

ANSWERS — CAN WE JUST CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

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 — ELECTION OR REFERENDUM?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

1. Choose a person to represent a federal electorate. → Election
2. Vote on a proposed alteration to the Constitution. → Referendum
3. Candidates compete for a seat in the House. → Election
4. Write Yes or No on a constitutional-change question. → Referendum
5. Choose senators to represent a state. → Election
6. The result is checked against the double-majority rule. → Referendum
7. Voters choose their parliamentary representatives. → Election
8. Approve or reject a fictional constitutional proposal. → Referendum
9. Rank fictional House candidates with consecutive numbers. → Election
10. Vote on changing part of the Constitution's text. → Referendum

An election chooses representatives; a constitutional referendum decides a proposed change to the Constitution.

ANSWERS — THE DOUBLE MAJORITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

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.

ANSWERS — WILL THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fictional proposal 1

National vote: 54% YES

NSW 56% YES	VIC 55% YES	QLD 53% YES
SA 52% YES	WA 48% YES	TAS 45% YES

YES states: 4 / 6

National majority? YES State majority? YES

PASS

Reason: 54% > 50%; 4 ≥ 4 states.

Fictional proposal 2

National vote: 62% YES

NSW 75% YES	VIC 70% YES	QLD 49% YES
SA 48% YES	WA 47% YES	TAS 46% YES

YES states: 2 / 6

National majority? YES State majority? NO

NOT PASS

Reason: 62% > 50%; 2 < 4 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.

ANSWERS — WILL THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fictional proposal 3

National vote: 48% YES

NSW 51% YES	VIC 52% YES	QLD 53% YES
SA 54% YES	WA 30% YES	TAS 40% YES

YES states: 4 / 6

National majority? NO State majority? YES

NOT PASS

Reason: $48\% \leq 50\%$; $4 \geq 4$ states.

Fictional proposal 4

National vote: 45% YES

NSW 48% YES	VIC 47% YES	QLD 46% YES
SA 44% YES	WA 52% YES	TAS 53% YES

YES states: 2 / 6

National majority? NO State majority? NO

NOT PASS

Reason: $45\% \leq 50\%$; $2 < 4$ 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.

ANSWERS — WILL THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fictional proposal 5

National vote: 51% YES

NSW 55% YES	VIC 52% YES	QLD 54% YES
SA 45% YES	WA 57% YES	TAS 43% YES

YES states: 4 / 6

National majority? YES State majority? YES

PASS

Reason: 51% > 50%; 4 ≥ 4 states.

Fictional proposal 6

National vote: 50% YES

NSW 58% YES	VIC 55% YES	QLD 53% YES
SA 54% YES	WA 35% YES	TAS 40% YES

YES states: 4 / 6

National majority? NO State majority? YES

NOT PASS

Reason: 50% ≤ 50%; 4 ≥ 4 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.

ANSWERS — BUILD A DOUBLE MAJORITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

One passing example: national 54% YES and NSW, VIC, QLD and SA YES; WA and TAS NO.

One national failure: national 45% YES with four YES states.

One state failure: national 54% YES with only three YES states.

Both fail: national 45% YES and two YES states.

Required: a national majority (>50%) AND majority YES in at least four of six states.

Accept any construction satisfying the stated tests. Six state outcomes are not equal population weights. Exactly 50% is not a majority. 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.

ANSWERS — REFERENDUM BALLOT PRACTICE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Educator key

YES approves the invented change; NO rejects it.

Either clear choice is acceptable. There is no preferred political response.

The story uses an imaginary Constitution, not a real Australian proposal. The naming example is not an actual provision. Follow current AEC instructions for real referendum voting.