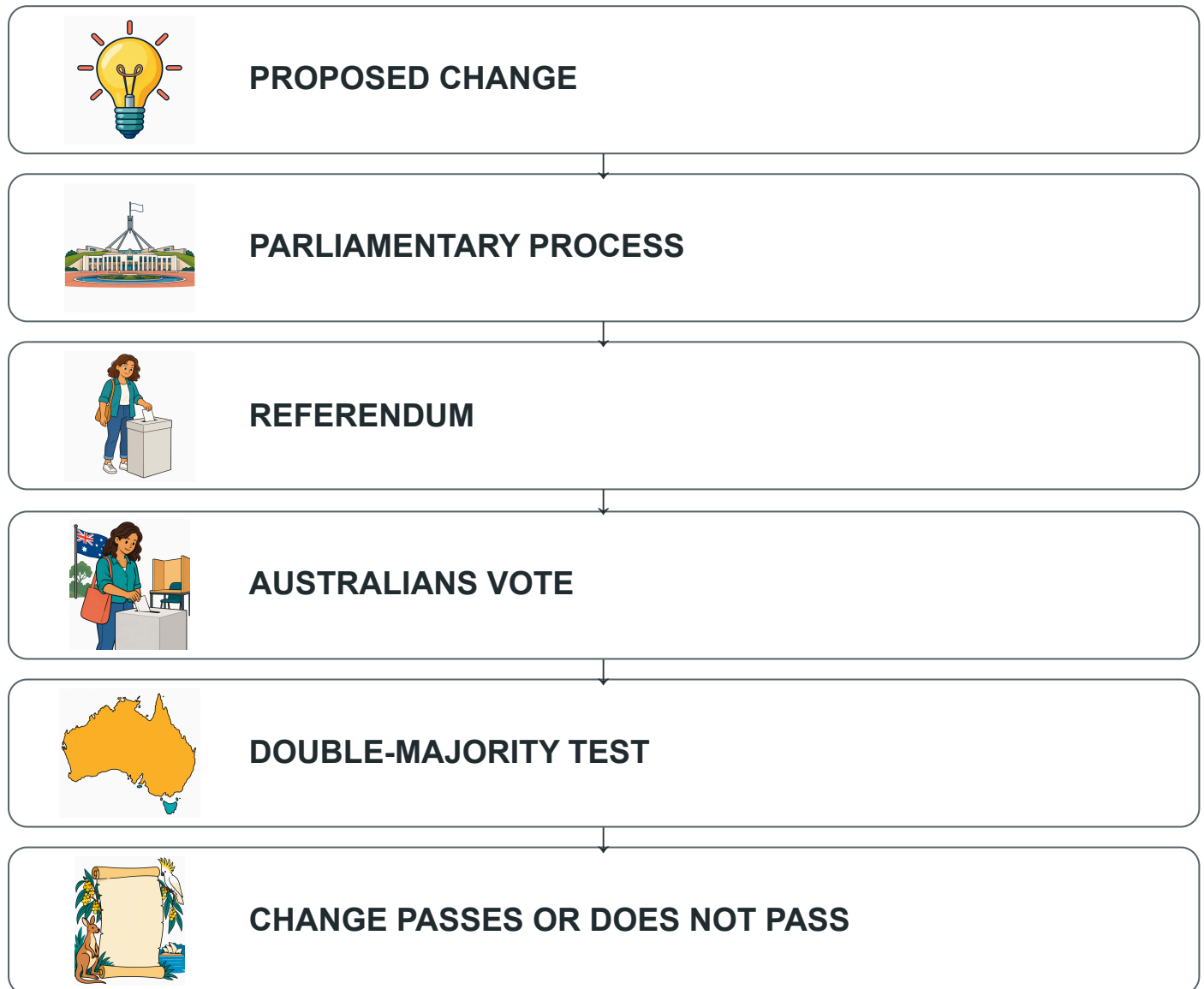


HOW CAN AUSTRALIA CHANGE ITS CONSTITUTION?

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.

ELECTION OR REFERENDUM?

Name: _____ Date: _____

ELECTION



Choose representatives.

REFERENDUM



Vote on proposed constitutional change.

Write E or R in each answer box. All situations are classroom examples.

1. Choose a person to represent a federal electorate.

2. Vote on a proposed alteration to the Constitution.

3. Candidates compete for a seat in the House.

4. Write Yes or No on a constitutional-change question.

5. Choose senators to represent a state.

What is being chosen?

ELECTION OR REFERENDUM — MORE

Name: _____ Date: _____

E = election. R = constitutional referendum.



6. The result is checked against the double-majority rule.

☐

7. Voters choose their parliamentary representatives.

☐

8. Approve or reject a fictional constitutional proposal.

☐

9. Rank fictional House candidates with consecutive numbers.

☐

10. Vote on changing part of the Constitution's text.

☐

Explain one difference

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.

WILL THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Calculate each fictional result. A YES state means more than half that state's voters voted YES.

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: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

Reason: _____

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: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

Reason: _____

PASS needs national YES > 50% AND at least four YES states.

WILL THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Calculate each fictional result. A YES state means more than half that state's voters voted YES.

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: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

Reason: _____

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: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

Reason: _____

Exactly 50% is not more than half. National percentages are weighted totals; do not average state percentages.

WILL THE REFERENDUM PASS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Calculate each fictional result. A YES state means more than half that state's voters voted YES.

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: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

Reason: _____

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: ____ / 6

National majority? ____ State majority? ____

Circle: PASS / NOT PASS

Reason: _____

Exactly 50% is not more than half. National percentages are weighted totals; do not average state percentages.

BUILD A DOUBLE MAJORITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cut out the cards and tokens on pages 2–3. Place one YES/NO token on each state and choose a national-result card.



Six states:

NSW · VIC · QLD · SA · WA · TAS

ACT and NT: national count

WOULD PASS

National YES: _____%

YES states: _____ / 6

WOULD NOT PASS

National YES: _____%

YES states: _____ / 6

What two things are needed?

These are fictional demonstrations of the two tests. State cards show majority outcomes, not equal-sized populations. Territory votes are included in the national result. No affected-state extra rule is involved.

DOUBLE MAJORITY — STATE CARDS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cut or point. Reuse the six states for each result.

 NSW	 VIC
 QLD	 SA
 WA	 TAS

National-result cards

NATIONAL 45% YES	NATIONAL 50% YES	NATIONAL 54% YES
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

DOUBLE MAJORITY — TOKENS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cut out a set, or simply write YES/NO on the state cards.



YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Try three different failures

1. National test fails.

2. State test fails.

3. Both tests fail.

REFERENDUM BALLOT PRACTICE

Name: _____ Date: _____

FICTIONAL CLASSROOM EXAMPLE



In a real constitutional referendum, AEC instructions say to clearly write **Yes** or **No** opposite the question.

OUR IMAGINARY CONSTITUTION

This classroom story invents a Constitution that gives the national meeting room the name “River Room”.

Do you approve changing that fictional constitutional name to “Community Room”?

Write YES or NO here:

Practice card only. This is not a real Australian proposal or an official ballot. Australia’s Constitution does not give Parliament House the fictional names in this story.

What does your response mean?
