



# Teacher Study Guide





## 'The Key to your House' Study Guide: Explanatory Notes

The Key to Your House is an engaging thirteen part documentary series that opens the door to the Parliament of Western Australia. All episodes explore the different facets of the home of our state's democracy and provide accessible entry points for student reflection, discussion and project work.

Each episode can be applied to numerous units within the Western Australian mandated **Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum** spanning **Civics and Citizenship, History** and **Geography** streams from the following two-year bands: **Years 5/6, 7/8** and **9/10**. To assist as a quick reference point for you to map to the curriculum, specific unit descriptors are suggested at the beginning of each individual study guide, although these are not prescriptive.

**Teaching Tips:** These study guides are most effective when used in conjunction with the TGT Cooperative Learning model. Prior to watching these episodes divide your class into teams of four with a designated scribe and distribute one Student Activity Sheet per group.

Ensure each group has a variety of academic levels to optimise equitable participation. To encourage active viewing, direct your students to collectively find the answers within each episode. Reinforce acquired knowledge by running a class quiz between each team at the conclusion of each episode.

A focus question and/or further enquiry based learning task can be found at the end of each set of questions to assist in further exploration of the episode's main themes.

To find out more on teaching and learning of Civics and Citizenship, visit our

[\*\*Professional Learning page\*\*](#) and enrol in one of our sessions.





# Episode 1 - Frequently Asked Questions

This episode is linked to the following **Year 5/6 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit:**

**The key institutions of Australia's democratic system of government based on the Westminster system, including the monarchy, Parliaments and courts.**

The student activity sheet, entitled *The Clues to Your House* is a fun task to be completed following the viewing of the episode. Each question is preceded by a clue to encourage interaction, reflection and discussion.

Below is the answer sheet.

1. *Like birds of a feather let's work together.* Write down the name of the bird emblem of Western Australia?  
**Black Swan**
2. *It's on our state flag and the floor of the foyer, here is a question that's bound to annoy you.* What are the four different resources used to make up the swan on the floor of the Forrest Foyer? **Wood, Mother of Pearl, Iron Ore and Banded Iron stone**
3. *One roars in the jungle, whilst the other's not real, but both of these statues have got their appeal.* England and Scotland are represented by the statues of which two animals? **Lion and Unicorn**
4. *It begins with a 'W' and ends in an 'R' located in England this place is quite far.* Which Parliament gave these as a gift to Western Australia about eighty years ago? **The Westminster Parliament**
5. *Its starts with an 'F' and ends in a 'T' this word can describe way more than one tree.* Who was the first Premier of Western Australia in 1890? **Sir John Forrest**
6. *Add fourteen hundred and ten and four hundred and twenty two, when you add all these together the answer will be true.* When did the first Legislative Council sit in Western Australia? **1832**
7. *The sergeant gives his orders when the soldiers are all standing, if you get this question right you all will be outstanding.* What is the name for the rules that Parliament must follow? **Standing Orders**
8. *It starts with a 'C' and ends with an 'S' with two 'M's in the middle let's take a guess.* The Legislative Assembly is based upon Westminster's House of? **Commons**







## Episode 1 - Frequently Asked Questions

9. *You have a 50% chance of getting this answer right. On what side of the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly does the government sit?* **The right**
10. *He leads from the front in this position and often expresses his opposition. Who sits directly opposite the Premier?* **Leader of the Opposition**
11. *Why, how and who are the questions they ask, so what is the role of this kind of task. What is the role of the opposition?* **To hold the government to account**
12. *The answer's as clear as the nose on your face, it rhymes with the words: pace, race and space. What is the symbol of the authority of the Speaker?* **The mace**
13. *Umpires make sure that teams all play fair, but what of the Speaker who sits in the chair? What is the role of the Speaker in the house?* **Maintain order**
14. *They protect the speaker, so that nobody harms, they are referred to as the 'Sergeant-at-\_\_\_s'. What is the term for the person that carries the mace?* **The Sergeant-at-Arms**
15. *Black in colour and shaped like a rod, it's bound to get the royal nod. What is the symbol of the Legislative Council and whose authority does it symbolise?* **The Black Rod, the Queen**
16. *A car without a steering wheel would quickly lose control, the Speaker in the lower house plays a similar role. What is the role of the President in the Legislative Council?* **Maintain order**

### Further enquiry

Book a free tour for your class to the Parliament of Western Australia [HERE.](#)





## Episode 2 - Community Participation

This episode is linked to the following **Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit:**

How citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups and direct action & the following **Year 9/10 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit:** The safeguards that protect Australia's democratic system and society, including shared values and the right to dissent within the bounds of the law

Below is the answer sheet.

