Parliamentary government in Victoria

• There are three levels of government in Australia

• There are two Houses in the Parliament of Victoria’s system of representative government

  • An important democratic principle is that

    one person = one vote

To help you remember these three topics, think about the numbers

3 2 1

What you will be asked to do in this program:
• Read some pictures and activity sheets while answering a few questions
• Take an online tour of Parliament House in Melbourne
• Use the internet to find the names of your Members of Parliament
### Australia’s Three Levels of Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local: Town, Borough, Shire, City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crown Representative</td>
<td>Governor-General</td>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Commonwealth/Federal</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Building Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>Premier</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>Taxes Federal Grants</td>
<td>Rates State &amp; Federal Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Funding Medicare Drug Control</td>
<td>Public Hospitals Nursing Services</td>
<td>Meals-on-Wheels Garbage Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Funding Post-Secondary</td>
<td>Funding Primary &amp; Secondary</td>
<td>Childcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Highways Railways Airports Air Safety</td>
<td>Railways and Buses Roads</td>
<td>Footpaths Street Signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs Immigration Pensions Post Arts</td>
<td>Police Fire Brigade Environment</td>
<td>Libraries Pets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three levels of government in Australia
Which level of government operates this service?

To begin your virtual tour...
PICTURE 4
The original plans for Parliament House...but something is different...?

PICTURE 5
Queen’s Hall, the Legislative Assembly chamber, the Legislative Council chamber
Many of our Parliamentary traditions come from England. Local people there would hold their public meetings on a green field in the villages called the common.

Red dye in cloth was very expensive in ancient Rome and Athens and so red colors were worn only by wealthy or powerful people. However, green coloring was not expensive.
Electorates (Lower House and Upper House) – but which is which?
The questions

- The questions are about the pictures in the Gallery...perhaps they can be displayed on the wall
- Write your answers on your handout sheets while looking at the display
- Some questions have factual answers but others depend on your interpretation or your opinion
- There are also some traditional pen-and-paper questions in the handout sheets

Read the eight pictures while you answer
Questions 1 to 8

Question 1

Look at Picture 1.

a Which level of government is responsible for the police, the public hospitals and the fire brigade?

b Which level of government is responsible for sending military forces overseas? (You might have to research elsewhere to find this answer.)

c Which level of government is responsible for the public library in the local shopping centre?

d Which level of government is responsible for your driving licence, and for car registration? Is this information provided in Picture 1 or do you depend on your own general knowledge?

Question 2

Look at Picture 2.
a Which level of government operates this service? What part of the picture gives a clue to the answer?

b Are postal services in the USA provided by government or by private companies?

Question 3
Look at Picture 3. Sometimes people cannot visit Parliament House in Melbourne for a tour. However, a virtual tour is available! Picture 3 shows the homepage of this online tour.

a What is the web address of the site where you take the virtual tour?

Question 4
Look at Picture 4, which shows the original design of Victoria’s Parliament House from more than 150 years ago.

a Which part of the design has never been completed?

b Why not?

Question 5
Look at Picture 5, which shows three rooms in Parliament House that you will visit during the online tour. One room you visit is called Queen’s Hall....after which Queen? Tick one box. (Clue: Parliament House was built more than 150 years ago.)

☐ Queen Elizabeth I
☐ Queen Elizabeth II
☐ Queen Victoria

Question 6
The Parliament in Victoria is a bicameral system; this means there are two chambers: one for the Legislative Assembly and one for the Legislative Council.
What is the color of the carpet in each chamber – green or red?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color of carpet</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Also known as</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Legislative Assembly</td>
<td>The Lower House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Legislative Council</td>
<td>The Upper House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question 7**

There are red and green carpets in many Parliaments around the world. Picture 6 shows two explanations for the choice of these colours.

Are these explanations convincing? Give each explanation a score from one to three:

1 = not convincing  
2 = perhaps  
3 = very convincing

- [ ] Explanation One
- [ ] Explanation Two

**Question 8**

Picture 7 shows an important tradition which helps to make our system of government democratic.

The picture shows *Question Time* in the Victorian Parliament. The tradition of Question Time is an important way for governments (usually Ministers) to be made accountable to the people and to explain their decisions in public.

In other words, what happens during Question Time? Tick one box:

- [ ] The Government can ask the Opposition to explain how they would run the state
- [ ] The Opposition can ask the Government to explain their decisions to the public
Question 9

Picture 8 looks at electorates. An electorate is an area of the city or the country in which the people are represented by one or more Members of Parliament (MPs).

a A Lower House electorate is called a District.

There are 88 Districts for Victoria’s Parliament. Only one Member of Parliament is elected to each District.

How many MPs in total across all of Victoria are elected to the Lower House?

b An Upper House electorate is called a Region.

There are 8 Regions in Victoria. In total, there are 40 MPs elected to the Legislative Council, the Upper House.

How many MPs are elected in any one Region?

c Look again at Picture 8. Which is bigger in area?

☐ A Lower House District
☐ An Upper House Region

These next two questions ask you to go online

Question 10

Go on a virtual tour of Parliament House.

Click on **The Parliament Building**

Click on **A Window in Time – A Virtual Tour**

Click on **The Place**

As instructed in the small window: *Roll over an area below*

As you roll the mouse over the chart, click on the different rooms shown by the map

The name of each room will appear in the window and a picture of the room will be shown next to the map

Look for the following rooms and tick each box when you find them.

