

ANSWERS — WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

1. Constitution → C: The basic framework for Australia's federal system.
2. Parliament → E: The national institution that makes and changes federal laws.
3. State → D: One of six parts of the federation with its own government.
4. Referendum → A: A vote on a proposed change to the Australian Constitution.
5. Law → B: A rule recognised and applied in the legal system.

ANSWERS — CONSTITUTION FILL IN THE BLANKS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

Blank 1: Constitution

Blank 2: rules

Blank 3: Australia

Blank 4: Parliament

Blank 5: states

Blank 6: government

Blank 7: referendum

Blank 8: voters

The Constitution sets the government framework and distributes powers; ordinary laws cover many specific matters.

ANSWERS — CONSTITUTION OR ORDINARY LAW?

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1. The Commonwealth framework includes a Senate and a House of Representatives. → Constitution
2. A fictional Act sets standards for a federal service. → Law made by Parliament
3. The Commonwealth framework sets rules for altering the Constitution. → Constitution
4. A fictional Act regulates a particular import under federal powers. → Law made by Parliament
5. The Commonwealth framework describes executive power. → Constitution
6. A fictional Act sets a fee for a federal service. → Law made by Parliament
7. The Commonwealth framework provides for the High Court. → Constitution
8. A fictional Act sets requirements for a national program. → Law made by Parliament

ANSWERS — CAN WE JUST CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION?

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Printed order numbers: 4, 1, 3, 6, 2, 5.

Ordered pathway: Proposed change → Parliamentary process → Referendum → Australians vote → Double-majority test → Change passes or does not pass

Normal two-House process and special one-House section 128 pathway exist. Successful alterations proceed to Royal Assent; the diagram is introductory.

ANSWERS — THE DOUBLE MAJORITY

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YES states: 4 of 6.

National 54% YES is more than half.

State requirement is met: four YES states.

PASS: both general requirements are met.

National approval alone does not show majority approval in enough states.

Territory votes count in the national total, not as states. A state is YES only when more than half its voters vote YES. Some section 128 changes also need approval in each affected state; these general examples do not involve that extra rule.