1. Apart from voting at an election, name three other ways that people can have their say. **Petitions, lobbying local members, submissions to committees, questions in Parliament and protests and rallies.**
2. What was one of the reasons that the two original houses of Parliament were moved to the top of St Georges Terrace? **Children would throw rocks at members as they moved between the two houses during the ceremonial opening of Parliament.**
3. What significant event occurred in 1933? **WA Voted to break away from Australia and return to being an independent colony.**
4. What stopped the WA Government from secession (breaking away from the other states and territories)? **The Commonwealth Parliament and British Parliament refused to let Western Australia secede.**
5. Provide an example of when a Western Australian Government had to withdraw a planned policy after protests from the public. **The plan to reduce the Solar Panel Rebate.**
6. What is meant by the term grievances? **The opportunity for members to raise in Parliament issues affecting someone within their electorate.**
7. Why were some members of the community protesting against the extension of the Roe Highway (Roe 8)? **Concerns that the Beelihar wetlands may be degraded.**
8. What other issue is shown where people have protested against the government. **The Shark Cull policy.**

### Focus question:

Whole Class discussion: If a government reverses a policy decision after community opposition, is this a sign of weakness or a demonstration of the government listening to the people's concerns?





## Episode 3 - Parliamentary Process

This episode is linked to the following Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit:

How laws are made in Australia through Parliaments (statutory law)

Below is the answer sheet.

1. Where is the bulk of the time spent by members of Parliament? **In their electoral offices or driving/flying around their electorates.**
2. Why do some people have a negative view of Parliament and its members? **The media coverage of question time often shows conflict.**
3. Why is there beginning to be a breakdown between politicians and traditional reporters? **The emergence of social media.**
4. Why did the 'Hoon Law' come into being? **Widespread community concern about dangerous driving.**
5. What is the first reading of the bill refer to? **The member asking the house permission to present a bill.**
6. If a bill passes through the lower house where must it then be sent for consideration? **The upper house.**
7. Why do the leaders in the lower house stand so far apart? **Traditionally, members would wear swords into the house and by keeping them more than two sword lengths apart would assist in preventing injury if a fight broke out.**
8. Provide an example where both sides have come together as one in support of an issue? **The Apology to Unmarried Mothers Motion and the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal People Bill.**

### Further Learning:

To gain a deeper understanding of Parliamentary Process, download the 'Hoon' Bill role-play exercise for your class [HERE](#).





## Episode 4 - Key People in Parliament

This episode is linked to the following Year 5/6 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: **The key institutions of Australia's democratic system of government based on the Westminster system, including the monarchy, Parliaments and courts** and the following Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: **How laws are made in Australia through Parliaments (statutory law)**

Below is the answer sheet.

1. Who are the two most important people in the Parliament of Western Australia? **The President in the upper house and the Speaker in the lower house.**
2. What is the name of the first female President in Western Australia's Parliament? **Hon. Kate Doust.**
3. What is the role of the Clerk in Parliament? **To ensure that all proposed laws are constitutionally valid (follow correct legal process) before being presented to the Governor for Royal Assent.**
4. What supports does Parliamentary Services provide? **Building and ground maintenance, IT, Human Resources, Library, Education and Hansard.**
5. What is the role of a party whip? **To ensure all members are informed and are in the house when a vote is being called.**
6. What is the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms in the Parliament of Western Australia? **Protecting the authority of the Speaker, principal research officer for the Procedure and Privileges Committee and responsible for removing unruly people from the public gallery.**
7. What is the role of a Hansard Reporter? **To record what has been said in Parliament by the members.**

### Further Enquiry:

Download fact sheet here on Hansard Reporters [HERE](#).







## Episode 5 - Typical sitting day

This episode is linked to the following Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit:

How laws are made in Australia through Parliaments (statutory law)

Below is the answer sheet.