- The Front Façade ⇒ *You enter the building from the Front Façade*
- The Vestibule ⇒ *The first room you go into is the Vestibule*
- Queen’s Hall ⇒ *Paintings of former Premiers hang on the wall here*
- The Legislative Assembly ⇒ *The Premier must be an MP in the Lower House*
- The Legislative Council ⇒ *The Council is called the ‘House of Review’ – why?*
- The Library ⇒ *Not just books here; what else would MPs find?*

**Question 11**

Who are your State Government Members of Parliament?

Every person in Victoria is represented by:

*One* MP in the **Legislative Assembly**, and

*Five* MPs in the **Legislative Council**.
Go online to find out information about your State Government Members of Parliament.

In the tables, write down their names and the political parties they come from. Some MPs in your electorate might be Independent Members.

Visit www.parliament.vic.gov.au

⇒ Click on Members of Parliament
⇒ Click on Victorian Parliamentary Handbook Electronic Edition
⇒ Click on Find an Electorate (top left corner)
⇒ Type in the name of your street – just the name only, not the number and not the words ‘street’ or ‘road’, or ‘avenue’ etc.
⇒ Go to the box labelled ‘Street Type’ and scroll down to click on Street or Road or Avenue etc.
⇒ Type in the name of your suburb or town
⇒ Click on Search

Use the information from the Handbook to complete the following tables.

Your MP in the Legislative Assembly represents the District of .........................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of your MP in the Lower House</th>
<th>Political Party or Independent?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Your MPs in the Legislative Council represent the Region of .........................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of your MPs in the Upper House</th>
<th>Political Party or Independent?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three posters which show Members of the Parliament of Victoria were sent to every adult education centre, public library and TAFE institute during 2007-2008.

- Find those posters
- Find your MPs (in both the Lower House and the Upper House)
Question 12  Word Search

Use the words below to fill the gaps in the clues, then find the words in the grid.

- The three levels of government in Australia are federal, _ _ _ _ _ and local government
- The major public building in Spring Street is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ House
- When a government works towards new legislation, it will introduce a new b _ _
- There are two chambers, one for the Upper House and one for the _ _ _ _ _ House
- The carpet colour in the Legislative Assembly is _ _ _ _
- There are two Houses of Parliament therefore it is called a b _ _ _ _ _ _ _ system
- In 1908, _ _ _ _ won the right to vote in Victorian state elections?
- The letters MP are an abbreviation for the word _ _ _ _ _ _ of Parliament
- The head of the government in State Parliament is called the _ _ _ _ _ _

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>E</th>
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<td>M</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WOMEN  PREMIER  PARLIAMENT  STATE  LOWER
MEMBER  GREEN  BICAMERAL  BILL
Question 13  Words, sounds and spelling

Fill in the gap with the correct choice of words.

(write / right)
The Speaker facing the Parliament has the Government on her (or his) ........ -hand side.
Many of the students want to ........ notes as they listen to the tour guide at Parliament House.

(break / brake)
The Government put the .............. on new projects when inflation became an economic problem.
The new MP wanted to .............. some of the traditions of parliament.

(steal / steel)
Someone decided to ....................... the Mace from Parliament House more than 100 years ago.
A temporary ............... barrier was used to cordon off Bourke Street for a protest outside Parliament House.

(council / counsel)
The students decided that they would write a letter about car parking to their local ........ .
A teacher had to ................... students who behaved badly during a tour of Parliament House.

(talk / torque)
Students are allowed to .............. to each other during a tour of Parliament House.
Victorian laws limit the amount of ............... a P-plater’s car is allowed to have.

(poles / polls)
Many newspapers run daily .............. in which people vote YES/NO on current issues.
If you look, you will see flags hanging on ....... in front of Parliament House.
Question 14  Two numeracy questions
Parliamentary government began in the Colony of Victoria when Parliament House opened in 1856. How many years ago did we celebrate 150 years of government in this state?

An MP in the Lower House gets 40,000 votes but the rival candidate gets only 10,000 votes. How many voters does that elected MP represent?

☐ 10,000  ☐ 40,000  ☐ 50,000

And don’t forget: an elected Member of Parliament represents all the people in the electorate, not just the voters!

Question 15  Match-up
There are different types of abbreviations; we use them a lot. For example:

*There was a lot of money spent on the promo for the new car*
*The student began to study at TAFE*

Select the correct abbreviation from List Two and write it next to the appropriate name in List One. One example is completed for you already.

**List One**
*Victoria*
*Member of Parliament*
*Government* ⇒ ⇔ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ Govt
*Freedom of Information*
*Member of the Legislative Assembly*
*Member of the Legislative Council*
*Parliament*
*Public Private Partnership*

**List Two**
MLC  Govt  MLA  Parlt
Vic  MP  Fol  PPP
Question 16

Look at the picture of the Mace, a symbol of an important democratic tradition.

The Mace has a long symbolic connection with the struggle for parliamentary government in England many hundreds of years ago. The king was very powerful but, slowly, the people began to limit his power. As time went by, some kings found it more and more difficult to control Parliament - although many kept trying. People in Parliament needed protection - especially the Speaker!

a Using this information, tick one box to show what job was done with the Mace hundreds of years ago:

- Protecting the King on the throne from the Speaker in Parliament
- Protecting the Speaker in Parliament from the King on the throne

b Read the following notice. What do you have to do to claim the $50,000 reward?
Question 17a  Word Search 1

What words fit into the gaps in these sentences? Look for them in the word search. If you need some help, check the list of words underneath the grid.

