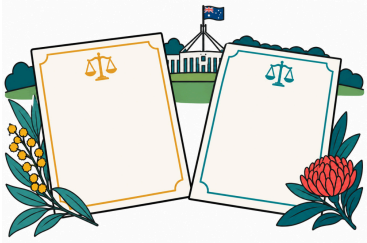
THE RULE OF LAW

Name: _____ Date: _____

The rule of law means people and government must act according to law. Decisions use laws and lawful procedures rather than personal whim.



Publicly known laws

People can find and read the laws that affect them.

Government subject to law

A minister must act within legal powers.

Courts apply law

A court decides a dispute using law and evidence.

Rights and responsibilities

People can seek legal protection and must obey laws.

Find the idea

On page 2, identify which idea each fictional situation illustrates.

Equal treatment before the law does not mean every case has an identical outcome. Facts, relevant laws and lawful procedures can lead to different decisions.

Why does knowing a law matter?

_____

_____

RULE OF LAW — FIND THE IDEA

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write the idea number (1–4).
1. Publicly known laws · 2. Government subject to law · 3. Courts apply law · 4. Rights and responsibilities

1. People can find and read the laws that affect them. ☐

2. A minister must act within legal powers. ☐

3. A court decides a dispute using law and evidence. ☐

4. People can seek legal protection and must obey laws. ☐

Compare

Two court cases involve different facts. Could the decisions differ while both follow the law? Explain.

A minister says “the law does not apply to me”. Which idea challenges this?

FAIR RULE OR RANDOM RULE?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle A or B: which better reflects known, consistent procedures? Explain your choice.

Pair 1

A. Rules are published before the sports competition.

B. Rules are invented after the organiser sees who is winning.

Better example: A / B

_____

Pair 2

A. Only the organiser's friends must follow the rule.

B. The same published procedure is used for everyone.

Better example: A / B

_____

Pair 3

A. A decision uses a published rule and explains the reason.

B. A decision uses a secret rule that nobody can read.

Better example: A / B

_____

Classroom comparisons illustrate predictability. School competition rules are not the same as Australian law, and the rule of law also involves lawful government and courts.

FAIR RULE OR RANDOM RULE?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle A or B: which better reflects known, consistent procedures? Explain your choice.

Pair 4

A. The organiser listens to both sides using a clear procedure.

B. The organiser ignores one side without hearing it.

Better example: A / B

_____

Pair 5

A. The organiser exempts themself from all rules.

B. The organiser follows the agreed rules too.

Better example: A / B

_____

Pair 6

A. A clear review process is available for a disputed decision.

B. No explanation or review is allowed.

Better example: A / B

_____

Classroom comparisons illustrate predictability. School competition rules are not the same as Australian law, and the rule of law also involves lawful government and courts.

AUSTRALIAN COURTS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Courts hear legal cases and decide them according to law. Match each function to its description.

1. Hear cases ☐

2. Resolve disputes ☐

3. Apply and interpret law ☐

4. Determine legal consequences ☐

A. Work out how the law applies in a particular case.

B. Decide remedies or penalties according to law when appropriate.

C. Listen to legal arguments and relevant evidence.

D. Decide legal disagreements brought before the court.

Court or law-making?

Circle the court task: debating a bill / deciding a legal dispute.

What information might help the court?

Australia has federal, state and territory courts with different powers. This activity does not show the full court hierarchy. Not every case uses a jury.

COURTROOM VOCABULARY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write the matching definition letter. Each page has its own A–E definitions.

1. judge ☐

2. court ☐

3. law ☐

4. evidence ☐

5. witness ☐

A. Information used in a case to help establish facts.

B. A person who gives evidence about relevant facts.

C. A judicial officer who hears and decides cases.

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

E. An institution that hears and decides legal cases.

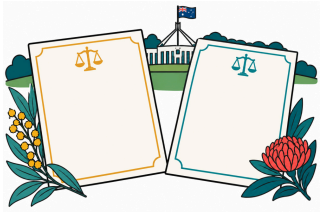
Not every Australian court case uses a jury. Appeals follow legal rules and are not simply a new vote about who should win.

Use one word in a sentence about a fictional case.

COURTROOM VOCABULARY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write the matching definition letter. Each page has its own A–E definitions.



1. lawyer ☐

2. case ☐

3. decision ☐

4. jury ☐

5. appeal ☐

A. A group of selected people who decides facts in some cases.

B. A request for a higher court to review a decision under legal rules.

C. A legally qualified person who gives legal advice or representation.

D. The court's determination of a legal matter.

E. A legal matter brought before a court.

Not every Australian court case uses a jury. Appeals follow legal rules and are not simply a new vote about who should win.

Use one word in a sentence about a fictional case.

COURT OR PARLIAMENT?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write C for Court or P for Parliament.

1. Debating a proposed new law. ☐

2. Hearing evidence in a case. ☐

3. Voting on a bill. ☐

4. Resolving a legal dispute. ☐

5. Amending proposed legislation. ☐

6. Interpreting law in a particular case. ☐

Explain one answer using the action, not just the picture.

_____

_____

COURT OR PARLIAMENT?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write C for Court or P for Parliament.

7. Agreeing on the text of a bill. ☐

8. Deciding a remedy according to law. ☐

9. Debating whether to change an Act. ☐

10. Hearing legal arguments. ☐

11. Passing legislation. ☐

12. Giving reasons for a judgement. ☐

Explain one answer using the action, not just the picture.