotiation, and the legal system

Q252. A new citizen has a dispute with their landlord. According to Australian values, what should they do?

A: Seek help through the legal system or a mediation service

Q253. According to Australian values, is it acceptable to use violence to change the law?

A: No, Australians reject violence as a way to change law

Q254. Which of the following is an Australian value related to how people treat each other?

A: Tolerance, mutual respect, and compassion for those in need

Q255. According to Australian values, how should Australians treat people in need?

A: With compassion and support

Q256. Which of the following best describes the Australian value of tolerance?

A: Accepting that others may have different opinions and ways of life

Q257. What is the first line of the Australian Citizenship Pledge?

A: From this time forward, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people

Q258. In the Australian Citizenship Pledge, what do new citizens pledge to share?

A: Australia's democratic beliefs

Q259. In the Australian Citizenship Pledge, what do new citizens pledge to respect?

A: The rights and liberties of the Australian people

Q260. Are the words "under God" required in the Australian Citizenship Pledge?

A: No, a person may choose whether to use the words

Q261. Which of the following is the correct wording of the Australian Citizenship Pledge?

A: From this time forward, 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

Q262. What does making the Australian Citizenship Pledge represent?

A: A public commitment to Australia, its people, and its values

Q263. Which of the following is a responsibility of Australian citizenship?

A: Obeying Australian laws and respecting the rights of others

Q264. Being an Australian citizen means you share certain values with other Australians. Which set of values is correct?

A: Freedom, respect, fairness, and equality of opportunity

Q265. What is the national language of Australia?

A: English

Q266. Why is English important in Australian society?

A: It helps people get an education, a job, and join the community

Q267. Which of the following statements about gender equality in Australia is correct?

A: Men and women have equal rights under Australian law

Q268. In Australia, can a husband prevent his wife from working or studying?

A: No, women are free to make their own independent choices

Q269. Australian values are based on freedom, respect, fairness and which of the following?

A: Equality of opportunity

Q270. Australian values are central to our community remaining secure, prosperous and what else?

A: Peaceful

Q271. Under the Rule of Law in Australia, you should follow the law even when which of the following is true?

A: No one is watching

Q272. Australian laws apply to all people in Australia regardless of their background or culture.

A: True

Q273. In Australia, why is voting described as compulsory in the discussion of parliamentary democracy?

A: It shows the importance of participating in elections

Q274. Why is tolerance of peaceful public protest considered important in Australia?

A: It is an essential part of democracy

Q275. It is never acceptable to promote violence against another person or group because of their culture, ethnicity, religion or background.

A: True

Q276. Under freedom of association in Australia, which statement is correct?

A: People are free to join or leave any group voluntarily, within the law

Q277. In Australia, an individual can be forced by others to join an organisation against their will.

A: False

Q278. Which statement about religion in Australia is correct?

A: Australia has no official religion and people may follow any they choose

Q279. What is the legal status of religious laws in Australia?

A: Religious laws have no legal status in Australia

Q280. In Australia, polygamy (being married to more than one person at the same time) is against the law.

A: True

Q281. How does the value of equality under the law treat people of different faiths, such as Buddhists and Christians?

A: Buddhists and people of all other faiths are treated the same as Christians

Q282. Under Australian law, which of the following is permitted?

A: Two people can marry each other, including two men or two women

Q283. In Australia, it is a right for a woman to get a job ahead of a man if she has better qualifications and skills.

A: True

Q284. In Australia, who can make independent choices about personal matters such as marriage and religion?

A: Both men and women

Q285. In Australia, who may apply to the courts for a divorce?

A: Either spouse, even if the other wishes to continue the marriage

Q286. Which statement about the Australian value of a 'fair go' is correct?

A: Everyone deserves a fair go and should not be limited by class distinction

Q287. According to Australian values, what should a person's achievements in life result from?

A: Their hard work and talents

Q288. Many new migrants in Australia have become leaders in business, their profession, the arts, public service and sport mainly through what?