• The first room visited in the tour of Parliament is the V_______.
• Melbourne is the capital city of the state of V_______.
• The chamber in Parliament with the green carpet is the L__________ Assembly.
• Another word for the word ‘room’ where MPs attend Question Time is the ‘Ch______’.
• Red carpet can be found in the U______ House.
• Green carpet is used in the L______ House.
• The Premier must be an MP in the Lower H______.
• Another name for the Lower House is the Legislative A_______.
• Another name for the Upper House is Legislative C_______.

CHAMBER  ASSEMBLY  VICTORIA  COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE  UPPER  LOWER  VESTIBULE  HOUSE
Question 17b  Word Search 2
What words fit into the gaps in these sentences? Find those words in the word search below. If you need some assistance, look at the list of words underneath the grid.

- An MP represents an e _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
- The abbreviation for Freedom of Information is F_ _.
- Most MPs are also members of a political p_ _ _ _ _.
- An elected MP should r _ _ _ _ _ _ _ everyone in the electorate.
- You vote by placing numbers in squares on the b _ _ _ _ _ _ _ paper.
- In a conscience vote, MPs vote according to the p _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ in which they believe.
- A Public Private Partnership is called a P _ _.
- Universal suffrage is one feature of the system of government called a d _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
- You can contact the staff of your elected MP at the electorate o _ _ _ _ _ _

M   R   E   P   R   E   S   E   N   T
P   R   I   N   C   I   P   L   E   S
P   I   L   M   C   O   W   P   O   G
P   C   R   V   T   E   P   P   W   I
W   T   X   U   M   M   A   B   E   S
E   L   E   C   T   O   R   A   T   E
E   R   F   I   H   C   T   L   L   A
M   I   C   O   U   R   Y   L   L   T
P   F   S   S   E   A   B   O   Y   T
O   O   F   F   I   C   E   T   Q   V
S   I   H   J   M   Y   E   R   B   A

ELECTORATE   OFFICE   REPRESENT   DEMOCRACY   BALLOT
PARTY   PPP   FOI   PRINCIPLES
Question 18

Members of Parliament work long hours which are spread across most days of most weeks. However, an MP does not always work at Parliament House.

a  Where else do MPs work?

b  More information is available on the DVD *Inside Parliament* (2008) which was sent to every adult education centre, public library and TAFE institute during 2008.

Use the picture below to find out which DVD chapter which tells you what politicians actually do.

Answer: Chapter ________

180 Parliament of Victoria Adult Literacy & Numeracy Program
Extension Questions

Question 19

Using the three posters of Victorian MPs (sent to all libraries, schools, TAFE colleges and adult education centres in 2007-08), complete the following exercises.

a How many MPs are women?

b How many MPs are men?

c What do you think are the reasons for the different numbers?

d Investigate the website www.parliament.vic.gov.au or the book Inside the Parliament of Victoria (2007) to find the year:

• When women first got the vote in Victorian parliamentary elections
• When the first woman was elected to the Parliament of Victoria

e Elections are held every four years in November. If a Member of Parliament resigns between elections, a by-election is held. Suggest why the poster of MPs in the Lower House has more than 88 photos.

f Look at the poster which shows those Members of the Victorian Parliament who were born overseas.

• Write down the names of at least seven overseas countries in which MPs were born.

• Were any MPs were born in the country which began the European settlement of Australia more than 200 years ago?
Question 20

In the first part of this program, you looked at Picture 1 and Picture 5 which show the three levels of government in Australia and the two Houses of Parliament (the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council).

MPs in these two Houses work together to pass laws for Victoria. Read the following information and answer the questions below.

Most bills originate in the Legislative Assembly, while the Legislative Council acts as a house of review, providing the opportunity for Parliament to consider them again.

All Government Ministers are Members of Parliament and can come from either House, with the exception of the Premier, who must come from the Legislative Assembly.

Adapted from Inside the Parliament of Victoria (2007)

a What do you think is meant by the words *house of review*?

b The Premier must always be a Member of the Legislative __________

Question 21

Look for a map with grid references which shows Melbourne (including Parliament House).

a What is the grid reference of Parliament House?

b Which public transport would you use in Melbourne to get to Parliament House?
Question 22

Look at the Parliament of Victoria website:

www.parliament.vic.gov.au

› The Parliament Building
› Public Tours.

How much does a tour cost?

Question 23

Pretend that it is your job to organise a visit to your class by your MP. You prepare the agenda for this special day but, somehow, it gets mixed up on your computer!

Write the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 inside the square brackets below [ ] to show what should come first, what should happen after that, and so on.

AGENDA FOR THE VISIT OF AN MP

[ ] Concluding remarks and final thank-you to visitor and all in attendance
[ ] Students welcome the visiting MP who is introduced to the audience
[ ] Refreshments after the event, and informal conversation
[ ] MP describes the role of Parliament to the class

Question 24  This question requires some preparation!

Cut out two political cartoons from recent daily newspapers. Write a summary (just a few words) of the message given by each cartoon and then ask another student to match each summary with the appropriate cartoon.
**Question 25**
In recent years, there has been a lot of negotiation between governments about the problems of the Murray-Darling River system.

Name four governments involved in these negotiations.

**Question 26**
Look at the optical illusion below...a confused picture!

**a** Does the fork have two prongs or three prongs?

**b** Government in Australia can also be confusing. For example, which level of government is responsible for what?

Look at education. The State Government runs most of the schools and yet most of the money for schools comes from the Federal Government. Local government also gets involved in pre-school education.

