

# Systems of government

Democracy is exercised in varying ways throughout the Asia–Pacific region. The region comprises an extensive range of ethnic and religious traditions that significantly impact upon the way that democracy is implemented. Like Australia, the nation states of China, Japan, India and Indonesia all enforce the importance of their written **constitutions**. They seek to provide peaceful, fair and representative elections that align practically with their unique population requirements. China differs the most significantly from its neighbours through the dominance of the Chinese Communist Party. It prevents China from holding legitimate multiparty elections and experiencing true representation of the people through its parliament.

**Source 1.0.1** Pro-democracy demonstrators gather to mark one year since the start of mass pro-democracy rallies calling for free leadership elections in Hong Kong on 28 September 2015. The 2014 Occupy protests began after China's central government said it would allow a popular vote for the Hong Kong leader in 2017, but insisted that candidates were vetted.

# Australia's system of government

Australia is a **constitutional monarchy** and representative democracy. It is part of the Commonwealth of Nations, with Queen Elizabeth II serving as its head. The Governor-General is the Queen's representative who acts on the advice of the elected parliament. Parliament in Australia is regarded as sovereign because it represents the direct interests of the Australian people.

## The Australian Constitution

The Australian Constitution embodies the values of Australian democracy. It was enacted on 1 January 1901 and established the three arms of government in Australia (federal, state and local) and some of the processes and procedures of the Australian system of government.

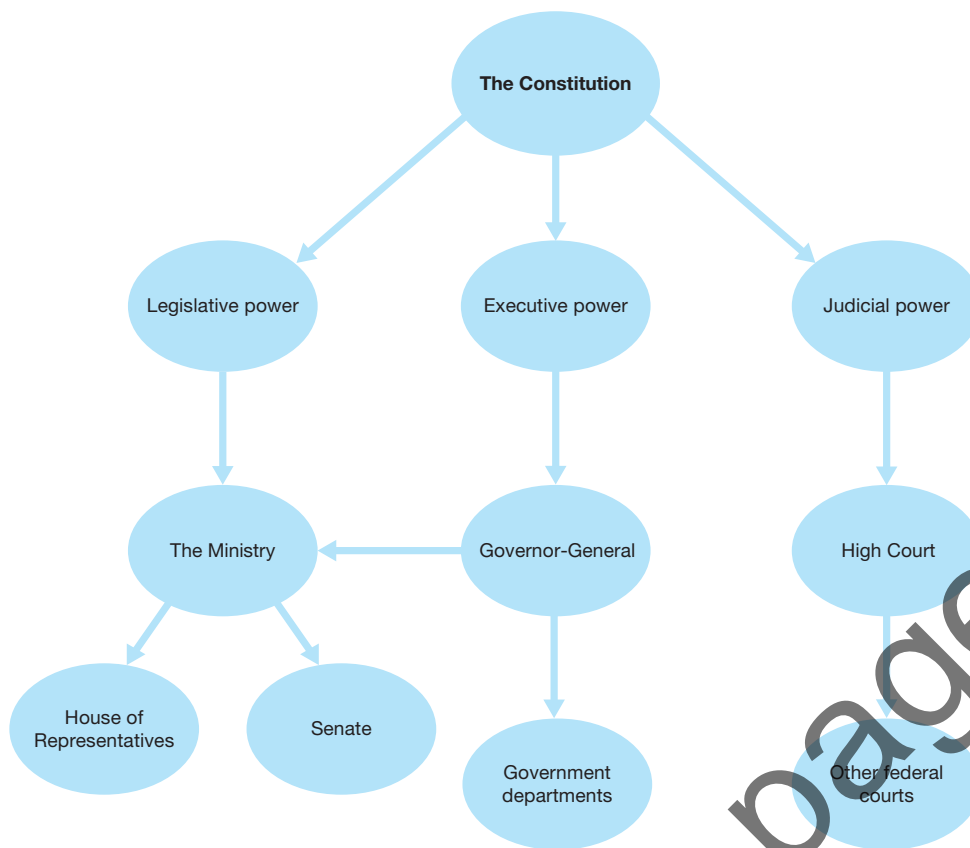
The Australian Constitution can only be changed by a **referendum** after the proposed change is approved as a bill by the federal parliament. How the constitution is interpreted can be decided by the High Court in response to disagreements over the meaning of the constitution and how it should be applied.

## The Governor-General

The Governor-General is the Queen's representative in Australia, appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister. Under the Constitution, the Governor-General's powers and duties include summoning and dissolving parliament, assenting to bills, appointing ministers, setting up departments of state and appointing justices of the High Court or federal judges. There is no specific term of office for the Governor-General.



**Source 1.1.1** The colonies collectively became states of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901, when the Constitution of Australia came into force. Celebrations included illuminating Sydney Post Office with the lettering 'Welcome to our Governor General, God save the Queen'.



**Source 1.1.2** The Australian system of democracy

## Parliament

According to Section 1 of the Australian Constitution, the Australian Parliament consists of:

- the Queen, represented by the Governor-General
- the Senate (upper house)
- the House of Representatives (lower house).

Parliament is responsible for **legislation** and providing members of the executive. The political party who wins the most seats in the House of Representatives forms government.

## Separation of powers

Separation of powers is a key feature of the Australian democratic system. The system was designed to provide checks and balances for those in positions of power. Power is divided between the executive that administers the law, the legislature that makes the laws and the judiciary that is responsible for the court system. The court system's purpose is to interpret and apply the law, including, in the case of the High Court, the Constitution. It enforces the notion that the rule of law is supreme in Australia. This means that no one is above the law, including the government.

## The executive

The executive is made up of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet—they take care of the running of the government. The Prime Minister selects the Cabinet (up to 30 ministers) and together they decide major policy and legislative proposals. Australia's Cabinet must answer to the elected parliament, this is known as 'responsible government'. This normally occurs during question time in parliament or through parliamentary committees.

## The legislature

The legislature makes laws. The federal parliament makes federal laws within its power, which apply to all of Australia. Australia has a **bicameral** parliament, meaning there are two houses of parliament: an upper house and a lower house. For bills to be passed they must be supported by both houses.

Bills are normally introduced in the House of Representatives. They can be introduced in the Senate, but this is rare. Committees in both houses analyse proposed laws and report back on their findings.

Once passed by the House of Representatives, the Senate considers the bill. It is often easier to pass legislation through the lower house, as this is where the government



**Source 1.1.3** The House of Representatives in session

in power sits. Once both houses have passed a bill, the Governor-General gives it royal assent on behalf of the Queen, then it is published and enacted into law.

## The judiciary

The primary role of the federal court system is to ensure the laws of Australia are obeyed. The rule of law is a key feature of the Australian democratic system. If the government is found to have acted unconstitutionally it can be prosecuted.

There are levels within the court system. The High Court was established by the Constitution as Australia's highest court. Federal courts are set up by parliament. They can deal with any manner of the law, including criminal, family and civil matters.

Judges (who interpret the law) are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This means there is not entire separation of power between the executive and the judiciary.

To maintain independence the government cannot remove judges from their positions. Judges can only be dismissed by the Governor-General on the request of both houses of parliament.

Australia's democracy values the right to a fair trial. The court system works on a **presumption of innocence** unless proven guilty. According to Section 80 of the Constitution, Australians have the right to trial by jury whereby their fellow citizens decide their innocence or guilt.

## Democratic elections

Free and open elections are crucial to a thriving democracy. Voting in Australia is compulsory for citizens aged 18 and over. Votes are cast by secret ballot.

Australians vote in federal, state and local elections. Voting in local elections is not compulsory.



**Source 1.1.4** Members of the public vote at the Cottesloe Civic Centre, Perth, Western Australia, in the federal election of 2 July 2016

### Election to the House of Representatives

The House of Representatives has 150 members. The states are broken up into constituencies of roughly equal population, with one person representing one electorate.

Members are voted in for a three-year term through a preferential voting system.

### Election to the Senate

The Senate has 76 members. Each state has 12 representatives and each territory has two.

The Senate uses a proportional voting system. Senators are elected for six years, with half of the senators facing re-election every three years.

## ACTIVITIES

### Remembering and understanding

- 1 In what way/s does a complete separation of powers not exist within Australia's democracy?
- 2 How does Australia's system of democracy ensure that our government is held accountable?

### Applying and analysing

- 3 Create a flow chart that demonstrates, in some detail, the path that a bill has to take in parliament in order to become a law.

### Evaluating and creating

- 4 Conduct a line debate with your fellow students on the topic 'Does the Governor-General play a significant role in Australia's democracy?'
- 5 Create a book for primary school students that explains the roles and responsibilities of either the executive, legislature or judiciary.

