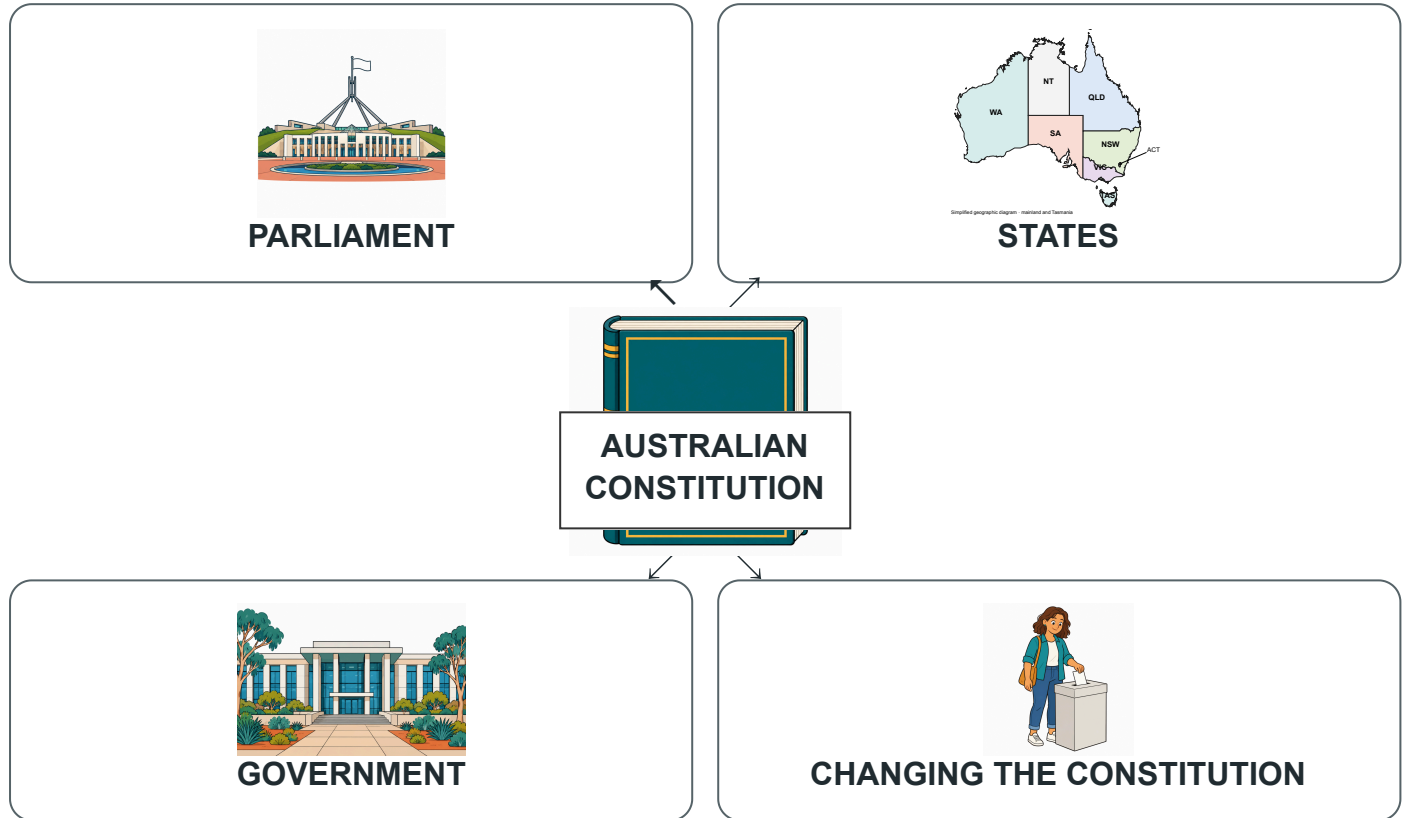


WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Australia's Constitution contains important rules about how Australia's system of government works.



Write the matching definition letter in each box.

1. Constitution

2. Parliament

3. State

4. Referendum

5. Law

A. A vote on a proposed change to the Australian Constitution.

B. A rule recognised and applied in the legal system.

C. The basic framework for Australia's federal system.

D. One of six parts of the federation with its own government.

E. The national institution that makes and changes federal laws.

AUSTRALIA'S CONSTITUTION

Name: _____ Date: _____



Use each word once. Write the missing words in the numbered spaces.

Constitution · states · Australia · referendum · Parliament · voters · government · rules

The Australian (1) _____ sets out important (2) _____ for how (3) _____ is governed. It describes the powers of the federal (4) _____ and how law-making power is shared with the (5) _____. It also describes roles in executive (6) _____. A proposed change to its text must go to a (7) _____, where (8) _____ decide whether to approve it. The Constitution is a framework, not a collection of every Australian law.

Explain the difference

Why is the Constitution different from a list of all laws?

CONSTITUTION OR ORDINARY LAW?

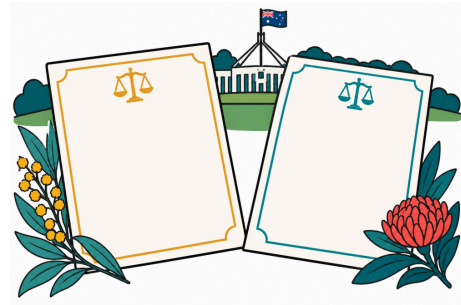
Name: _____ Date: _____

Classify each broad fictional example. The Constitution sets the Commonwealth framework. Ordinary Acts are made under legislative powers.