- Do we have too many levels of government? Should we have two levels, not three?

- If we had only two levels, which of the present levels would we do without?
Chapter One
Introduction to parliamentary government

Chapter Two
How a bill becomes law

Chapter Three
Role of the Presiding Officers

Chapter Four
Voting in the Chamber

Chapter Five
What does an MP do?

Chapter Six
Parliamentary traditions

Chapter Seven
How voters can ‘have their say’
Chapter 1 of the DVD gives an introduction to parliamentary government in Victoria.

**Question 1**
Discuss these questions in groups before viewing Chapter 1 of the DVD:

a What is the main issue in the media that concerns you? What is your opinion about it?

b Who makes decisions about these issues? How?

c Do you know where Parliament House is in Melbourne?

d Have you ever been inside it?

e What do you think is meant by the word “House” in these names:

Parliament House

Upper House and Lower House?

**Question 2**
Answer these questions after the first viewing:

a Tick the issues the students talked about at the start of the DVD

☐ water ☐ economy ☐ women ☐ trains
☐ overseas doctors ☐ dentists ☐ hospitals ☐ TAFE
**b** Tick one:

- [ ] Victoria used to be part of Canberra
- [ ] Victoria used to be part of the Colony of New South Wales

**c** Each House of Parliament has two names. Complete them.

Legislative __________________ = ___________ House
Legislative __________________ = ___________ House

**d** What does a political party have to do to become the Government?

**e** Who becomes the Opposition?

**f** In Victoria, for how long is Parliament elected?  ________ years

---

**Question 3   Vocabulary work from watching and listening to the DVD**

**a** Before watching the DVD for a second time, place these words in the correct column, and underline the stressed syllable. The first one has been done for you. Practise pronouncing the words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>Constitution</th>
<th>Legislative</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Opposition</td>
<td>elected</td>
<td>Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two syllables</th>
<th>Three syllables</th>
<th>Four syllables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Parliament</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
Second viewing

Tick the words above as you hear them during the second viewing.

**Question 4**  Third and extra viewings: cloze exercise

Place the following words in the gaps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>four-year</th>
<th>term</th>
<th>most</th>
<th>not</th>
<th>the essential thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>election</td>
<td>seat</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>Lower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>responsibilities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

“…Parliament makes the Laws, but there is a Law which sets out ___ _____ which defines the powers and __________ of the Victorian Parliament. __________ set of rules is called the Constitution.

________ ___________ ___________ with the Victorian Parliament is that we’re a bicameral system, ___ we have a ______ House, the Legislative Assembly, and our __________ House is the Legislative Council. The Legislative Assembly is __________, and the Legislative Council is __________. The Legislative Assembly is the ______ of government. To form government, or what becomes the government, is the party, the political party, that ______ the greatest number of seats at the election.

In the Legislative Assembly, the Opposition is that group of Members or that party that has _______ reached the majority of seats at the __________. So you have the Government who’ve got the __________ number of seats … the Opposition with the __________ number of seats.

The ______ of the Parliament now is four years; ______ Members of the Assembly are elected for ________-_______ terms…”
Question 5

a Show whether these statements are true or false:

Victoria has its own Constitution

☐ True ☐ False

The party with the most seats in the Legislative Assembly forms government

☐ True ☐ False

b Put a letter in the third column to match the abbreviation with its meaning:

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of the Legislative Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>MLA</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>MLC</td>
<td>Member of the Legislative Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c A timeline

Write the following events in historical order (earliest event first):

• The Parliament of Victoria opens and work starts on the building

• The Parliament House building in Spring Street is used by the Commonwealth Parliament for 27 years

• Great Britain grants independence from the NSW colony to the colony of Victoria
Question 6  Some mathematics

The bicameral system

a  Any **bicameral** system has two Houses within its Parliament. What does the prefix **bi-** suggest?

- one
- two
- three

b  Think of two more words in which the **bi-** prefix gives the same meaning (as shown in the words ‘bicameral’, or in ‘bicycle’).

c  Match words with examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Queensland has only one House of Parliament</th>
<th>The Commonwealth, State and local governments are three separate governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Australia celebrated 200 years of European settlement a few years ago</td>
<td>A unicameral system of parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>There are three levels of government in Australia</td>
<td>A bicentenary celebration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d  **Which political party becomes the government?**

Assume that no ‘deals’ are done between political parties or independent Members

If political party M gets nine representatives elected to the Parliament, political party N has 55 representatives, political party O has 23 representatives, and there is one Independent MP, which party forms government and how big is its majority?
Question 7  Fact and opinion

At the beginning of Chapter 1 on the DVD, students describe some of the issues which they believe are important responsibilities of the State Government.

a  Cross out the one issue which is NOT mentioned.

☐ Water recycling
☐ Free public hospitals
☐ Security on the trains
☐ Punctuality of trains
☐ Study at TAFE
☐ Genetically-modified crops

b  From the other five issues, mark the two issues [1] and [2] which are most important to you.

c  Why are your two items important? Why are these issues so complex?
Chapter 2 of the DVD describes how a bill becomes a law in the Victorian Parliament.

Question 1

*Discuss* these questions after you have watched Chapter 2 at least once.

**a** What is another word for “laws” that is used here?

**b** What reasons do the students give on the DVD for having laws in society?

**c** Use these words to fill in the boxes:

- Legislative
- House
- Upper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>_________ Assembly</th>
<th>house of origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_______ House</td>
<td>Legislative Council</td>
<td>_________ of review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**d** What do you think is meant by “house of origin” and “house of review”? Discuss with a partner.
Question 2

Fill in the gaps to show the process of making a law. Then pause the DVD at the diagram to check your answer.