# China

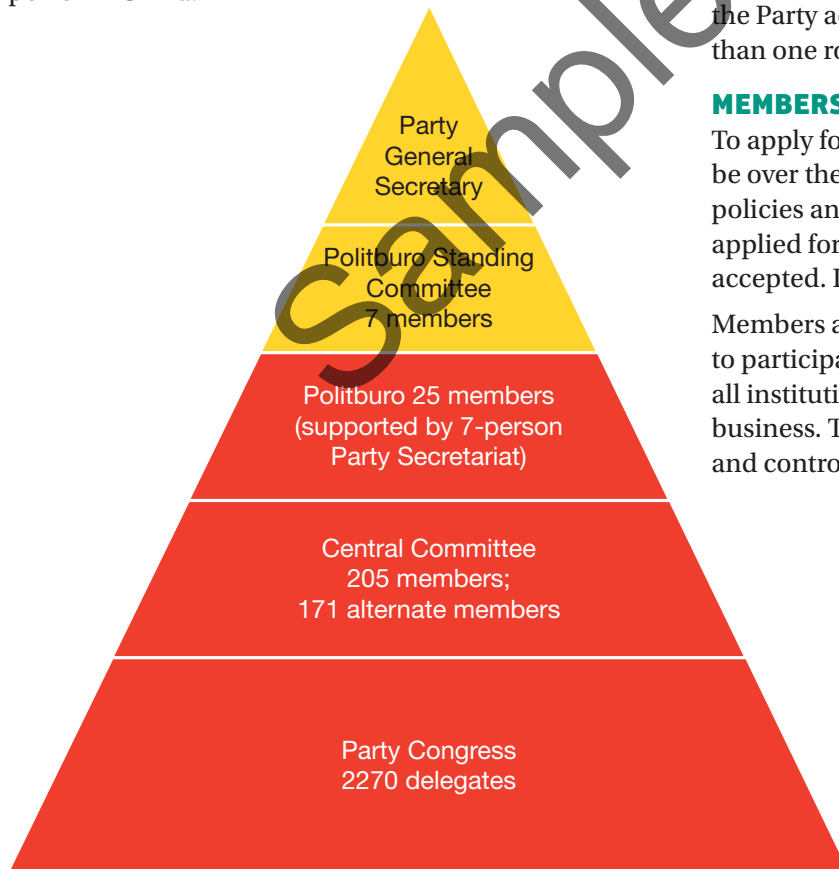
China is a one-party state ruled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). It is governed under the 1982 Constitution, the fifth constitution since the Communist Party came to power in 1949. The CCP has over 85 million members.

The Chinese Government broadly operates under two key areas: the Party and the State. The two systems overlap, with Party members serving in key positions within the State.

## The Party apparatus

### Constitution

Under the Chinese Constitution the CCP is the leading political party. The CCP controls society at all levels. The Constitution rejects the notion of the separation of powers. Instead, the Chinese Parliament is a **unicameral** legislature, meaning it is the only law-making body. In theory this power lies with the parliament, called the National People's Congress (NPC). However, the CCP is the real instrument of power in China.



## The Chinese Communist Party

The CCP represents about 6 per cent of China's population of approximately 1.34 billion people. It meets every five years. The CCP Constitution is separate to the State Constitution. It proclaims 'the realisation of communism to be its highest ideal and ultimate goal.'

### NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS

At the five-yearly National Party Congress the following things occur:

- election of a new Central Committee
- Central Committee then elects the 25 members of the Politburo
- seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee are elected
- a General Secretary is chosen from the Politburo Standing Committee; this is the leader of the CCP and therefore the leader of China.

A Party Secretariat is then settled upon. The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Party administration. Some members serve more than one role within the Party structure.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE CCP

To apply for membership of the CCP, citizens must be over the age of 18 and committed to the Party's policies and programs. In 2011, 21.6 million people applied for membership with less than 15 per cent accepted. Less than a quarter of members are women.

Members are organised into a branch, cell or unit to participate in Party activities. Party units exist in all institutions and organisations, including private business. The Party bodies wield significant power and control all avenues for advancement.

**Source 1.2.1** The structure of the Communist Party



**Source 1.2.2** Chinese national flags are hung along a street in Shanghai to commemorate Chinese National Day which is celebrated annually on 1 October. This marks the date the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949.

## Party leadership bodies

### THE POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE

The Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) is the most senior decision-making body in China. There are seven members, each ranked and assigned a specific portfolio:

- Party General Secretary: CCP Chairman and State President; oversees China's foreign policy
- Premier of the State Council: China's top economic official

- Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC: China's unicameral legislature
- Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee: responsible for outreach to non-Communist groups and state-sanctioned religious associations
- Head of the Party Secretariat: spreads **ideology** and **propaganda**
- Party's Central Disciplinary Inspection Commission (CDIC): polices the Party's ranks for corruption
- State Council Vice-Premier: assists the Premier with his duties.

### THE POLITBURO

Politburo members who represent Party interests are given more senior responsibilities than those who represent State interests.

Three portfolios are considered the most crucial to the maintenance of Party rule:

- Head of the Organisation Department: **recruits**, trains and develops new Party members
- Head of the Propaganda Department: controls all media and sets the official message of the Party



**Source 1.2.3** People watch a speech by Xi Jinping, President of China and head of China's ruling Communist Party, in Beijing, China, 15 November 2012. Xi heads the Standing Committee of the Party's Politburo.

- Head of the Central Commission of Politics and Law: the internal security apparatus including the Supreme People's Court, the State Minister for Justice and Minister of State Security, under the control of the Politburo.

## The State apparatus

The State apparatus in China is not as powerful as the Party apparatus. Party members fill many of the committees and the roles within the State. This ensures that the Party control all areas of public life.

### The State President

The State President is China's head of state. Since 1993, the State President is also the General Secretary of the CCP. The Party **nominates** the candidates for President and Vice-President. They are elected by the NPC. Under the State Constitution the President is accountable to the NPC. In reality, the President is the General Secretary of the CCP, which outranks the authority of the NPC.

The President announces law, appoints and dismisses key government positions, receives foreign dignitaries and diplomats, and signs foreign treaties. It is the role of the President to announce a state of emergency, issue an order of mobilisation or a declaration of war.

### The State Council

The State Council is also known as the Central People's Government. Under the State Constitution it is 'the highest organ of state administration'. Officially, it implements the policies of the CCP and enacts laws passed by the NPC. In reality, the State Council manages the day-to-day administration of the economy.

The Premier leads the State Council, and is second in command of the PSC. The President appoints the Premier.

When in full session, the State Council is similar to a Cabinet. It has a vast array of organisations under its supervision.

### The National People's Congress

According to the State Constitution, the NPC is 'the highest organ of state power'. It has the power to:

- enact and revise laws
- propose **amendments** to the Constitution (via the standing committee)

- formulate, revise and supervise implementation of the Constitution
- **ratify** and annul treaties
- approve the State Budget and plans for economic and social development
- elect and dismiss top officials of the state and judiciary
- supervise the work of state officials.

In practice, it is the CCP that fulfils these roles. The NPC acts as a body to approve the Party decisions.

Approximately 3000 delegates serve five-year terms in the NPC. The meeting of Congress lasts ten days. Congress members are nominated by the CCP and elected by 35 electoral units. These units represent **provinces** and autonomous regions throughout China.

Due to the brief sitting of the Congress, the Standing Committee fulfils much of the NCP's work. The Standing Committee meets every two months and has 161 members. The highest-ranking official in the committee is the third-ranked CCP official.



**Source 1.2.4** Premier Li Keqiang delivers a speech to the 12th NPC at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing.



Figure A

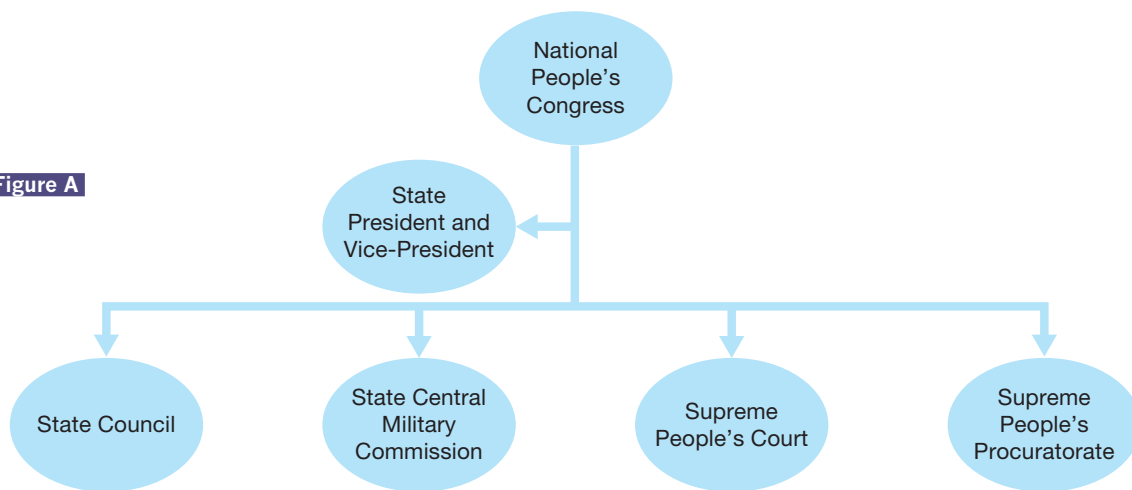
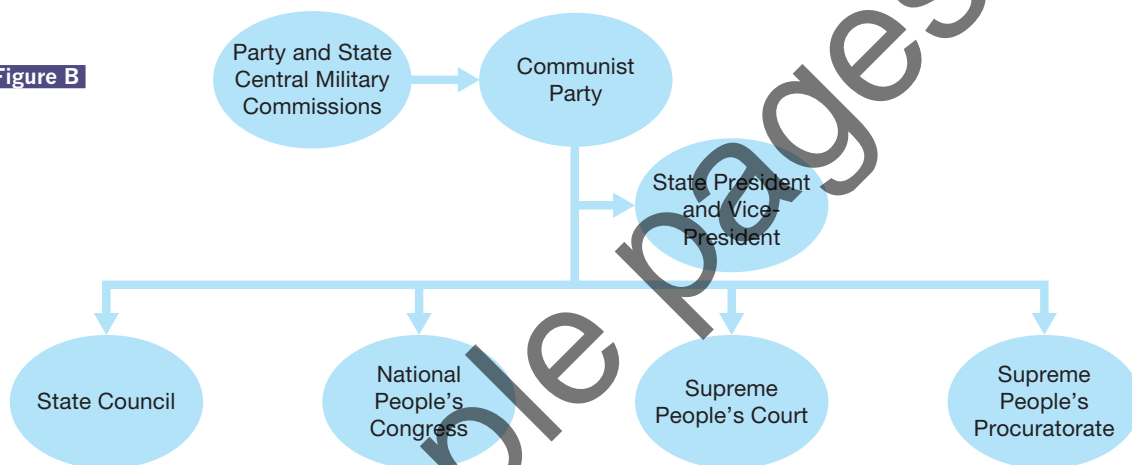


Figure B



**Source 1.2.5** An analysis of the power structure in China. Figure A shows how the national-level political power structure should work as described in Chapter 3 of the 1982 State Constitution. Figure B demonstrates the political structure as it works in practice.