A: Their hard work and enterprise

Q289. What does mutual respect and tolerance for others require individuals to respect?

A: The freedom and dignity of others, and their opinions and choices

Q290. What do Australians believe in above all when people disagree?

A: Peaceful disagreement and the right to be safe and free from violence

Q291. In Australia, the age of sexual consent is:

A: 16 or 17 depending on which state or territory you live in

Q292. What should you do when the police make a lawful request of you?

A: Obey the lawful request, because all Australians follow the law

Q293. Which statement reflects the Australian value of mutual respect and tolerance?

A: Listening to others and respecting views different from your own

Q294. Making racially abusive comments at a sporting event is an example of racism, which has no place in Australia.

A: True

Q295. Which Australian value is reflected by helping each other in times of need, such as driving a friend to a medical appointment?

A: Mateship and compassion for those in need

Q296. Which of the following is a benefit of volunteering in Australia?

A: It helps you share knowledge, learn skills, and feel you belong

Q297. If you suspect a friend or neighbour may be planning to commit a serious crime, what should you do?

A: Report it to Australian government authorities as soon as possible

Q298. If a person in Australia sees or has knowledge of a child being abused, what should they do?

A: Report it to the police to investigate

Q299. Can an Australian citizen also hold the citizenship of another country?

A: Yes, if the laws of those countries allow dual or multiple citizenship

Q300. An Australian citizen who is also a citizen of another country does not have to follow Australian laws while in Australia.

A: False

Glossary • People 20

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The original inhabitants of the land in Australia, who have the oldest continuous cultures and traditions in the world. They make up about three per cent of the Australian population.

Indigenous

A term for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, who are the First Peoples of this country.

First Fleet

The group of 11 ships that set out from Britain under Captain Arthur Phillip to establish a convict settlement in New South Wales. The First Fleet landed at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

set up

To build, establish or start something. For example, Governor Phillip set up the first colony in New South Wales.

gold rush

The rush of people seeking their fortune after gold was discovered in New South Wales and Victoria in 1851, which more than doubled Australia's population within 10 years.

colony

A territory settled and governed under Britain. Before 1901 Australia was made up of six separate, self-governing British colonies, each with its own constitution and laws.

federation

The union of colonies into one nation, with the colonies retaining certain powers. In 1901 the colonies were united into a federation called the Commonwealth of Australia.

Commonwealth of Australia

The nation formed in 1901 when the six colonies united into a federation of states and territories. It is also called the Federal or Commonwealth Government when referring to the national government.

states and territories

Australia is a federation made up of six states and two mainland territories. Canberra is the capital city, and each state and mainland territory has its own capital.

Welcome to Country

A cultural practice performed by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custodian of the local region, welcoming visitors to their traditional land. It is usually the first item to open an event.

Acknowledgement of Country

An opportunity to recognise that a gathering is on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander land and to pay respect to Traditional Custodians, Elders past and present. Anyone can deliver it.

Australia Day

Celebrated on 26 January each year, it is a public holiday marking the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 and a time to reflect on Australia's shared achievements.

Anzac Day

Commemorated on 25 April each year, it is named after the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps that landed at Gallipoli in 1915 and honours all Australians who served and died in wars and conflicts.

Australian National Flag

The official flag of Australia, in blue, white and red. It shows the Union Jack, the seven-pointed Commonwealth Star, and the Southern Cross.

Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The official symbol of the Commonwealth of Australia, representing national unity. It features a shield supported by a kangaroo and an emu, a gold Commonwealth Star, and the golden wattle.

Glossary • Democracy 17

parliamentary democracy

A system of government based on the regular election of representatives to parliament by the citizens. The power of the government comes from the people because citizens vote for those who represent them.

democracy

Government by the people through elected representatives.