1. **House of ________**
2. **1st reading of the Bill**
3. **2nd reading**
4. **3rd reading**
5. **Second House**
6. **1st reading of the Bill**
7. **2nd reading**
8. **3rd reading**
9. **Governor signs**
10. **______of Parliament**
Question 3

Discuss with another student:

When the Governor arrives at Parliament House there is music in the background of this chapter. What is the song, and why did the filmmakers choose to put it in here?

Question 4

Put a letter in the shaded section to match these words to their meanings.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>bill</td>
<td>accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>debated</td>
<td>changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>passed</td>
<td>proposed law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>formulates</td>
<td>King or Queen of England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>amends</td>
<td>discussed or argued about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>British monarch</td>
<td>makes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Act of Parliament</td>
<td>Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discuss with your teacher any words that you are unsure about.

Question 5

Listen to Chapter 2 again. Use the words provided to fill in the gaps.

laws reject amends authority
passed based both been

Speaker: The very special thing about Parliament I suppose is that it is the only place where ________can be made for Victoria.

A bill is...I suppose, it’s a proposal, it’s a proposed law, and until it’s debated, and ________through the Assembly, it can’t be a law, and it can be changed.

President: The Assembly actually formulates or makes the laws or amendments to the laws. The Legislative Council reviews, ________, or can in fact
____________ legislation presented to it from the Assembly.

**President:** The Victorian Constitution highlights the fact that the Governor of Victoria is the highest __________. The Governor in fact represents the British monarch and our legal system is ______________on the Crown.

**Speaker:** For a bill to become an Act of Parliament, it must be read and debated in __________the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. When it is agreed upon by both of the Houses, it then goes to the Governor who signs it on behalf of the Queen. And once it’s signed by the Governor, it’s an Act of Parliament, or a law.

**Speaker:** Since 1856 there’s __________about 12,000 Acts of Parliament passed through the Parliament of Victoria.

**Question 6   Some mathematics**

Think about these statements:

“*Since 1856 there’ve been about 12,000 Acts of Parliament passed through the Parliament of Victoria.*”

“*Recently, Parliament celebrated its 150-year anniversary.*”

**a** If Parliament opened in 1856, in which year was the 150-year anniversary?

**b** During those 150 years, how many Acts (on average) were passed every twelve months? Tick the correct answer.

   □ 60   □ 80   □ 150
Question 7   Discussion Topic:

Read the following expression of opinion.

“Laws take ages to make and they are just a waste of time. Every person in society should have freedom to do exactly what they want”

What do you think? Give reasons and examples to support your view.
Chapter 3 describes the role of the two Presiding Officers: The Speaker and the President.

Answer the questions below after you have watched Chapter 3 at least once.

Question 1
Which Presiding Officer works in which Chamber?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber</th>
<th>Upper House or Lower House</th>
<th>Title of the Presiding Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Legislative Assembly</td>
<td>The _ _ _ _ _ House</td>
<td>The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legislative Council</td>
<td>The _ _ _ _ _ House</td>
<td>The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 2  Standing Orders
The President and The Speaker make sure that the Standing Orders are followed in sessions of Parliament.
According to the DVD, what are the Standing Orders?

Question 3  During debates in the Chamber...
According to the DVD, what does an MP have to do to be permitted to speak during a debate?

Question 4  Officers of the Parliament
The Clerks are parliamentary employees who are elected by the MPs

☐ True   or   ☐ False
Question 5  Some language practice

The following question about the role of the Presiding Officers is taken from Chapter 3 of the DVD. There are three parts to the question.

a Vocabulary

Put a letter in the third column to match each word with its meaning.

| A | Removed | It’s okay for this to happen |
| B | Allowed | Taken out of the Chamber |
| C | Committed | Insist or require |
| D | Difficult | Emotional |
| E | Role | Things the rules say you can do to force something to happen |
| F | Vote | The job you are expected to do |
| G | Demand | Not easy to do |
| H | Powers | Show what you support |
| I | Heated | Holding beliefs very strongly |

b Comprehension

• What are the titles of the two Presiding Officer positions?

• What is the final power that the Presiding Officer can use during a debate if an MP continues to contravene (break) the rules set out in the Standing Orders?

• Even when Presiding Officers are elected to Parliament as a member of a political party they are expected to be ‘neutral’ when they work as The Speaker or as The President of the House.

• What does the word ‘neutral’ mean in this sentence? Choose one:

  - [ ] Impartial
  - [ ] Uninterested
  - [ ] Absent
C Fill in the gaps by using the words from the following list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>removed</th>
<th>allowed</th>
<th>committed</th>
<th>runs</th>
<th>speak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>only</td>
<td>difficult</td>
<td>role</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ask</td>
<td>powers</td>
<td>heated</td>
<td>vote</td>
<td>removed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Speaker:** The Speaker’s ultimate authority is that I can have Members______ from the Chamber. It can be very __________sometimes. It is a house of debate. There are quite passionate issues; people hold their convictions very strongly. If you get elected to Parliament, you are a ____________person so debate can be quite willing. The ultimate authority, though, is to __________people to leave, or ___________that they leave, or have them ________________.

**President:** My role as President is to preside over the actual Chamber and to ensure that it ________ properly and in accordance with the Standing Orders in particular. I play a neutral ____________. Whilst I’m obviously a Member of one side of the House and I do have a__________, I am expected to be as neutral as I possibly can but, basically, it is to ensure that the House operates in the ____________it’s designed to do.

