

# Unit 3: Democracy and comparative government

## Student Instructions

**AOI:** Approaches to learning

**Key Concept:** Systems

**Significant Concepts:** Politics, Government and Rights

**Statement of Inquiry:** Different forms of government shape the functionality of communities and bring rise to changes and evolution of the political system.

**Assessment:** Democracy portfolio

**Criterion A** - demonstrate knowledge and understanding of subject-specific content and concepts, appropriate to the age level, using descriptions, explanations and examples.

**Criterion B** - formulate a clear and focused research question

**Criterion C** - analyse concepts, events, issues, models and/or arguments

**Criterion D** - document sources of information, style appropriate for the audience/purpose

This unit will require three school weeks as well as your homework time. You will refer to the democracy learning grid to choose your tasks. You must ensure that you have **one task from each of the different multiple intelligences** - verbal, visual, kinaesthetic and intrapersonal.

You will create a portfolio that includes **four tasks and an inquiry question**:

- 1 Remembering/ Knowing OR 1 Understanding **DUE: 6th March 2015**
- 1 Application
- 1 Analysis
- 1 Evaluation OR 1 Create
- An inquiry/ research question

The inquiry/ research question should be a question about the topic and something you would like to further investigate. It can be in the form of a statement. When defining a “clear and focused research question” the following elements can be considered: relevance, manageability, originality, ability to be assessed, of interest to the student and based in the subject.

Some examples of research questions:

- Should the government system in the hunger games be changed to a democracy?
- To what extent has democracy been successful at bringing about increased equality for females in New Zealand.
- What is the role of government in a market economy such as Hong Kong?
- Can countries successfully operate without a form of government?

You are going to spend two weeks of homework time after completing the unit to investigate your topic of interest. You will submit a  $\frac{1}{2}$  **page reflection** about the clarity and focus of your research questions.

**DUE: Monday 10th March**

- How easy or difficult it was to find information?
- Where there a good range of sources that you could refer to?
- Were the sources recent or dated?
- Could you answer your topic in an essay of 2 pages?
- Was your topic interesting?
- Could you find a definitive answer to your question?
- If you were rewriting your question what would you change?

Resources:

- KWL Chart: <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/students/learning/lr2kwl.htm>
- Y Chart: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/english/ycharts.htm>
- SWOT Analysis: [http://www.myread.org/monitoring\\_swot.htm](http://www.myread.org/monitoring_swot.htm)
- Mind Map  
<http://www.jcu.edu.au/studying/services/studyskills/mindmap/index.html>