Rule of Law

The principle that all people, including citizens and the government, are bound by the law. No person, group or religious rule is above the law.

living peacefully

The Australian belief that change should occur through discussion, peaceful persuasion and the democratic process, rejecting violence as a way to change a person's mind or the law.

freedom of speech

The freedom for people to say and write what they think and discuss their ideas with others, including criticising the government and protesting peacefully, so long as they obey Australian laws.

freedom of expression

The freedom for people to express their views, including through art, film, music and literature, and to meet in public or private places for social or political discussion.

freedom of association

The right to form and join associations to pursue common goals, such as a political party, trade union, or religious, cultural or social group. People also cannot be forced to join.

floral emblem

A national flower. Australia's floral emblem is the golden wattle.

national anthem

A national song. Australia's national anthem is 'Advance Australia Fair'.

icon

A well-known image. For example, the Sydney Opera House is a famous icon.

integration

The process of adaptation by migrants so that they can participate in and contribute to their new, evolving society.

national language

Australia's national language is English, which is part of the national identity. Migrants should learn and use English to help them participate in Australian society.

freedom of religion

The freedom for people in Australia to follow any religion they choose, or none. The government treats all citizens equally regardless of religion, and Australia has no official national religion.

secular

Separate from religion. In a secular society there is no official religion, and the government operates separately from churches or other religious entities.

liberties (liberty)

Personal freedom and independence. In Australia people value liberties such as freedom of speech, expression, religion and association.

equality

Being the same in status. Australians believe in the equality of all people, who have rights and equality under Australian law regardless of background.

gender equality

Men and women have equal rights in Australia, and it is against the law to discriminate against a person because of their gender.

responsibilities of citizenship

What a citizen gives Australia: to obey the laws, vote in elections and referendums, defend Australia should the need arise, and serve on a jury if called.

privileges of citizenship

What Australia gives a citizen: to vote, apply for citizenship by descent for overseas-born children, work in the Public Service or Defence Force, seek election, hold a passport, and ask for consular help.

compulsory voting

Voting is compulsory in federal and state or territory elections for citizens aged 18 or over. Those who do not vote without a good reason may have to pay a fine.

consular assistance

Help an Australian citizen can ask for from an Australian government official while overseas, such as during emergencies, accidents or serious illness.

citizenship by descent

A privilege that allows an Australian citizen to apply for their child born overseas to become an Australian citizen.

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election

A process through which citizens choose people to represent them in Parliament. Australian citizens aged 18 or over must vote in an election.

by-election

An election held in a single electorate to fill a seat that has become vacant, rather than a general election across the whole country.

referendum

A vote by all voters on a proposed change to the Australian Constitution. For example, in the 1967 referendum people voted to count Aboriginal peoples in the census.

double majority

The requirement for a referendum to succeed: a majority of voters in a majority of states, and a majority of voters across the nation, must both vote for the change.

secret ballot

A system of voting where people vote privately, so no one can influence or pressure them to vote in a certain way.

electoral roll

The list of people registered to vote in an election or referendum. A citizen must be correctly enrolled in order to vote.

electorate

A district made up of voters who vote to elect politicians in the House of Representatives. Electorates are also called electoral districts, divisions or seats.

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

A Commonwealth agency responsible for conducting federal elections and referendums and maintaining the electoral roll. It is independent of government, and political parties cannot influence its decisions.

Constitution

The supreme law of Australia by which the government must abide. It sets out the legislative, executive and judicial powers and the basic rules for the government of Australia.

constitutional monarchy

A country in which a king or queen is the head of state, whose powers are limited by the Constitution. Australia is a constitutional monarchy with the King as Head of State.

Head of State

Australia's Head of State is the King of Australia, His Majesty King Charles III, who appoints the Governor-General as his representative and does not have a day-to-day role in government.

Governor-General

The representative of the Head of State in Australia, appointed by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Governor-General must remain neutral and acts independently of all political parties.

Governor

The representative of the Head of State in each Australian state, in a role similar to the Governor-General at the national level.