**President:** The Member has to attract the attention of the Presiding Officer to ________ and will be given the call from the Presiding Officer. Without that they cannot speak.

**President:** ___________the Member on their feet is entitled to speak. Of course, we know interjections take place and, generally speaking, they are___________. But if the Presiding Officer feels they are getting a little out of control, he will rein them in and prevent those interjections taking place.

**President:** In the event that debate is ____________and one Member may, for example, make an unacceptable remark about another Member or a government, I will use my ____________to discipline that particular Member. I can insist on a withdrawal of such a comment or I can actually remove the Member from the chamber.
Question 6

Put a letter in the third column to match the following four expressions (adapted from language used in the DVD) with their meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficult language used in the DVD</th>
<th>Possible meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A  To be the ultimate authority</td>
<td>To bring back under control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B  To be passionate about something</td>
<td>To make sure that you don’t favour one side or the other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C  To rein in</td>
<td>To have very strong beliefs, ideas and opinions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D  To be neutral when making a decision</td>
<td>To have the final say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 7  Some mathematics

a  There are 88 MPs in the Lower House. If \( \frac{3}{4} \) of the Members are in favour of a proposed bill, and everyone else votes against it, how many MPs oppose it?

b  If 87 MPs vote for or against a proposed bill, what were the number of votes FOR, and the number AGAINST, if it wins by a MAJORITY of one vote?

c  Assume that ten minutes were allocated to a speech about a proposed bill.

Assume that during this time there were ten interjections which each took 12 seconds and that the Presiding Officer needed six seconds to restore “Order! Order!” after each interjection!

• How much time was left for the actual speech?
• What percentage of the total time was this?
• What (decimal) fraction of the ten minutes was spent on interjections and the responses by the Presiding Officer?

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{☐ 0.5} \\
\text{☐ 0.1} \\
\text{☐ 0.3}
\end{align*}
\]
Question 8  Facts and opinion. Discuss.

Chapter 3 describes the role of the Presiding Officers.

a  How does the Presiding Officer maintain order during a debate?

b  The Presiding Officer can insist that an MP withdraws from the Chamber.

•  Do you agree with this power?
•  Do you think that this system is likely to work effectively? Why?
Chapter 4 of the DVD explains how Members of Parliament vote for or against proposals in the chamber.

Question 1

After watching Chapter 4 of the DVD, discuss these questions with another student.

a A ‘division’ is actually a v____.

b For how long do the bells ring after a division is called?

c What reasons could there be for this?

d What does it mean when the Presiding Officer declares: “All of that opinion say ‘Aye’”? 

e What does the ‘teller’ do?

Question 2

Fill in the missing words in this “opposites table”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In favour of</th>
<th>“aye”</th>
<th>Sit on the right</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____ _____ contrary</td>
<td>“ ”</td>
<td>Sit ___ ___ _________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 3

Choose the correct answer for the two questions below.

a When does a division occur?

☐ When someone disagrees with the proposed bill
☐ When there is a dispute between Members of Parliament
☐ When a Member challenges the Presiding Officer’s count of ayes and noes

b What is the main purpose of a division? Choose one.

☐ To have a tea break
☐ To get an accurate count of MPs in favour and those against
☐ To separate male and female Members in the Chamber

Question 4

As you listen to Chapter 4 again, use the words provided to fill the gaps.

decision numbers call right which
vote dispute then only
disagreement votes call left

Speaker: When the House needs to make a __________, the Chair asks “All of that opinion say ‘Aye’...”, which means yes, “…and those on the contrary say “No”.

So Members say ‘yes’ or ‘no’, depending on __________way they want to vote.

President: Any one Member of the Chamber can __________for a Division.
President: A Division is, in fact, a vote. It occurs when there is __________ in the Chamber as to whether the ‘ayes’ or the ‘noes’ have actually got the_____________. Any Member can __________ the ‘ayes’ or the ‘noes’ simply by saying, or opposing, that. As Presiding Officer, I will __________ call for a Division.... The bells will ring for three minutes. Members will have __________ three minutes to get to the Chamber to register their actual __________.

President: The actual process for the Division is that I will ______ all Members who agree to sit on my __________and those who oppose to sit on my__________. I will then appoint tellers, people from the membership on either side of the House, to actually tally the ______________ formally.

Question 5  Summary statement

Use the words below to complete the summary statement, check with your teacher, and then copy it into your notebook.

favour  vote  no  contrary  tellers

During a Division which is, in fact, a __________, the Presiding Officer asks Members in __________ of a proposal to say “aye”.

People who, on the______________, wish to vote the opposite way will say “_____”.

The ______________ take an accurate count of the votes.
Question 6  Some mathematics
Every second counts!

Members have three minutes to get back to the chamber so that they can vote when a division has been called by the Presiding Officer.

a How many seconds are there in 3 minutes? ________seconds

b If eighty-seven MPs vote and the results are: 45 ayes and 42 noes…

• How do you describe this winning margin of votes and how big is the margin?

  It is a m_ _ _ _ity of _ votes

Question 7  Beyond the chapter …
Discuss:

• What do you think is meant by the words party lines?

• Do you think that MPs will always vote according to party lines?

• Why/Why not?

• What is a conscience vote?

• Do you know of any occasion in which a conscience vote has been held? Explain.
Chapter 5 of the DVD describes the work done each day by a Member of Parliament.