### The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

The CPPCC is a body that allows other political parties and social organisations to take part in the running of the state. They engage in political consultation with the Party. The CCP asserts that the CPPCC is a core part of China's 'socialist democracy'.

In theory, the CPPCC gives non-communists a voice, but carries no weight in the Chinese political system.

### The minor political parties

There are eight minor political parties in China. They must accept the permanent leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and cannot act as opposition parties.

The parties are allowed to exist to show that China is a multiparty cooperative system. The total membership of the minor parties is less than one million people. The heads of the parties can serve in the position of vice-chairperson of the National People's Congress.

### Deliberating on bills

Sponsors of **motions** or bills submit their explanations to the NPC to be investigated by special committees. Once a committee writes a report, it is submitted to the NPC for voting by show of hands or ballot. If the majority is in favour, the bill is passed.

Amendments to the Constitution can only be proposed by the NPC Standing Committee or more than one-fifth of the deputies to the NPC. If there are at least two-thirds in favour the amendment will be adopted.

## The judiciary

The Chinese judicial system is not independent of the government.

The Supreme People's Court is the highest court. It reports its work to the NPC and the Standing Committee. Its functions include:

- hearing appeals from lower courts
- approving the death sentence
- supervising the trials in other courts
- discovering mistakes made in local courts and forcing a rehearing of the case.

The principles of the court are:

- equality: all people are equal before the law
- open trials: trials are open, except those involving state secrets or the trials of minors
- defence: the accused is entitled to hire someone to defend them
- system of collegiate panels: panels consist of 1–3 judges and 2–4 people's assessors. Appeal cases

are heard by 3–5 judges. The panel is presided over by a judge

- the system of challenge: in a conflict of interest, people can ask for the judicial officers to be removed. If judicial officers feel they have a conflict of interest they need to withdraw
- independence in trials.

## WEAK RULE OF LAW

The Party supports rule by law, not the rule of law. The Party therefore is not subject to the confines of the law. Party commissions oversee police, prosecutors and the courts. They can intervene in matters to ensure that the Party's interests are met.

## Elections in China

Given the size of China's population, staging elections is a huge task. The Party has begun experimenting with more direct forms of voting at a village and local level. Electoral reform is a slow process, with the Party not willing to concede much of their power. China's voting procedures remain a mix of indirect and direct voting.



Source 1.2.6 Officials count votes after rain-soaked elections in the village of Wukan on 31 March 2014.

Elections for China's highest positions start at local and village elections. There are two opportunities for people to vote:

- A series of representative elections where people directly vote for nominated candidates. Local election committees carry out the elections. In urban areas the local elections are divided into residential areas. The elected candidates are primarily responsible for their local communities.

- Elections to the People's Provincial Congresses that represent 23 provinces, five autonomous regions, four **municipalities**, special administrative regions and the armed forces. Once the congresses have been decided they elect 3000 members to the NPC.

The NPC elects the President, Premier, Vice-President and the individuals for other important positions within the Chinese Government.



**Source 1.2.7** Chinese minority delegates in traditional dress arrive before the opening of the fourth session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, 5 March 2016. Delegates represent 55 minority ethnic groups.

## ACTIVITIES

### Remembering and understanding

- 1 Outline how the Chinese Constitution rejects the idea of a separation of powers.
- 2 What is the total membership of the minor parties in China?

### Applying and analysing

- 3 List the reasons why you think the Chinese Communist Party rejects so many applications for membership to the Party.
- 4 Draw a diagram to illustrate the Chinese Communist Party's influence on all aspects of government in China.

- 5 Use a Venn diagram to show the ways that China's highest court, the Supreme People's Court, is both similar and different to Australia's High Court.

### Evaluating and creating

- 6 Research further into the role of propaganda and publicity in the CCP and then write a job description for the Head of the Party Secretariat.
- 7 Design an election poster for the Chinese Communist Party. Write a description of the poster that explains the images, words and colours you used.

# Japan

Japan is a democratic constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government known as the Diet. The Prime Minister represents the Diet.

Japan's government structure has three tiers: national, prefectural and local. There are 47 prefectures and 1741 local municipalities. Elected assemblies represent each tier of government. Japan does not have a federal system like Australia.

## The Japanese Constitution

The Constitution came into effect on 3 May 1947. It contains 103 articles, including a pacifist **doctrine**. No amendment has ever been made to it.

The Constitution specifies that the majority of Cabinet members must be elected members of parliament. The Prime Minister can also appoint non-politicians to the Cabinet and as special ministers of state.

### The no war clause

In the wake of World War II, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution contains the 'no war' clause. It consists of two important paragraphs:

- The Japanese people 'forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes'.
- 'Land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential will never be maintained'.

The clause was included to demonstrate in law that Japan does not seek war as a viable option. It is also thought that it was a way to preserve the imperial throne—even if only as a symbol.

### The Emperor

Under the previous Meiji Constitution (1890–1947) the Emperor of Japan was the sovereign power. In 1946 Emperor Hirohito renounced his status as divine ruler and major constitutional reform was introduced. The current Constitution says the emperor is the 'symbol of the state' and the 'unity of the people'. The word *shōchō* is used to describe the Emperor as neither head of state nor sovereign.

The result is that the role is symbolic, with no governmental power.



Source 1.3.1 Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan

## Separation of powers

### The executive

Executive power is vested in the Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister appoints and dismisses the Cabinet ministers. The Cabinet has the Cabinet Office and 11 ministries.

A Board of Audit audits all accounts of the state and other public corporations and agencies. It is a constitutionally independent organisation.

The role of the Prime Minister includes:

- representing the Cabinet
- submitting bills to the Diet
- reporting to the Diet on general national affairs and foreign relations
- exercising control and supervision over various administrative branches.

There is no fixed term for the office of Prime Minister.

### The Cabinet

The Cabinet is collectively responsible to the Diet. There are never more than 17 ministers in the Cabinet. When the term of the Prime Minister ends, the Cabinet is required to resign.

## The legislature

The Diet or *Kokkai* is Japan's national parliament. Article 41 of the Constitution describes the National Diet as the 'highest organ of state power' and 'the sole law-making organ of the state'. There are 300 members in the Diet.

Responsibilities of the Diet:

- making laws
- approving the national budget
- ratifying treaties
- initiating draft amendments to the Constitution (once finalised they are taken to the population in a referendum)
- conducting investigations into the government
- dissolving the government if it passes a no-confidence motion introduced by 50 members of the House of Representatives.

Japan's legislature is bicameral. It consists of the House of Councillors (upper house) and the House of Representatives (lower house). Both are elected bodies.

## THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (*SHŪGIIN*)

The House of Representatives is the more powerful of the two houses. Members serve a four-year term; however, political conditions in Japan mean that often the house dissolves before the end of the term. To be elected to the house, citizens must be at least 25 years old.

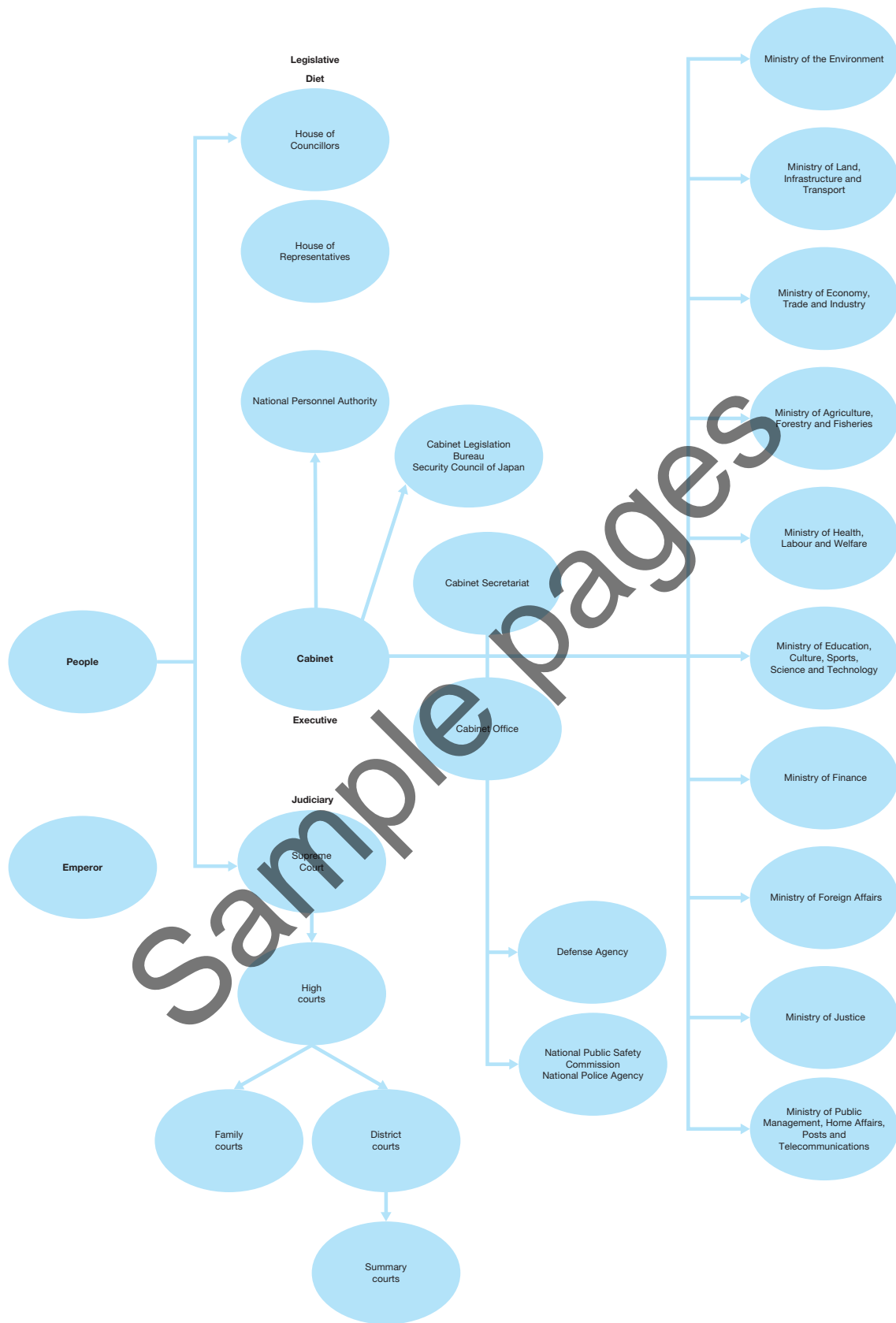
As of April 2016, seven political parties have representation in the House of Representatives. The Liberal Democratic Party has a two-thirds majority. There are also 14 independent members.

## THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS (*SAGIIN*)

Representatives in the House of Councillors serve a six-year term; half of which expire every three years. The Prime Minister cannot dissolve the house. It does not have authority over legislation but it can delay the adoption of a budget or treaty.

**Source 1.3.2** Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, delivers a policy speech to the lower house of parliament.





**Source 1.3.3** The structure of the Japanese Government

## Passing bills

Bills are submitted to the Diet for approval. Once submitted, they are debated in both houses. Constitutionally, the House of Representatives has superiority over the House of Councillors. If a bill is passed in the lower house and is turned down in the upper house, it is automatically returned to the lower house where a two-thirds majority vote would result in it being passed.

## The judiciary

The Supreme Court is the highest court in Japan. It sits above the High Court, district, family and summary courts.

All judges are independent in the Japanese judicial system. They are only bound by the Constitution and the law. Once appointed, they cannot be removed from the bench unless proven mentally or physically incapable of performing their duties. The executive cannot discipline them.

A Supreme Court judge may be removed in a referendum. These are held at the first general election of the House of Representatives following each judge's appointment. They are then reviewed every 10 years.

### THE SUPREME COURT (SAIKŌ SAIBANSHO)

The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in both civil and criminal cases and is responsible for interpreting the Constitution. It is responsible for nominating judges to lower courts, determining judicial procedures, overseeing the judicial system and disciplining judges. There are up to 15 judges on a Grand Bench or as few as five on a Petit Bench. The Grand Bench is used for constitutional cases.

The Emperor appoints the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Cabinet appoints the rest.

## The electoral system

The electoral system in Japan differs substantially from Australia as the voting system is mixed. Methods of direct election and proportional representation are used to determine the outcomes. Elections are supervised by election committees at each administrative level under the general direction of the Central Election Administration Committee.

## Voting for the House of Representatives

The House of Representatives has up to 500 members who are elected for a four-year term. Three hundred come from single-seat constituencies. This means that in each district, each voter casts a vote and the candidate who receives the majority of votes becomes the sole representative of that district.

Around 200 seats are then decided by proportional representation. Under this system people vote for a party and not for an individual. A party will have individual candidates whom they rank. There are 11 regions or blocs in Japan. Each voter picks from a list of parties. The more votes the party receives, the more seats it will win. The number of seats that a party wins in the Diet is based on the percentage of the vote that it receives. For example, a district may have 20 seats available in the lower house. One party in that district may have 25 candidates standing for election. If the party receives 50 per cent of the vote they fill 10 seats on the Diet. To ensure that representation is equal among the blocs the numbers of available seats may change. Normally an election would see six to 30 members returned to the house.



**Source 1.3.4** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe places a red rosette on the name of his Liberal Democratic Party's winning candidate during ballot counting in the 2012 general elections.

## Voting for the House of Councillors

Elections for the House of Councillors take place every three years, despite the term lasting six years. Half of the 242 seats are filled at a time.

There are three types of voting formats:

- single-seat constituencies: a direct vote for a candidate
- multi-seat constituencies: a region is assigned a certain number of representatives, normally between three and five people. The winning candidates are those who rank in the top three or five of their region
- proportional representation: normally an additional 18 members.

To stand for representation in the House of Councillors citizens must be at least 30 years old.

## Voting eligibility

Voting is open to Japanese citizens aged 18 and over. Voting in Japan is non-compulsory and voter turnout has varied significantly over the years. All elections are conducted through secret ballot.

## Political campaigning

The rules for political campaigning in Japan are very strict. Candidates are only allowed a small amount of campaign material. The election campaign only lasts for 12 days, with government stipulations allowing very little media or commercial exposure. Paid advertisements are forbidden online; however, political parties can pay for ads linking to their websites.

Under the current political system, individual candidates do not rely upon their parties for electoral support. They try to build an organisation of people who will support them. This is known in Japan as *kōenkai* (personal support groups). It involves candidates doing favours for people in their local districts or communities such as helping someone to get a good job. Candidates try to recruit the support of local business leaders, religious groups or women's groups. It is hoped that these community members will, in turn, encourage their members to vote for the candidate.



**Source 1.3.5** Japanese political parties created pamphlets and brochures using manga and mascots to promote their policies for the 10 July 2016 House of Councillors election, the first national election granting 18-year-olds the right to vote.





**Source 1.3.6** Thousands of Japanese people in front of the Diet in Tokyo, protesting against the proposed security bills that threaten their pacifist standing, 30 August 2015.

## A new self-defence bill

Recently, both houses have passed security legislation that allows the Japanese military to increase its role. It includes using the military to fight to protect allies even if Japan is not under direct threat. The Prime Minister pushed for the changes so that Japan could

deal with a changed security environment in the face of a more powerful China and an unpredictable North Korea.

The proposed changes have sparked protest from the Japanese population as they are in direct violation of Article 9 of the Constitution.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Remembering and understanding

- 1 Write down three facts, two thoughts and one question you have about Japan's system of government based on what you have learnt in the unit.
- 2 Which house has more power in Japan's government? Is this similar or different to Australia's government?
- 3 Why are elections for the House of Councillors held every three years?

#### Applying and analysing

- 4 Draw a diagram that demonstrates how members are elected to either the House of Representatives or the House of Councillors.

#### Evaluating and creating

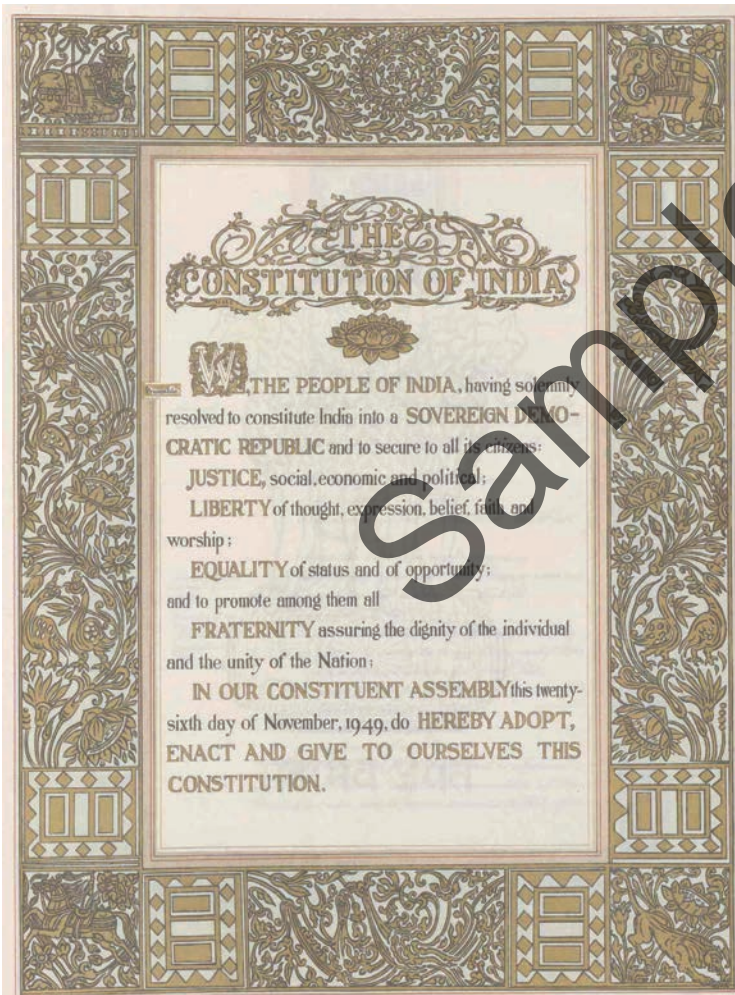
- 5 Draw a T-chart that assesses the advantages and disadvantages of having a small and short electoral campaign, as they do in Japan. Write a paragraph either recommending or opposing this type of election campaign for Australia.
- 6 Create a print ad, with an image, aimed at attracting migrants to Japan based on their style of government.