1. Why do members have party room meetings on Tuesday mornings during sitting weeks? **So they can obtain all the details of what they will be dealing with throughout the sitting week.**
2. What is the role of Committees? **To complete research tasks that the Parliament requires them to perform.**
3. What is the difference between a standing committee and a select committee? **Standing Committees are permanent and can cover a variety of issues and Select Committees run for a limited time and cover one specific issue.**
4. Why are public submissions and witnesses important for the committee process? **To provide members with greater knowledge from the public and experts relating to a specific issue.**
5. Who introduces the President in the Legislative Council at the beginning of a sitting day?  
**The Usher of the Black Rod.**
6. Who leads the Speaker into the Legislative Assembly at the beginning of a sitting day?  
**The Sergeant-at-Arms.**
7. On what days does Parliament meet during a sitting week? **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.**
8. What does the term 'consideration in detail' mean? **This is when the minister and a few of their advisors are required to answer questions from members about the details of proposed laws that they would like the Parliament to pass.**
9. What is a quorum? **A minimum of 1/3 of members must be in the chamber at any given time when Parliament is sitting.**

### Further Enquiry:

Divide students into groups of five and direct them to enquire into a topic of interest that effects the class, school or community. Once they have researched the topic they can present their findings to the whole class.







## Episode 6 -

# A Day in the life of a Member of Parliament

This episode is linked to the following **Year 5 Civics and Citizenship Stream Unit**: The roles and responsibilities of electors (e.g. enrolling to vote, being informed) and representatives (e.g. representing their electorate's interests, participating in the Parliamentary process) in Australia's democracy and to the following **Year 8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit**: How citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups and direct action.

Below is the answer sheet.

1. What is the role of a Parliamentary secretary? **To assist a government minister in the portfolio (area/s) they are responsible for.**
2. According to Hon. Mia Davies, Member for the Central Wheatbelt, what are some of the concerns that regional Western Australians discuss with her in her electorate office? **Mobile phone coverage, hospitals and education.**
3. According to Chris Tallentire, Member for Thornlie, what are some of the concerns people discuss with him in his electorate office? **Town planning and train line extensions.**
4. What are the advantages for country members by having Parliament sitting in three-day periods? **The opportunity to return home to meet with members of their electoral district.**
5. What time does Parliament generally finish on a Tuesday of a sitting week? **10pm.**
6. Apart from the 22 weeks of the year that members are in Parliament during sitting weeks, where else is most of their time spent? **In their electorates.**

## Further Enquiry:

Whole class discussion- What are some of the personal challenges faced by members in balancing their responsibilities across work and family?





## Episode 7 - Parliamentary Firsts

This episode is linked to the following **Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and what it means to be Australian** and the **Year 9/10 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: The safeguards that protect Australia's democratic system and society, including shared values and the right to dissent within the bounds of the law,** and the **Year 5/6 History Stream Unit: Experiences of Australia's democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children.**

Below is the answer sheet.

1. Who was the first women elected to Parliament anywhere in Australia in 1921? **Edith Cowan**
2. What Western Australian Education institution was named in her honour? **Edith Cowan University**
3. Which Western Australian member was the first women to represent the labour movement in Parliament anywhere in the world? **May Holman**
4. Who was the first premier of Western Australia in 1890? **Sir John Forrest**
5. The Parliament of Western Australia had the first women Premier anywhere in Australia, what is her name? **Dr Carmen Lawrence**
6. Who was the first women to serve as a Minister in any Australian government in 1947?  
**Dame Florence Cardell Oliver**
7. What bill did she introduce in 1941? **A bill to abolish the death penalty, which was unsuccessful. The death penalty was only abolished in Western Australia in 1984.**
8. Who was the first Aboriginal woman to be elected to any Parliament in Australia? **Carol Martin**
9. Who was the first Aboriginal man to be elected to a lower house in an Australian Parliament and become a Government Minister? **The late Ernie Bridge.**
10. Who was the first openly lesbian Member of Parliament in Australia? **Giz Watson.**
11. Who was the first Member of Parliament in Australia to me married in a same sex wedding ceremony?  
**Stephen Dawson.**

### Further Learning:

Visit the POWA website and locate the biographical register and research one of the members featured in this episode **HERE.**





## Episode 8 - Women in Parliament

This episode is linked to the following **Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and what it means to be Australian** and the **Year 9/10 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: The safeguards that protect Australia's democratic system and society, including shared values and the right to dissent within the bounds of the law,** and the **Year 5/6 History Stream Unit: Experiences of Australia's democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants, women and children**

Below is the answer sheet.