Watch Chapter 5 to understand the main ideas, then:

**Question 1**
Tick the box which shows the purpose of Chapter 5 (one answer only)

- [ ] To tell people why politicians should get more pay
- [ ] To explain what politicians do
- [ ] To make people want to vote for a particular party.

**Question 2**
*Understand* these words before you listen again

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word/s</th>
<th>and their meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>electoral office</td>
<td>the local office of a politician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local issues</td>
<td>things that people are concerned about in their area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>following things through</td>
<td>finishing jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constituents</td>
<td>the people an MP (Member of Parliament) represents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliament House</td>
<td>the central place where politicians meet (see the picture on the DVD cover)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portfolio</td>
<td>an area of special responsibility for a Minister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 3

**Pronounce** these words before you listen again. Put each word in the box that shows its syllable stress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>electoral</th>
<th>issues</th>
<th>local</th>
<th>portfolio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>emails</td>
<td>concerns</td>
<td>politician</td>
<td>following</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>●</th>
<th>●</th>
<th>●</th>
<th>●</th>
<th>●</th>
<th>●</th>
<th>●</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>parliament</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 4

*Listen carefully to one of the politicians in Chapter 5,* MP, Andrea Coote, as she describes what she does in a normal day.

Make sure you understand the questions below. Answer them after you listen.

a What time does she start working? ______________________
b What does she read in the morning? _____________________

c What time does she get to her electoral office? _____________

d Does she ring people back?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

e What do people often want to talk about? Circle one:

weather / movies / local issues

f Is Parliament House close to her office?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

Question 5

Now listen again and use the words provided to fill in the gaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliament</th>
<th>electoral</th>
<th>constituents</th>
<th>portfolio</th>
<th>emails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>concerns</td>
<td>following</td>
<td>House</td>
<td>issues</td>
<td>return</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I think the best way to tell you how I work in this office is to give you some
description of a day.

First of all, I do all of my _______________ at home. I start about 7 o’clock in
the morning and I read the newspapers and I look at all of the emails and see
what the _______________ are for the day.

Then I come here. I’m usually here into my _______________ office
about quarter past eight, half past eight, and once again I look at local issues.
I’m usually _______________ things through. I’ve got a number of phone
calls to _______________ and it is really important to ring people back
and to write to people and to answer their _______________. Then I will see
______________ and they can have concerns of a whole range of things.
Then I will probably go into ________________ House because it’s only a short distance from here and many people it’s easier for them to get to Parliament ____________ than to come to this electorate office, and I will deal with some of their issues, particularly in my _________________________ areas.”

**Question 6**

*Discuss* with another student

*a* What do you think about Andrea and what she says?

*b* Tick the words that describe her manner:

- [ ] friendly
- [ ] sleepy
- [ ] angry
- [ ] unhappy
- [ ] enthusiastic
- [ ] energetic

**Question 7** **Some mathematics**

Luke Donnellan is a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Parliament of Victoria. The Legislative Assembly has 88 Members, all elected, and in addition 40 MPs are elected to the Upper House.
If the population of Victoria (2009) is slightly more than five million, approximately how many people does Luke Donnellan represent in his electorate?

☐ 50  ☐ 500  ☐ 5000  ☐ 50,000

Explain your thinking to another student.
Chapter 6 of the DVD describes some traditions of the Parliament of Victoria.

After watching Chapter 6 of the DVD, discuss these questions with another student:

Question 1  The origins of parliamentary tradition
Where do most of Victoria’s parliamentary traditions come from?

- New Zealand
- England
- USA

Question 2  Upper House and Lower House
Fill the eight gaps in the two charts with appropriate words from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>red</th>
<th>the Mace</th>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Serjeant-at-Arms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>green</td>
<td>The Speaker</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>The President</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UPPER HOUSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The British name for this House is...</th>
<th>...the House of Lords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Victorian Parliament’s name for this house is...</td>
<td>...the Legislative _____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The color of the carpet in this chamber is...</td>
<td>...____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The name of the Presiding Officer is...</td>
<td>The P ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Executive Officer is...</td>
<td>...The Usher of the Black Rod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The symbol of this Executive Officer’s authority is...</td>
<td>...The Black Rod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Question 3   Changing traditions**

This chapter describes traditions - those which are old and those which are new. Discuss your answers with other students.

**a** What new tradition is shown in Chapter 6 of the DVD?

**b** Two old traditions have been left behind. What were they?
Question 4   Some language practice

a Write a letter in the third column to match each word with its meaning.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>A house of the British Parliament whose members are chosen by the monarch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Mace</td>
<td>A suburb in London, England, where you will find the British Houses of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Lords</td>
<td>Room where the Members of Parliament meet for Question Time and to debate proposed bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Chamber</td>
<td>A long rod used as a symbol of authority protecting the independence of the Speaker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b Watch Chapter 6 again and fill in the gaps by using the words from the following box...

Lords  red  green  Mace  obvious
Westminster  history  Parliament  Chamber  Black

President: Well, the Parliament itself is modelled on the British system, the Parliament at W__________, where they have both the Commons and the House of __________ , and given our historical relationship with Britain it’s one that we have inherited.

President: The direct relationship is quite ________ when one sees the make-up of Westminster being the House of Lords, the Upper House, fitted out in _____ ...it was more of a royal colour representing the aristocracy...and the Commons in ______, representing the working man or the ordinary man.
**Speaker:** The traditions of the Serjeant-at-Arms and the Mace also go back in _______ to the bygone days of England where the Serjeant-at-Arms was actually the Speaker’s bodyguard and the _______ was his weapon to protect the Speaker and over time it’s become much more of a ceremonial role, although in today’s ________ the Serjeant-at-Arms still has the enforcement, I suppose, of the Speaker’s ruling. And if a member is asked to leave the _______ and refuses to do so, then the Serjeant-at-Arms would be the person that would escort the member from the Chamber.

