

Parliament as a Law-Making Body Teacher Support Sheet

This resource provides a framework for teachers and students to examine different forms of decision making strategies and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of how decisions are made. Use the suggested activities to facilitate student understanding and to allow students to analyse strengths and weaknesses of decision making strategies in Qld parliament as well as other parliamentary conventions.

Assumed knowledge:

- *Function of parliament as a law-making body*
- *Basic understanding of the Legislative Process in Qld*
- *Minority and Majority Government.*

Suggested Activities

These activities could be completed over a number of lessons. To assist learning outcomes for all students the tasks may be completed as an entire group, in smaller groups or individually.

Ater completing the introductory activity, teachers can choose to work through one or all of the remaining activities.

Ways of Making Decisions

In this activity students explore different ways people make decisions, and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of each process. Students will be introduced to different forms of decision making.

Present a question to students that will have a good split of opinion, the [Maths Vs English resource](#) can be shared electronically and has been designed to scaffold this activity. Alternatively, add your own question to the [Ways of Making Decisions template](#) before sharing the document electronically for students to complete.

Think. Pair. Share.

1. Have the students individually decide on their response to the question, then compare their decision with a partner.
2. Assign a decision making strategy to medium sized groups, works best with a minimum group size of 5. Have students attempt to make their group decision using the assigned strategy.
3. Students can then use the Venn diagram provided to explore and record the strengths and weaknesses of their assigned strategy.

This could also be completed as a whole class activity, or groups could work through all the different strategies to compare processes.

The Ways of Making Decisions resource is designed to be shared electronically. However should you need to print, remember to select the decision making strategy you want students to use before printing.



DURATION

1 to 2 lessons



LEVEL

Years 5 to 12

Discussion Point:

In the Queensland Parliament, all questions are decided by Members of Parliament voting, so the majority decides the result.



The Strengths and Weaknesses of Parliament as a Law-Making Body

As a class, discuss and identify the principles of representative and responsible government that underpin our Constitutions and how parliamentary conventions support these principles.

Download the [Strengths and Weaknesses of Parliament as a Law-Making Body resource](#) and share with students through your preferred LMS or via email.

Ask students to answer the following questions using the information recorded on the Venn diagrams from the previous activity. This activity can be completed as a class, in small groups or individually.

1. State which 3 parliamentary procedures have the most strengths? Discuss the implications of this on law making in Queensland.
2. State which 3 parliamentary procedures have the most weaknesses? Discuss the implications of this on law making in Queensland.
3. Analyse one parliamentary convention and propose ways that weaknesses could be improved or solved.

External Legislative Systems

1. Ask students to examine the strengths and weaknesses of Australian Federal Parliament.
 - Consider the differing legislative powers of federal and state parliaments.
 - Compare your findings on federal and state parliaments. You may choose to express your findings in written or graphic form.
2. Ask students to consider different legislative systems around the world and pick one to research based on the following factors:
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of the political system?
 - Are the political rights of people living under the political system upheld under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)?