1. When did non-Aboriginal women receive the right to vote in Western Australia? **1899**
2. When did Aboriginal women receive the right to vote in Western Australia? **1962**
3. How many years did it take before a woman was elected into Parliament after winning the right to vote? **Twenty-two years (1921)**
4. How old was Edith Cowan when elected into the Parliament of Western Australia? **Sixty years old.**
5. How did other members of Parliament treat her when she gave her first speech? **She was heckled and interrupted with sexist remarks.**
6. Why did cartoons of the day depict her with a broom and apron? **A common social attitude at the time was that women did not belong in Parliament.**
7. What were some of the social issues Carol Martin, Australia's first Aboriginal woman in Parliament have to confront growing up? **Being deemed a non-citizen of Australia and being removed from her family.**
8. What are Carmen Lawrence's (the first woman to be elected as premier within Australia) memories of her time in Parliament? **That there was more of a focus on her domestic situation and family rather than her skills as an academic and Member of Parliament.**

### Further Enquiry:

Visit this [site](#) to explore issues surrounding the 1967 referendum.





## Episode 9 - Parliament at War

This episode is linked to the following **Year 9/10 History Stream Unit: The impact of World War II, with a particular emphasis on the Australian home front, including the changing roles of women and use of wartime government controls**

Below is the answer sheet.

1. Why does the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly refer to Albany as an ANZAC town? **Because in November 1914, Albany was the last Australian port that many soldiers sailed from to go and fight in the first World War.**
2. How many members of Parliament in Western Australia served in the First and Second World Wars? **122.**
3. How many current members of Parliament saw active service? **3.**
4. Who was the former premier who was also the longest serving Member of Parliament (1933 -1977) to have seen active service? **John Tonkin**
5. What significant announcement did the Premier the Hon. John Scaddan announce in Parliament in 1914? **That Western Australia was joining the First World War.**
6. When did Western Australians become involved in the Second World War? **1939.**
7. What important positions did Sir James Mitchell hold and what prominent landmark near Parliament House is named after him? **Premier of Western Australia and later, Lieutenant Governor during the Second World War. The Mitchell Freeway.**
8. During the Second World War, why was Government House relocated to the Kalamunda Hotel? **Fear of enemy invasion.**
9. What tragic event off the coast of Western Australia in 1941 brought the reality of war to our state? **The sinking of the HMAS Sydney, where all 645 crew died.**
10. What is the name of the town in our state's North West which was bombed in 1942 contributing to at least eighty-eight deaths? **Broome.**

### Further Enquiry:

Why is having a stable government so important during times of war?







## Episode 10 - History of the building and gardens

This episode is linked to the following **Year 5/6 History Stream Units**: The patterns of colonial development and settlement and how this impacted upon the environment (e.g. introduced species) and the daily lives of the different inhabitants & The economic, social and political impact of one significant development or event on a colony and the potential outcomes created by 'what if....?' scenarios.

1. What discovery in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie in the 1890's led to the construction of the current Parliament house in 1904? **Gold**
2. Why do you think people referred to the colony of Western Australia as the Cinderella colony?  
**Before the gold boom, it was seen as a poor relation to the other colonies.**
3. Apart from the building of the current Parliament house, what other projects were also being considered by Parliament during the gold boom? **The upgrade of the Fremantle Harbour and the construction of a water pipeline to Kalgoorlie.**
4. Why did Premier Sir John Forrest push for the new Parliament house to be built at the top of St Georges Terrace? **He believed the building should have a sweeping view over the city and South Perth.**
5. Why was the original grand design for Parliament House never completed? **The funding provided by the government was inadequate.**
6. After the first stage of completion in 1904, when was the final stage finished? **1964**
7. What event in 1954 is said to have spurred the completion of the second stage of the building?  
**The visit of the Queen, who had to enter through the tradesman's entrance.**
8. What is one of the main issues in maintaining a building that is over 100 hundred years old such as Parliament House? **Because the building is heritage listed, permission needs to be gained before much of the maintenance work can begin.**
9. What structures was used as the colony's first administrative building on Garden Island in 1829? **A tent.**