**President:** An authoritative figure in the Legislative Council is the Usher, the Usher of the Black Rod. He is the counterpart to the Sergeant-at-Arms in the Assembly. He carries a __________ Rod as a symbol of his power and authority, and tradition has it, when the Parliament is actually opened, the Usher will use that Rod and bang on the door to open the chamber for parliamentarians.

**Question 5  Mathematical language**

a Match the words and meanings

[A] 10 years  A MILLENNIUM [ ]

[B] 100 years  A DECADE [ ]

[C] 1000 years  A LEAP YEAR [ ]

[D] A year of 366 days  A CENTURY [ ]

b Select the two correct words from the following list to fill in the two gaps below:

millenium  decades  leap year  centuries
In England, the new Parliament tried to become independent of the King more than six ______________ ago.

A long time ago, the Mace was a weapon to protect The Speaker. The Mace has been a symbol of authority in the Parliament of Victoria since the middle of the 1850s, which is more than 150 years ago (or, in other words, more than 15 _____________ ago).

C. The Clerks are full time employees of the Parliament. They help Parliament to follow correct procedures in day-to-day matters.

From the following list, which number means the same as the words full time?

- 0.5
- 1.0
- 0.8

D. Think about these three mathematical symbols:

= > <

Put one symbol in each bracket [ ] to change the information below into sentences which are ‘mathematically correct’.

- The number of hours of work in full time employment [ ] the number of hours in part time employment

- The number of years in a decade [ ] the number of years in a century

- A millennium [ ] 1000 years
Question 6  Facts and opinion. Discuss.

Chapter 6 finishes with The Speaker talking about the value of tradition. The Speaker says that some traditions might be important even if they seem quaint, or not relevant.

a Use your answer to Question 3 to list three or more examples of traditions mentioned in this chapter.

b What do you think about each of these traditions? Discuss your opinion with the other students.

c Discuss the following question:

• In general, is there any value in preserving traditions? Give examples from any culture to support your arguments.
Chapter 7 of the DVD discusses ways in which voters can ‘have their say’.

Watch Chapter 7 of the DVD and discuss these questions with other students:

**Question 1**

**a How long?**

In Chapter 7 of the DVD, the President of the Legislative Council tells us that parliamentary democracy in Victoria has existed for approximately...

- [ ] 50 years
- [ ] 100 years
- [ ] 150 years

**b Contact – where?**

According to Chapter 7 in the DVD, MPs want members of the public to contact them and so they invite people to approach them at the Parliament House or at the in their e.

**c The ballot paper**

In Chapter 7 of the DVD, one student describes voting as a “...a tick in the box...”

Discuss and decide: in parliamentary elections, do we vote with a tick in a box?

- [ ] YES
- [ ] NO

If NOT, what system do we use?

Question 2

**a Other ways to make contact...**
In Chapter 7 of the DVD, one student suggests three ways that voters can approach their local MPs. Tick his three suggestions below.

- [ ] Go into the office
- [ ] Send an email
- [ ] Make a phone call
- [ ] Write a letter

**b Your preference**
Discuss: which approach would you use if you wanted to consult one of your local MPs about something which is important to you, and why would you choose that way of approaching them?

Question 3   Vocabulary
Write a letter in the third column to match each expression with its meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>“…have a voice…”</th>
<th>Your local Member of Parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>“…the person who’s representing your area…”</td>
<td>To influence the future direction of government policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>“…to participate in the future…”</td>
<td>To have my say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 4  Cloze

Listen to and watch Chapter 7 of the DVD again and use the words in the box to fill in the gaps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>importance</th>
<th>relevant</th>
<th>peace</th>
<th>participate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>continues</td>
<td>freedom</td>
<td>system</td>
<td>essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>protect</td>
<td>opportunities</td>
<td>ensure</td>
<td>150 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaker: “The __________ work of Parliament and I suppose the essential __________ that I see of Parliament is that it does __________ our way of life. It passes Laws that are __________ to today to ensure that we can continue to live life with the __________ that we have, the __________ that we have, and the __________ and harmony that we enjoy in our community.

President: I hope after this you will not only know how the __________ works, but be encouraged to ______ into the future to ______ our system of parliamentary democracy __________ and serves the people as it has over the last ______ _______.”

Question 5  Some mathematics

In Chapter 7 on the DVD, one male Member of Parliament is worried that emails are not a good way to contact your local MP. The emails could be “…lost in the process…”

Let us say that there are 50,000 voters in an electorate, and that two different voters in every 100 voters in his electorate send an email to him each month of the year.

How many emails from local voters would hit the computer screen of that MP in twelve months?
Question 6  Confidence, facts and opinion

a Some people might think it is difficult to contact their local MPs. Would you feel more confident in contacting YOUR local MPs if you have been on a tour of Parliament House?

b Check the website of the Parliament of Victoria to find the following details:

www.parliament.vic.gov.au

› The Parliament Building
› Public Tours

• How frequently are public tours available?

• Do you have to book days ahead for these tours?

• When are public tours NOT available?

• What telephone number do you ring to book into a school or group public tour?

• What is a ‘virtual tour’ of Parliament House?