# India

India is one of the world's largest democracies with a population of over 1.3 billion people. The Indian Constitution defines it as a sovereign democratic, socialist and **secular** republic. It is a union of 28 states and seven territories.

## The Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution is the longest constitution in the world. It contains 444 articles, 12 schedules and 98 amendments, with almost 120 000 words in its English language version. Written during the fight for independence from Britain, it supports the ideals of liberty, equality and justice for all of its citizens. It came into effect on 26 January 1950.



**Source 1.4.1** The original text of the preamble before the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution of India

Unlike other democracies that are very hesitant to change their constitutions, India has changed its constitution approximately 100 times. Constitutional change is enacted through the parliament.

## Influences on the Indian Constitution

Several factors influenced the writing of the Indian Constitution:

- the aspirations that came out of the fight for independence from Britain
- the impact of British rule
- the ideas and example of Mahatma Gandhi
- other democracies from around the world.

## A federal system

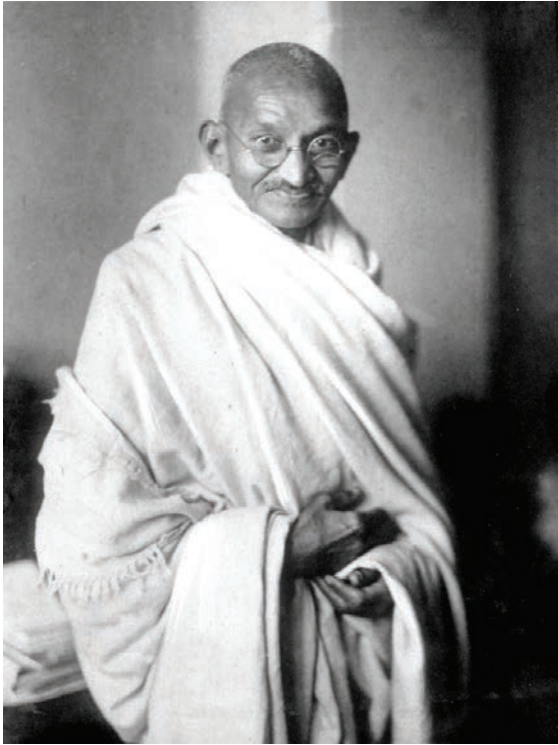
India is a federal system, meaning that the central or federal government is separate to the state governments. The federal government is referred to as the Union.

A federal system has the following features:

- two separate levels of government: national and state
- a written constitution
- division of power between federal and state governments
- a federal judiciary with the power to interpret the Constitution and the law.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIAN FEDERALISM

The Indian Union is a very strong national government, due to the circumstances of the formation of Indian democracy. After achieving independence, it was faced with the challenge of maintaining unity and creating a sense of stability. To achieve such goals, great political change was needed. The new leaders had the task of integrating the old British provinces and over 500 princely states into the new India. Significant social and economic problems also needed immediate attention. So the Constitution concentrated powers within the central government, rather than the states; it lists 97 areas where the Union has sole power. This is not a common characteristic of federalism.



**Source 1.4.2** Mahatma Gandhi was a prolific campaigner against British rule of India. His pacifist methods of protest made him famous in India and around the world.

## The Indian Parliament

Parliament is the most important organ in the Indian Government. It has responsibility in the following areas:

- legislative: the basic function of parliament is to make laws
- forming Cabinet: the Prime Minister selects the Cabinet on behalf of the parliament and the Cabinet performs the day-to-day administrative work of running the country
- controlling Cabinet: every day, parliament begins with an hour of question time. It is the most important part of the day. Ministers are **scrutinised** over proposed bills and policy initiatives on behalf of the Indian public. The Cabinet can only remain if they retain favour with the government
- finance: the Union parliament has complete financial control. Only the lower house in the Indian Parliament can introduce finance bills
- judicial: parliament can sack all judges and the President
- amending the Constitution
- electoral: they elect the President and Vice-President.

The parliament is meant to be the mirror of society.



**Source 1.4.3** Parliament House in New Delhi, India, where the Constitution of India was drafted

## Separation of powers

The Constitution provides a separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

### The executive

The executive is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (equivalent to the Cabinet). It is completely responsible to the legislative branch. The Council of Ministers is subject to intense scrutiny from the *Lok Sabha* (the lower house). The Council of Ministers is also reliant upon the legislature to pass the budget. It is completely reliant upon the support from the lower house for the success of its term in office.

### THE PRESIDENT

The President is the head of state. This is primarily a ceremonial role, modelled on the British monarch to 'advise, encourage and warn.' The role serves as a symbol of unity among the Indian people. An electoral college of about 4500 members elects the President for a five-year term. The President is eligible for re-election. The Prime Minister advises the President. The President is not a member of either house of parliament. According to the Constitution, the President represents the nation but does not rule it.

In times of crisis the President can extend the life of the *Lok Sabha* by a year.

### THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister is the official head of government, selected by the lower house. The President makes the official appointment. The role of Prime Minister is



**Source 1.4.4** Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi pose with new Cabinet ministers in November 2014.

the most powerful in the Indian Government.

The role includes:

- formulating the Council of Ministers. This body is responsible for the policy and legislation of India. The Prime Minister allocates portfolios to ministers
- presiding over Cabinet meetings
- serving as the only link between the President and the ministers
- sacking ministers
- advising the President
- deciding on all matters of foreign policy.

When the Prime Minister resigns, the entire Cabinet is dissolved.

### The legislature

The legislature is the most powerful organ in India. It is responsible for all policy direction and legislation.

India is a bicameral parliament, with the following houses:

- *Lok Sabha*, ‘the House of the People’ (the lower house)
- *Rajya Sabha*, ‘the Council of States’ (the upper house)

At the state level, citizens are represented in legislative assemblies or *Vidhan Sabha*. India is broken up into 28 states and seven territories. Most states are unicameral, but seven are bicameral.

### THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (*LOK SABHA*)

*Lok Sabha*, lower house of the Indian Parliament, represents the people. There is a maximum of 552 members who serve a five-year term.

To be elected to the *Lok Sabha*, citizens must be at least 25 years old and a registered voter. Candidates are elected by a direct vote. India is divided into electorates of roughly the same size. Each electorate has one representative. The candidate who receives majority of the vote wins.

### THE COUNCIL OF STATES (*RAJYA SABHA*)

The *Rajya Sabha*, upper house of the Indian Parliament and represents the states. It has 250 members who serve a six-year term. Every two years, one-third of the members retire.

The President nominates 12 members of the chamber. They are selected because they have skills and expertise in areas that are useful in the analysis of proposed legislation. They are knowledgeable in the arts, science and literature.

The remaining 238 members are indirectly elected by state assemblies and union territories. Representation is not equal in the upper house. Every state has representation depending on its population; the greater the population, the greater the number of seats allocated.

Voters order their choice of candidates from most preferred to least preferred candidate. To win the election candidates must win a certain percentage of the vote.

Indian citizens wishing to stand for election must be at least 30 years old and a registered voter.

### Did you know?

The Indian Constitution recognises 22 languages. Fifteen languages are spoken in the Indian Parliament. They are interpreted into both Hindi and English.

## The judiciary

India has a single integrated judicial system. The Supreme Court is the highest court in India with the High Courts operating at the state level. Below the High Courts are sessions and district courts. There are 21 High Courts for 28 states.

### THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court can override decisions made by a High Court. It deals with matters of conflict arising between the Federal Union and the states, or conflicts between two or more states. The Supreme Court also deals with matters of constitutional interpretation and the constitutional rights of citizens.

Judges from the Supreme Court are selected from the High Court and appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. They are able to work until the age of 65.



**Source 1.4.6** Voters in Kashmir queuing to vote in the 2014 elections; the military presence is due to a history of violence during elections in the region, which is also claimed by Pakistan.

## Electoral system

The Electoral Commission of India is a constitutionally recognised, autonomous authority, responsible for running free and fair elections.

The sheer size of the Indian population makes elections very difficult. In the general election of 2014, there were 814 million people eligible to vote. Under the Indian Constitution people should not have to travel more than 2 kilometres to get to a polling station, so 930 000 polling booths were required.

Voting took place over six weeks and the votes were all counted in one day. It took almost four million staff to run the election. Voter turnout for the 2014 election was higher than normal at 66 per cent. The average turnout is 55 per cent.

Due to the high proportion of illiteracy in India many parties use symbols in order to increase their appeal and convey their overall message to voters.

### Political parties

India has a multiparty system, but historically elections have been dominated by the Indian National Congress (INC). The INC held power from 1947–89, 1991–96 and again from 2004–14. After increased growth in their support base, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the 2014 national general election with a clear majority and the party's Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister. The BJP presented itself as a party that embodies the socio-religious and cultural values of the Hindu majority. BJP also supports a strong national defence and conservative social policies.

## ACTIVITIES

### Remembering and understanding

- 1 What is the most important organ of the Indian government?
- 2 Compare and contrast the roles of Prime Minister and President in India.
- 3 Describe some of the difficulties of holding an election with such a large population.

### Applying and analysing

- 4 List some of the problems that may be associated with having a very long constitution like India does.
- 5 Conduct further research on Mahatma Gandhi and write a report that explains the impact he had on India's system of government.

### Evaluating and creating

- 6 Imagine you are an electoral worker for the Electoral Commission of India. Write a letter or postcard to a friend in Australia, describing what an election in India is like.
- 7 Create a list of recommendations for the Electoral Commission of India advising them how to further assist illiterate voters during election time.