CONSTITUTION



LAW MADE BY PARLIAMENT



Place the cards from page 2

Or write the card numbers in each box.

These are introductory examples, not a task in interpreting actual constitutional law.

CONSTITUTION OR LAW — CARDS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cut along the dashed outlines, or copy card numbers.



1. The Commonwealth framework includes a Senate and a House of Representatives.



2. A fictional Act sets standards for a federal service.



3. The Commonwealth framework sets rules for altering the Constitution.



4. A fictional Act regulates a particular import under federal powers.



5. The Commonwealth framework describes executive power.



6. A fictional Act sets a fee for a federal service.



7. The Commonwealth framework provides for the High Court.



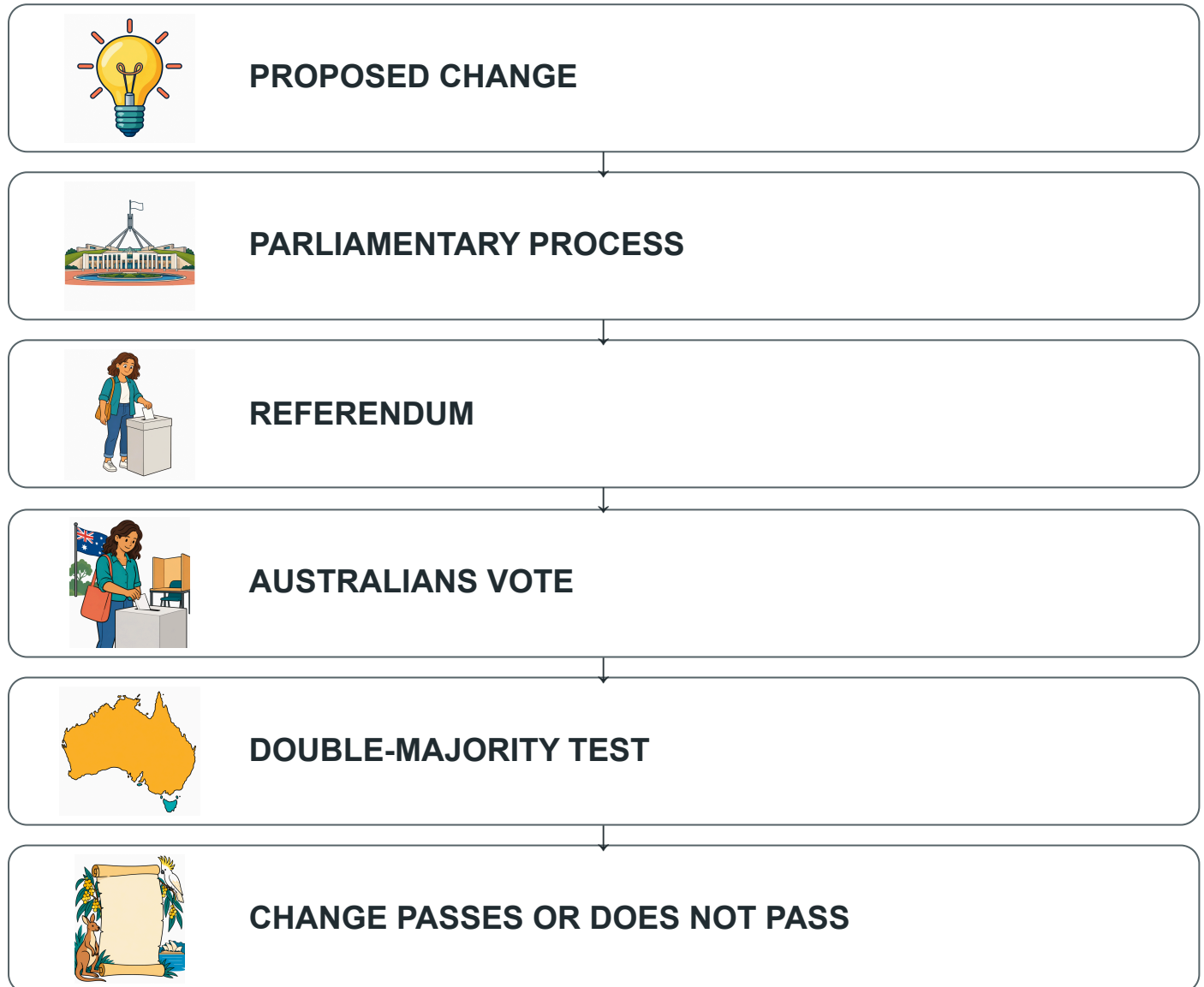
8. A fictional Act sets requirements for a national program.

Explain one choice

HOW CAN AUSTRALIA CHANGE ITS CONSTITUTION?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A proposed alteration follows section 128 of the Constitution. Voters decide at a referendum under that process.



Number these 1–6: _____ Australians vote; _____ proposed change; _____ referendum; _____ outcome; _____ parliamentary process; _____ double-majority test.

Introductory pathway: Parliament normally passes the proposal through both Houses; section 128 also provides a special one-House pathway. A successful alteration proceeds to Royal Assent. These stages do not cover every procedural detail.

CAN THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A constitutional referendum generally needs **both** requirements below.

1. NATIONAL MAJORITY



More than half of voters nationally vote YES.

2. MAJORITY OF STATES



A YES majority in at least **four of six states**.



Six states:

NSW · VIC · QLD · SA · WA · TAS

ACT and NT: national count

Fictional classroom result

NSW YES	VIC YES	QLD YES
SA YES	WA NO	TAS NO

National: 54% YES

YES states: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

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.

Explain why a national majority alone is not enough.