Royal Assent

The signing of a Bill passed by the Australian Parliament into law by the Governor-General.

reserve powers

Special powers held by the Governor-General that can only be used in specific circumstances.

legislative power

The power and authority to make and change the laws, one of the three powers under the Australian Constitution. Parliament holds legislative power.

executive power

The power and authority to administer the laws, one of the three powers under the Constitution. It is held by the Prime Minister, government ministers and the Governor-General.

judicial power

The power and authority to interpret and apply the laws, one of the three powers under the Constitution. The courts in Australia hold judicial power.

separation of powers

The way the Constitution divides government power between the legislative, executive and judicial branches to stop one person or group from holding all the power.

Australian Government

Also called the Federal or Commonwealth Government, it is made up of members of the Australian Parliament and is generally formed by the party or coalition with a majority in the House of Representatives.

Parliament

The body that makes and changes laws in Australia, made up of elected representatives. The Australian Parliament has two Houses: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

House of Representatives

One House of the Australian Parliament, also called the Lower House or People's House. Members represent the people in their electorate, with over 150 members elected.

Senate

The other House of the Australian Parliament, also called the Upper House, House of Review or States' House. All states are equally represented, with a total of 76 senators.

Member of Parliament (MP)

An elected representative of the people in the Australian Parliament or a state parliament.

Senator

An elected representative of a state or territory in the Australian Parliament, sitting in the Senate.

Prime Minister

The leader of the Australian Government, usually the leader of the party or coalition with a majority in the House of Representatives.

minister

A Member of Parliament chosen by a government leader to be responsible for an area of government, called a portfolio. Ministers are appointed by the Governor-General on the Prime Minister's advice.

Cabinet

The ministers with the most important portfolios, who make up the key decision-making body of the government.

the Opposition

After a federal election, the party or coalition with the second largest number of members in the House of Representatives. Its leader is called the Leader of the Opposition.

Premier

The leader of a state government.

Chief Minister

The leader of a territory government.

Mayor or Shire President

The leader of a local government.

Councillor

An elected member of a local council. Citizens in each local government area vote to elect their local councillors.

local government

The level of government for local areas, which may be called cities, shires, towns or municipalities. Each area has its own council responsible for planning and delivering local services.

shire

A local government area.

three levels of government

Australia's federal, state and territory, and local levels of government, which generally provide different services to the community.

political party

A group of people who share similar ideas about how a country should be governed and usually seek to be elected. The main parties include the Liberal Party, Labor Party, the Nationals and the Greens.

coalition

The joining of two or more political parties, usually to form a government or opposition.

independent

A parliamentarian who does not belong to any political party.

Bill

A proposal to introduce a new law or change an existing one, considered, debated and voted on by both Houses of Parliament before it can become law.

court

A place where legal cases are heard by a judge or magistrate. Courts in Australia are independent and decide if a person has broken the law based only on the evidence before them.

High Court of Australia

The court established by the Constitution that has the ultimate power to apply and interpret the laws of Australia.

judge

The highest authority in a court, who interprets and applies the law and decides penalties. Judges are independent, and the government cannot remove them for disagreeing with their decisions.

magistrate

A judge of a lower court.

jury

A group of ordinary Australian citizens randomly chosen from the general population to listen to the evidence in a court case and decide if a person is guilty or not guilty.

criminal trial

A hearing of facts by a court to decide if a person is guilty or not guilty of a crime. If a jury finds a person guilty, the judge decides the penalty.

enforce the law

To make sure that people follow the law. Police enforce the law and keep the peace.

police

Officers who maintain peace and order, protect life and property, and can arrest people they believe have broken the law and bring them before a court. They are independent of the government.