# Indonesia

Indonesia is a democratic republic comprised of 17 508 islands, founded upon the fundamental principle of *Pancasila*. *Pancasila* informs the Constitution and helps to unify the vast cultural, religious and social differences of the Indonesian population.

## Indonesia's written Constitution

Indonesia has a written constitution that guides its representative democracy. The Constitution was ratified on 17 August 1945, when Indonesia officially declared independence from the Netherlands. It is now referred to as the 1945 Constitution. It outlines the ideals of *gotong royong* (mutual assistance), *musyawarah* (deliberation of representatives) and *mufakat* (consensus); these principles have helped to underpin the day-to-day running of Indonesia.

According to the Constitution, the highest representative body at a national level is the People's Consultative Assembly (*Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat*, or MPR). It has the power to impeach the President.

**Source 1.5.1** Indonesian President Joko Widodo (right) and the newly appointed ministers (left) during the swearing-in ceremony of Cabinet members in 2014

The Constitution outlines the separation of powers between executive, judiciary and legislature. It also includes provisions concerning the powers of regional legislation, human rights and changing the Constitution.

## Changing the Constitution

In order to change the Indonesian Constitution the proposed amendment must be supported by one-third of the MPR. While the amendment is being discussed two-thirds of the parliament must attend the session. The MPR must have an absolute majority for the proposed amendment to be passed.

## The President

The Constitution vests all power in the President. The president is the head of state, the head of government and the supreme commander of the armed forces. In addition, the President is responsible for matters of domestic governance, policy-making and foreign affairs. He or she has a central role in the law-making process. Directly elected by the people, the President may be drawn from any of the official parties running for political office. The term of office is five years, with a maximum of two terms of service permitted.



The President presides over the Cabinet and appoints its ministers. Cabinet ministers are not from the MPR as they are not permitted to hold executive office. The President is not permitted to dismiss the MPR.

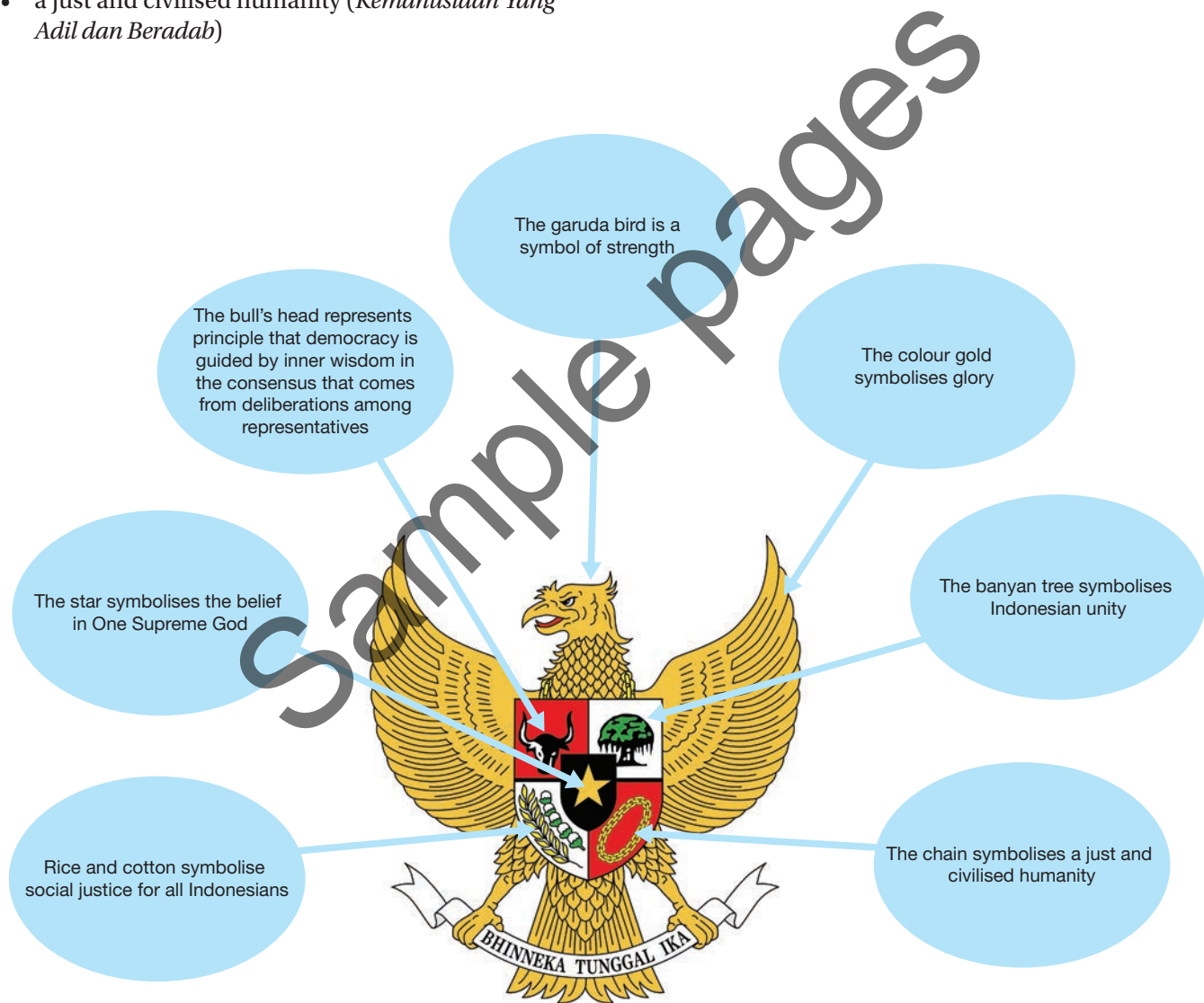
## Pancasila

Part of the Constitution includes the principle of *Pancasila*. *Pancasila* outlines the role and composition of the MPR and the executive. The President and the MPR must abide by it. *Pancasila* is based on the following precepts:

- belief in the one and only God (*Ketuhanan Yang Maha Esa*)
- a just and civilised humanity (*Kemanusiaan Yang Adil dan Beradab*)

- the unity of Indonesia (*Persatuan Indonesia*)
- democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations among representatives (*Kerakyatan Yang Dipimpin oleh Hikmat Kebijaksanaan, Dalam Permusyawaratan dan Perwakilan*)
- social justice for all the people of Indonesia (*Keadilan Sosial bagi seluruh Rakyat Indonesia*).

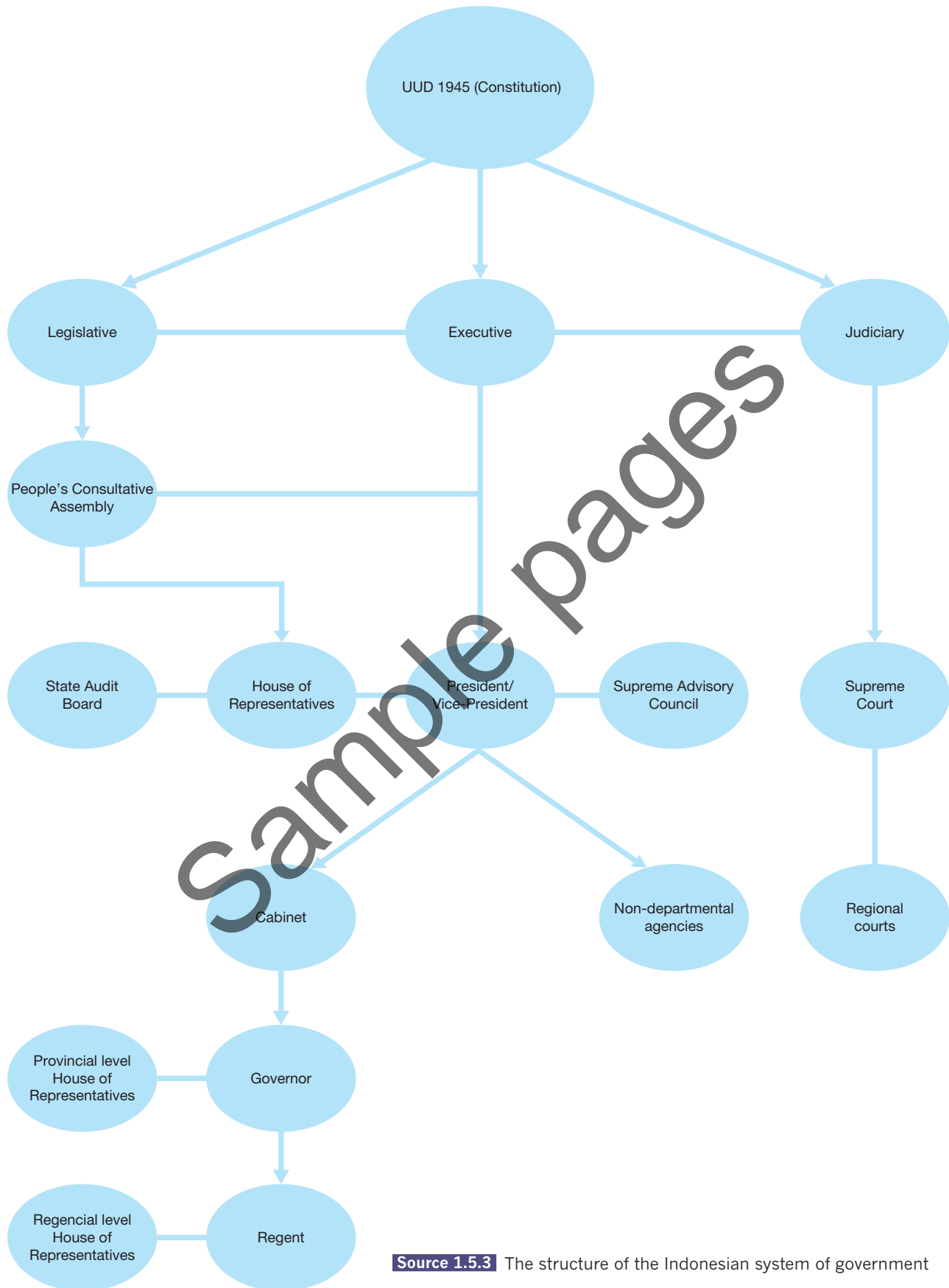
Indonesia's national emblem embodies the principles of *Pancasila*. Source 1.5.2 demonstrates the connections.



