

Representation and forming government

1. Create a parliamentary quiz

Devise a quiz about representation and forming government. Write a list of ten questions and answers. For example, you could ask questions like 'To stay in power, the government needs the support of how many members in the House of Representatives?' Find a partner and take it in turns to answer each other's questions.



2. How do members of parliament represent Australians?

Look at the sample of an MP's diary in *Get Parliament*. Describe how each of the appointments involves representation.



3. Create a political party

Political parties are groups of people who share similar ideas about how to govern the country. As a class, brainstorm a list of important issues facing Australia today. Individually, rank them in order of importance and then compare your list with others in the class. Form a political party with those who shared similar rankings or ideas.

Create a name, logo and slogan that tells people about your party and what you represent. For inspiration, check out the party logos on the PEO website:
www.tinyurl.com/Images-Parliament

4. Investigate the role of one government minister

Write a report that includes:

1. The name of the minister
2. The portfolio for which they are responsible
3. The name and role of the shadow minister
4. Recent issues or events relating to the portfolio.

For a list of ministers and shadow ministers, follow this link on the Australian Parliament House website:
www.tinyurl.com/APH-Members
and select 'Ministry List' and 'Shadow Ministry'.

To find out more about the role of ministers and shadow ministers, check this PEO fact sheet:
www.tinyurl.com/FS-Ministers

Use recent news articles or ministerial speeches to find out about issues relating to the minister's portfolio. You can find ministerial speeches by using the search function at:
www.aph.gov.au

5. Explore the role of the opposition as the alternative government

The opposition is the largest party (or coalition) that is not in government. The opposition wants voters to see it as the alternative government. How does it fulfil this role? Use recent news articles to provide examples of the work of the opposition.

To find out more about the role of the opposition, check this link on the Australian Parliament House website:
www.tinyurl.com/RepsInfo19

6. Balance of power

In the Senate, crossbench senators often hold 'the balance of power'. Create a presentation to explain the balance of power and how it can affect the work of the government.

To find out more about crossbench senators, check out these links on the PEO and Australian Parliament House websites:

PEO fact sheet – Independents
www.tinyurl.com/FS-Independent

Senate Brief – The Role of the Senate
www.tinyurl.com/SenBrief10

7. Representation

Write a 250–500 word essay or hold a debate about this statement:

Representation is the most important work of Parliament.

To find out more, check this Infosheet on the Australian Parliament House website:

The work of a Member of Parliament
www.tinyurl.com/Infosheet15

8. Crossing the floor

Imagine you are a member of parliament deciding if you should support your party in voting on a controversial issue. What are the advantages or disadvantages of crossing the floor? Draw up a chart listing these.

To find out more about crossing the floor, check these links on the PEO and Australian Parliament House websites:

PEO fact sheet – Crossing the floor
www.tinyurl.com/FS-CrossFloor

Parliamentary Library – Crossing the floor in the Federal Parliament 1950 – August 2004
www.tinyurl.com/APHlib-Crossingfloor

THE SENATE CHAMBER