Australian Federal Police (AFP)

Australia's national police force, which investigates crimes against federal laws such as drug trafficking, national security and the environment, and provides general policing in the ACT.

drug trafficking

Carrying or buying drugs to sell illegally, which is a serious crime in Australia.

criminal offence

A serious breach of the law. Examples include murder, assault, sexual assault, armed robbery or theft, dangerous driving, possession of illegal drugs, and fraud.

domestic and family violence

Behaviour or threats that aim to control a partner by causing fear or threatening their safety. It is not accepted and is against the law in Australia.

forced marriage

A marriage where one or both of the couple did not have a free choice. Forced marriage is against the law in Australia.

cyber abuse

Behaviour that uses technology to threaten, intimidate, harass or humiliate someone with the intent to hurt them. Many forms of cyber abuse are against the law in Australia.

Australian Public Service

Government departments and the people employed by them. Citizens can apply for a job in the Australian Public Service to work for the Australian Government.

Services Australia

An Australian Government agency that delivers a range of health, social and welfare payments and services through Medicare, Centrelink and Child Support.

Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

An Australian Government agency that manages the tax and superannuation systems that support and fund services for Australians. Most Australians submit a tax return to the ATO each year.

social security

Government pensions or benefits to help unemployed people, disabled people, elderly people and others in need.

Australian Defence Force

Australia's military, made up of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Service is voluntary, but citizens have a responsibility to defend Australia should the need arise.

Australian Human Rights Commission

An independent Commission that investigates complaints about discrimination and human rights breaches. Incidents of racism can be reported to it.

commission

A group of people with an official responsibility. For example, an independent commission organises the elections.

civil unrest

Demonstrations and riots by large numbers of people, usually protesting against a government decision or policy.

representative

A person who acts or speaks for others. Citizens vote for representatives to speak for them in parliament.

dual citizenship

Holding the citizenship of another country as well as Australia, where the laws of those countries allow. An Australian citizen in Australia must still follow all Australian laws at all times.

Glossary · Values 14

Australian values

The shared principles based on freedom, respect, fairness and equality of opportunity that define and shape the country and that citizens are expected to respect, share and uphold.

values

The principles that help a person decide what is right and wrong, and how to act in various situations. Australia has a shared set of values called Australian values.

fair go

The value that everyone, regardless of their background, is given an equal opportunity to achieve success in life based on their talents, work and effort rather than wealth or class.

equality of opportunity

The value that everyone should have the same chance to succeed and the same legal rights, so that achievement comes from hard work and talent and not from gender, wealth or ethnicity.

mateship

Helping and receiving help from others, especially in difficult times. Australians value mateship and have a strong tradition of community service and volunteering.

respect

To show consideration for someone as a person, or for a decision they have made.

mutual respect and tolerance

Listening to others and respecting their views and opinions, even when they differ from your own, and respecting the freedom and dignity of others.

equality of all people under the law

The value that all people have equal rights regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, race, or national or ethnic origin, and are not given preferential treatment or discriminated against.

racism

Prejudice, discrimination, harassment or hatred directed at someone because of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin. Racism is against the law in Australia and has no place in society.

volunteer

A person who gives their time to a person or organisation without expecting payment.

self-sufficient

Able to provide for your own needs, without the help of other people. Everyone has a responsibility to try to support themselves and their families when able.

loyalty to Australia

The commitment made in the citizenship pledge to Australia and its people, including the shared obligation not to undermine Australia's interests and security.

from this time forward

From now and in the future. At the citizenship ceremony, you promise to be loyal to Australia from this time forward.

English as the national language

The value of English as Australia's national language and an important unifying element. Citizenship applicants must make reasonable efforts to learn English if it is not their native language.

Citizen Pass

A PDF is static. The app tracks what you get wrong.

This guide covers 300 questions and a glossary of key terms. The Citizen Pass app and practice area add spaced repetition that targets your weak areas, timed practice tests, and a readiness score that tells you when you are actually ready, with special focus on the five Australian Values questions you must all get right.

The real test: 20 questions, 75% to pass, and all 5 Australian Values questions correct.

Practise free at citizen-pass.com/au

Unofficial study aid. The official study resource is Australian Citizenship: Our Common Bond, published by the Department of Home Affairs.
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