## Episode 11 - Aboriginal Art Collection

This episode is linked to the following **Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and what it means to be Australian** and the **Year 7/8 History Stream Unit: The importance of conserving the remains of the ancient past, including the heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples** and the **Year 7/8 Geography Stream unit: The spiritual, cultural and aesthetic value of landscapes and landforms for people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.**

1. How did the Parliament of Western Australia come to have the largest collection of local Aboriginal art out of any Parliament in Australia? **To mark the centenary of Parliament House in 2004, an extensive collection of Aboriginal art was both purchased and borrowed.**
2. What themes does the work 'Boodja' by local Aboriginal artist, Peter Farmer represent? **The six regions of Western Australia and the six seasons of the Nyoongar people.**
3. Why was the Aboriginal People's Room established in 2004? **To provide a constant reminder of the existence and culture of the first people of Western Australia prior to European settlement.**
4. Tjyllyungoo is the Nyoongar name for which Western Australian Aboriginal Artist? **Lance Chadd.**
5. Christopher Pease's painting, the Roundhouse depicts Aboriginal people being transported from Fremantle to Wadjemup, what is the European name for this place? **Rottneest Island**

### Further Enquiry:

Visit our online art catalogue to explore the Aboriginal art collection further [HERE](#).





## Episode 12 - General Art Collection

This episode is linked to the following Year 5/6 Geography Stream unit: **Features of environments** (e.g. climate, landforms, and vegetation) influence human activities and the built features of places .

1. In the Parliament of Western Australia, you will find many watercolour paintings by Philippa Nikulinski. What features of Western Australia do her paintings depict? **Western Australia's flora and fauna.**
2. The Strangers Bar in Parliament House contains many local paintings donated by the late art collector, Claude Hotchkin. How many paintings is it estimated that Mr. Hotchkin donated to our state's public institutions? **Two thousand.**
3. How many regions, towns and shires are represented in artwork at Parliament House?  
**Over one hundred and twenty.**
4. One of the paintings depicts the Menzies Town Hall, which was built in 1900 but did not receive its clock until December 31st 1999. What happened to the original clock? **It sunk in a ship off Fremantle in 1905.**
5. Sculptor, Pietro Porcelli was the creator of which piece of artwork that stands in the foyer?  
**The sculptured bust of Sir John Forrest, Western Australia's first premier.**

### Further Enquiry:

Visit our online art catalogue and research one of the cities, towns or regions depicted in one of the paintings [\*\*HERE.\*\*](#)





## Episode 13 - The Journey to Serve

This episode is linked to the following Year 5/6 Civics and Citizenship Stream Unit: **The roles and responsibilities of electors (e.g. enrolling to vote, being informed) and representatives (e.g. representing their electorate's interests, participating in the Parliamentary process) in Australia's democracy** and to the following Year 7/8 Civics and Citizenship Stream unit: **How citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups and direct action.**

1. How much did Members of Parliament get paid when self-government was granted in Western Australia in 1890? **Nothing**
2. Why did most Western Australians not put their name forward as candidates for the first election? **Candidates were required to pay 20-pound deposit just to get their name on the ballot.**
3. How much were members paid in 1900? **Two hundred pounds a year.**
4. What was one of the reasons that our first Premier Sir John Forrest's seat of Bunbury was never contested during his time in state Parliament? **No-one could afford to leave their job, lack of pay and the high deposit were obstacles for people considering a career in politics.**
5. What are some of the obstacles that currently face people considering a career in politics? **Lack of a home and work life balance, increased public scrutiny of members and their families and the increase in social media intruding into the lives of public figures.**
6. How much can it cost a candidate today to run a campaign in order to contest a lower house seat? **Up to \$40,000.**
7. Yaz Mubarakai, who was newly elected at the 2017 State election cites his previous employment as a reason for running for Parliament. What was his previous job and how did this assist him in deciding to run? **Mr. Mubarakai was a Post Master providing him with the opportunity to speak with many community members about their concerns.**
8. Why is the Hon Alisson Xamon a rarity among politicians? **After losing her seat in 2013 she was successfully re-elected in 2017.**
9. What were two significant things denied to Aboriginal people when Member, Josie Farrer was born in 1947? **Aboriginal people were not counted in the census and were not allowed to vote.**