**Source 1.5.2** The meaning of the *Garuda Pancasila* emblem. The shield represents defence of the Indonesian nation, while the colours on the shield are the same as the Indonesian flag.



The structure of the Indonesian political system



Source 1.5.3 The structure of the Indonesian system of government

## Separation of powers

The Indonesian Constitution provides complete separation of the executive, legislature and judiciary (see Source 1.5.3).

### The executive

The executive in Indonesia is comprised of the President, Vice-President and Cabinet. The Cabinet is made up of high-ranking ministers who are each responsible for a specific area of government. Some of the areas that are included in the executive are religious affairs, finance, justice and human rights. The national police chief and the head of the intelligence agency are members of the executive. The ministers are responsible to the President for their decision-making.

### The legislature

Legislative power in Indonesia resides with the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). It is comprised of two houses:

- the House of Representatives (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat*, DPR) composed of representatives of political parties. There are 560 members whose role

is to reject, amend or pass a bill. They also monitor the executive branch

- the Regional Representatives Council (*Dewan Perwakilan Daerah*, DPD) made up of representatives from each province in Indonesia. There are 132 members (four to represent each of the 33 provinces). It does not have a role in the law-making process at a national level. It was created to increase regional representation. Because the DPD does not have an official law-making role, the parliament is not strictly bicameral.

In Indonesia the legislature has the responsibility of making laws and under the Constitution the President and the DPR fulfil this role. The DPD are, however, able to propose, debate and make recommendations on bills relating to regional issues.

In Indonesia most bills are passed by consensus. This means that bills are passed by all members either agreeing to support a bill or oppose it. Voting rarely takes place. The precept of *musyawarah mufakat* (consent through the deliberation of representatives) is highly valued and is the basis of law-making. By the time a bill is ready to be presented to members of parliament it has been rigorously scrutinised by a select commission.



Source 1.5.4 Inside the Indonesian House of Representatives, Jakarta

## THE PROCESS OF PASSING A LAW

The Constitution states that laws are made by 'joint agreement' between the President and the DPR. Most of the bills are introduced by the executive; they are government bills. On occasion they originate from a member of the DPR (with the support of at least 10 other members of the chamber).

Once a bill has been introduced it is passed to the DPR Commission for analysis which is conducted away from the public eye. Bills can be amended to reach agreement and can only be presented to the DPR when a full agreement is reached. Once read, the Commission normally passes the motion.

## ENACTING A BILL

When a bill has been agreed upon, the President signs it into law. If agreement cannot be reached between the President and the DPR, the bill cannot be reintroduced during the term of the DPR.

## The judiciary

The highest judicial branch in Indonesia is the Supreme Court (*Mahkamah Agung*). The President appoints the judges of the Supreme Court.

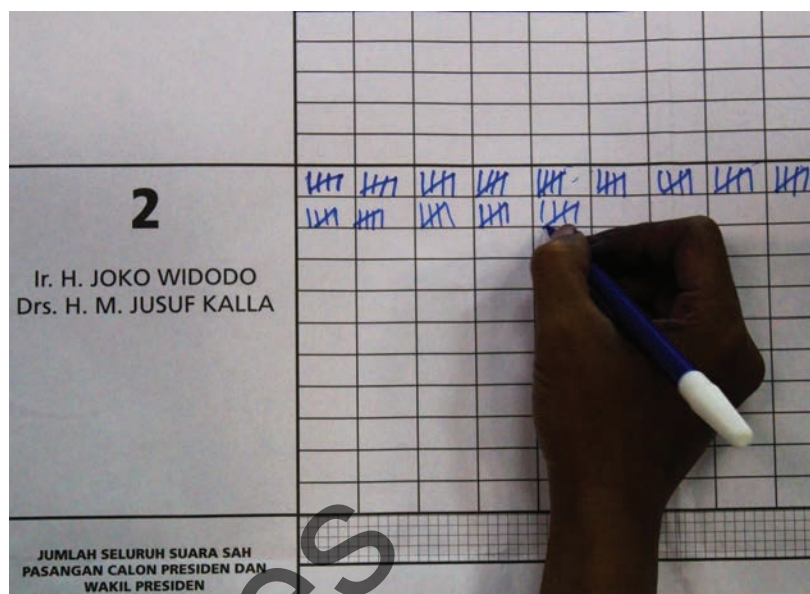
Indonesia has specific courts for specific cases. Normally cases are heard in state courts, of which there are about 250 throughout Indonesia. Appeals can be taken to the High Court, of which there are 20. From here, cases can be taken to the Supreme Court in Jakarta.

Indonesian courts do not use the principle of precedent cases; this is similar to the Dutch legal system, as Indonesia was previously a Dutch colony.

## Elections

Elections are held in Indonesia every five years. As in the Australian House of Representatives, each electorate has one seat in parliament that is contested during elections. In Indonesia each electorate returns between three and 12 members to the DPR. Each time, the number varies according to the population.

There are four representatives elected to the DPD for each province.



**Source 1.5.5** Indonesian electoral officials count ballots at a polling station during the Indonesian presidential elections, 9 July 2014.

## Organisation of elections

The elections are organised by the General Electoral Commission (KPU). Elections must be free and open, with the KPU determining which parties may run for office. This is because Indonesia has had problems with smaller coalition parties. Once their common goal of seeking election is won they can create instability within the chamber. Therefore contesting parties for an election have to be large enough that they have branches all over Indonesia.

Furthermore, each party in the MPR must have at least 30 per cent female candidates.

## Voting

Voting in Indonesia is not compulsory. Indonesian citizens need to register to vote and can vote from the age of 17. If a citizen marries prior to turning 17, they are entitled to vote. The system of proportional representation is used to determine the outcome.

It is estimated that in a population of approximately 237.56 million, the number of eligible voters is 187 977 268. The KPU has set up around 550 000 polling stations to enable people to vote. Voter turnout was 93 per cent in 1999, 84 per cent in 2004, 71 per cent in 2009 and 75 per cent in 2014.

Presidential and vice-presidential candidates must be nominated by a party or a coalition of parties. The two run as a pair. The parties that nominate the candidates must have won 25 per cent of the overall vote or have



**Source 1.5.6** Voters in Indonesia; temporary indelible ink is used when Indonesians vote, so they cannot vote more than once.

won at least 20 per cent of the seats in the DPR. To be successful they need 50 per cent of the overall vote and they also have to achieve more than 20 per cent of the votes in over half of the provinces.

In the event of this not being achieved the top two candidates contest a second election.

### Criteria to stand for election

In order to stand for election in Indonesia candidates must fulfil the following criteria:

- be an Indonesian citizen by birth
- believe in one God
- pay taxes
- be faithful to *Pancasila* and the 1945 Constitution
- be over the age of 35.

### The party system

Indonesia has a multiparty system. Australia also has a multiparty system, but is dominated by two major parties. The Indonesian political parties all vary in their policies and objectives and are often divided along religious and cultural lines.

## ACTIVITIES

### Remembering and understanding

- 1 Explain what ‘deliberations amongst representatives’ means, as appears in Indonesia’s constitution.
- 2 Find evidence to support the fact that Indonesia is a deeply religious nation.
- 3 State which house is the more powerful one in the People’s Consultative Assembly.
- 4 How does Indonesia strive for some sort of gender equality in the People’s Consultative Assembly?

### Applying and analysing

- 5 Create a comic strip that demonstrates how a bill becomes a law in Indonesia.
- 6 Use the think, pair, share approach to list and discuss some possible causes for a drop in voting numbers in Indonesia over the last 15 years.

### Evaluating and creating

- 7 Indonesia’s president is looking for someone to redesign its emblem as it has not changed in over 50 years. Create a new emblem for Indonesia that embodies their ideas and values, as outlined in their constitution.

# Comparing key features

## Differing styles of government

Despite all professing a democratic style of government, Australia, China, Japan, India and Indonesia all practise it in very different ways.

### Constitutions

A written constitution is considered to be one of the most important features of a modern democracy. Despite their common purpose of setting out the processes and procedures and the arms of government of a nation state, the constitutions of Australia, China, Japan, India and Indonesia are all very different.

### IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To understand a constitution and its basic provisions, it is important to understand the historical context that led to its creation. Australia's Constitution, enacted in 1901, reflects the peaceful transition to a federation and the influence of both the Westminster (British) and Washington (American) systems. Australia combined these to create a 'Washminster' system, in the same style as Canada.

The constitutions of India and Indonesia are the result of periods of instability and turmoil. These nations emerged from civil war and the fight for independence. India's national government was designed to have significant powers, with its constitution listing 97 areas where it exercises sole power.

The Japanese Constitution was written in the wake of World War II, with pressure from the Allied nations to ensure that Japan would never be able to provoke war again. The inclusion of Article 9—the 'no-war' clause—was a strong political statement to indicate Japan's willingness to rebuild a nation committed to peace.

### ATTITUDES TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Japan and Australia demonstrate the most conservative attitudes towards constitutional amendment. This is reflected in the difficulty in enacting changes and also the limited number of times alteration has occurred. This differs to India where the amendment process is simpler and amendments occur more frequently.

### Value of separation of power

The separation of powers—the executive, legislature and judiciary—is a key feature of a democracy. It avoids the exercise of arbitrary power and prevents politicians and those in positions of authority from

becoming corrupt. Australia, Japan, India and Indonesia all include provisions for the separation of powers, but these provisions vary to some degree in practice. China, however, does not adhere to such a principle. The Communist Party has committees in operation throughout all levels of government preventing independent activity by these bodies.

### THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE

Australia and Japan are constitutional monarchies with unelected heads of state. The power of the Queen and the Emperor are symbolic only, with real power vested in parliament and the legislature. The Republic of India has the President serving a largely symbolic role, whereas in Indonesia the President has a much more powerful role.

### IMPORTANT ROLE OF PARLIAMENT AND THE LEGISLATURE

Parliament and the legislature are the supreme organs for formulating laws and policies, in all the nations studied except China. Parliament is valued because it is considered to be the representation of the people's will. India calls it 'the mirror of the people'. There is often a slight overlap between the executive and the legislative branches. This occurs in Indonesia as the President and DPR negotiate laws.

## Electoral systems

The population and diversity of the nation influence the electoral system. Many democracies have at least two, if not three, tiers of government which all require elections (local, state and national). Each democracy has an electoral commission to ensure elections are fairly and legally conducted (see Source 1.6.1). Often populations are divided into electorates to ensure an equal and fair distribution of votes.

### Voting methods

A combination of majoritarian and preferential voting is often used to determine the outcome of elections. Majoritarian voting involves one vote for a preferred candidate who must win a majority of votes to be elected to a seat. Preferential voting involves voting for candidates in order of preference. Proportional voting occurs in multi-seat constituencies, where several parties may win seats based on the proportion of votes they receive. It is believed that preferential and proportional methods of voting provide a more accurate picture of who the preferred candidates are.

## Political parties

A multiparty system is necessary to ensure that democracies are representative of the people. Apart from China, which has only one political party, other democracies ensure that there is a multiparty system.

Indonesia has very strict regulations about the parties that can stand for election due to its dislike of small coalitions wielding too much power. Australia only has two dominant political parties that contest elections. Indonesia and Japan have a broader representation of parties, with India slowly catching up.

Democratic features	Australia	Japan	Indonesia	India	China
<b>Type of democracy</b>	Constitutional monarchy	Constitutional monarchy	Republic	Republic	Republic
<b>President/ Prime Minister</b>	Prime Minister	Both	President	Both	President
<b>Bicameral legislature</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Federal government</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Written constitution</b>	Yes 1 January 1901	Yes 3 May 1947	Yes 17 August 1945	Yes 26 January 1950	Yes 4 December 1982
<b>Separation of powers</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Type of party system</b>	2 dominant political parties	Multiparty system	Multiparty system	Multiparty system	One-party system
<b>Voting</b>	Compulsory	Non-compulsory	Non-compulsory	Non-compulsory	Non-compulsory
<b>Respect for rule of law</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Independent judiciary</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Free elections</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Number of eligible voters</b>	16 405 465	103 962 785	187 977 268	834 101 479	18 782 991
<b>(actual vote)</b>	(15 338 686)	(54 735 787)	(139 573 927)	(553 801 801)	(12 448 302)
<b>Voter turnout</b>	93.23%	52.66%	75.11%	66.4%	66.95%
<b>Minimum voting age</b>	18	20	17 (earlier if married)	18	18

**Source 1.6.1** A comparison of some of the major democratic systems of government in the Asia-Pacific region

## ACTIVITIES

### Remembering and understanding

- 1 List all the features of China's structure of government that do not adhere to the traditional ideas and values of democracy.

### Applying and analysing

- 2 Conduct further research and then prepare a flow chart that demonstrates the steps required to change the constitution in either Australia, China, Japan, India or Indonesia.

- 3 Use a mind map to explore the ways that war and a fight for independence can impact on a nation's ideals, values and the writing of their constitution.

### Evaluating and creating

- 4 Create a constitution for your classroom or school. Think about the values and ideals that are important to the school community. Also consider the 'separation of powers' between staff and students.
- 6 Write an opinion piece for a newspaper about whether Australian students understand enough about the importance of democracy.

# Inquiry tasks

## Comparing different systems

Compare the systems of government that are used in Australia, China, Japan, India and Indonesia. Analyse the information provided in this chapter to help you complete this task. Focus on similarities in government structures, processes or democratic ideals that are shared by two or more nations. List your findings under the following headings:

- separation of powers
- structure of parliament
- executive power
- court system
- constitutional change.

Make sure that you remember to identify the relevant nations involved in each comparison that you make.

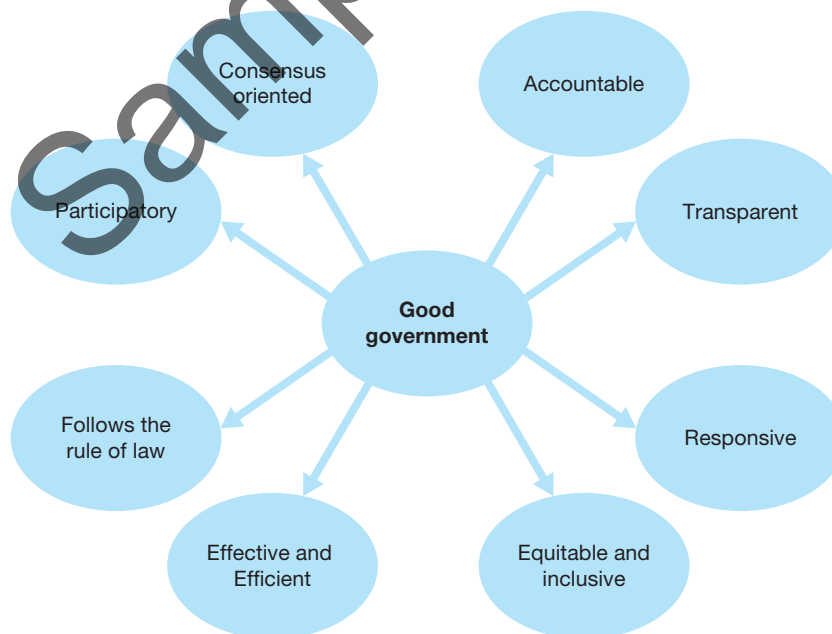
## Unique differences

Distinguish between the features and values of Australia's system of government and one other system of government in the Asian region. You might like to select from the case studies presented in this chapter on China, Japan, India and Indonesia.

No two government systems are exactly alike, but can you identify what it is that makes these two systems distinctly different from one another? Describe the unique differences in a series of paragraphs. Undertake some additional research on the internet or in your school library to locate recent examples of these features or values in action within each system studied.

## Think, pair, share

Prepare for a think, pair, share activity by judging, on your own, the democratic nature (or otherwise) of each system of government that you have studied in this chapter. Rank the five case study nations from 'most democratic' to 'least democratic' and consider the evidence that you might provide to support your decisions. Once your list is complete, share your work with another student. As a pair, compare your rankings and be prepared to justify your choices to one another. Next, broaden the discussion by sharing your ideas with another pair of students. At the end of this process, consider whether any member of your group is willing to change their ranking based on the arguments put forward during the discussions.



**Source 1.7.1** Good government is dependent on the existence of a range of democratic characteristics.

## Design your own government

Imagine that a new sovereign state has just been created somewhere on earth. Its citizens have expressed a desire to join together to create the 'most democratic country in the world'. Design a new system of government that will help to fulfil the grand vision of this fledgling nation and its people. Think carefully about how this system will be constructed and what makes 'good government'. Some ideas are provided in Source 1.7.1 opposite. Pay particular attention to how your system of government will ensure key democratic ideals such as the:

- separation of powers
- rule of law
- rights of citizens
- political and legal rights.

Produce a large diagram that sets out your ideas about the legislative, executive and judicial features of the system. Annotate your diagram with information about the democratic processes and procedures that will operate within the system, with respect to issues such as constitutional change, elections and voting, and the rights of citizens.

## GLOSSARY

**amendment** alteration or change for example, to a constitution

**bicameral** a government with two houses of parliament

**constitution** a written set of principles and laws that describes a government's powers and duties

**constitutional monarchy** a system of government in which the head of state is a monarch whose power is limited by a constitution

**doctrine** a set of principles or beliefs

**ideology** the system of beliefs, ideas and symbols of a large group or movement

**legislation** laws passed by a government; enacting a bill into a law

**motion** formal proposal for an action or decision

**municipality** an area of administration with a local government that reports to the Chinese Government, with a slightly higher level of autonomy than a province (China); a local area of administration (Japan)

**nominate** propose (a person) for a duty or office

**presumption of innocence** presumption that a person is not guilty until the charge has been proved beyond reasonable doubt; the imposed burden on the prosecution of proving the charge

**propaganda** the intentional dissemination or spreading of a doctrine

**province** an area of administration with a local government that reports to the Chinese Government

**ratify** adopt or approve, for example legislation

**recruit** enlist new members

**referendum** a vote of the electorate on measures proposed or passed by a legislative body for approval or rejection; in Australia, a vote by Australian electors on a proposed change to the Constitution by the Commonwealth Parliament that must be approved by a majority

**scrutinised** monitored or reviewed critically

**secular** of or relating to the world rather than religion

**socialist** believing the means of production should be owned by the people as a whole, rather than individual ownership

**unicameral** government with one house of parliament