**AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP TEST OUTLINE**

**Part 1: Australia and its people**

1. **Our people** 
   1. Indigenous Australians:
      * First inhabitants: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
      * Australia’s Indigenous cultures are the oldest continuing cultures in the world.
      * Aboriginal people are from mainland Australia and Tasmania. They have lived here for 40000 and 60000 years.
      * Torres Strait Islander are from islands to the north of Queensland.
   2. Early days of European settlement:
      * Started when the first 11 convict ships, which became known as the ‘First Fleet’, arrived from Great Britain on 26 January 1788.
      * The first governor of the colony of New South Wales was Captain Arthur Phillip.
      * Early free settlers were from Great Britain and Ireland.
      * In1851, gold was discovered in the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria.
   3. The nation of Australia:
      * In 1901, the colonies were united into a federation of states called the Commonwealth of Australia.
      * Australia ‘s population: about 22 million people.
      * Australia’s national languages: English.
      * Over 200 languages are spoken.
2. **Australia’s states and territories:**
   1. The states (6 states) – their capitals
      * New South Wales – Sydney.
      * Victoria – Melbourne.
      * Queensland – Brisbane.
      * Western Australia – Perth.
      * South Australia – Adelaide.
      * Tasmania – Hobart.
   2. Territories - their capitals
      * Australian Capital Territory – Canberra.
      * Northern Territory – Darwin.
3. **Tradition and symbols:**
   1. Important days for Australian:
      * Australia day: On 26 January each year we celebrate Australia Day, celebrate all that is great about Australia and being Australian. It is the day that we honour history and all people who have made this nation great. It is the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet from Great Britain in 1788 to set up a convict settlement.
      * Anzac Day: is observed on 25 April each year. Anzac Day is named after the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, which landed at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I on 25 April 1915. We remember the sacrifice of all Australians who served and died in wars, conflict and peacekeeping operations.
   2. Australia’s flags: (3 official flags)
      * The Australian National Flag: blue, white and red:
      * The Australian Aboriginal Flag: black, red and yellow:
      * The Torres Strait Islander Flag: green, blue, black and white:
   3. Commonwealth Coat of Arms:
      * Commonwealth Coat of Arms is the official symbol of the Commonwealth of Australia.
      * Represents our national unity, identifies the authority and property of the Commonwealth of Australia.
   4. National flowers:
      * Golden wattle
      * It has bright green leaves and many golden yellow flower in spring.
   5. National colours: green, and gold
   6. National gemstone: the opal
   7. Australia’s national anthem: Advance Australia fair.

**Part 2: Australia’s democratic beliefs, rights and liberties:**

1. **Democratic beliefs:** 
   1. Parliament democracy:

* Australia’s system of government is a parliamentary democracy.
* Australian citizens vote for people to represent them in parliament.
* Only parliament had the power to make and change the laws.
  1. The rule of law:
* Law in Australia is to maintain a peaceful and orderly society.
* Australia rights are protected by the laws.
* Australian are equal under the law, it is called the ‘rule of law’.
  1. Living peacefully: We reject violence as a way to change a person’s mind of the law.
  2. Respect for all individuals regardless of background.
* People come to settle in Australia from countries all around the world with different cultural heritage, beliefs and traditions.
* We are free to follow and share these beliefs and traditions as long as they do not break Australian law.
* All Australians is to treat each other with respect.
* We value this mutual respect for the dignity of all people.
  1. Compassion for those in need:
* There is a spirit of ‘mateship’, which means we help and receive help from each other in times of need.
* You can also be a volunteer
* Our government also supports Australians in need through social and other services.

1. **Our freedom:**
   1. Freedom of speech and freedom of expression:
      * Say and write what they think and to discuss their ideas with others.
      * Freedom of expression allows people to express their view through art, film, music and literature.
      * However, we cannot harm others.
      * We cannot make false allegations, encourage others to break the law or damage another person’s reputation.
      * We are free to meet with people in public or private places for social or political discussion.
      * We can criticize the government, peacefully protest against government decisions and campaign.
      * Newspapers, TV and radio have the same right.
   2. Freedom of association:
      * Free to join any legal organization, and decide not to join.
      * Gather with others to protest against a government action or an organization.
   3. Freedom of religion and secular government:
      * Government in Australia is secular, no official national religion.
      * Free to follow any religion they choose, as long as it does not break the laws.
      * Free to not follow a religion.
2. **Our equalities:**
   1. Equality of men and women:
      * Man and women have equal right.
      * Both have the right to make their own independent choices about their personal matters.
      * Both have equal access to education and employment.
      * Both can vote and stand for parliament.
      * Both can join the Australian Defence Force and the police.
      * Both are treated equally in courts of laws.
   2. Equality of opportunity:
      * We believe in a fair society, where anyone deserves a ‘fair go’.
      * Someone can be successful based on their hard work and talents.

**Part 3: Government and the law in Australia:**

1. **Voting:**
   1. Citizen aged 18 years or over must enroll to vote at federal elections. By voting, you get to have your say in who represents you in parliament.
   2. Voting is compulsory in Australian federal and state or territories elections.
   3. Votes are by secret ballot, so you are free and safe to vote for any candidate.
2. **Raising matters with your representatives:** 
   1. You have right to raise matters that concern you with your elected representatives
   2. When it is considering new laws or changes to existing laws, your view can be taken into consideration.
3. **Government establishment:**
   1. Federation:

* Before 1901, Australia was made up of 6 separate self-governing British colonies.
* On 1 January 1901, the colonies were united into a federation of states called the Commonwealth of Australia.
  1. The Australian Constitution:
* The legal document set out the basic rules for the government of Australia.
* On 1 January 1901, the Constitution took into effect.
* It can only be changed by a special vote called a referendum.
  1. Power of government:
* Legislative power: Parliament has the power to make and change the laws.
* Executive power: is the power to put the law into practice. This power includes Australian Government ministers and the Governor-General.
  1. Judicial power:
* Judges have the power to interpret and apply the law.
* They are independent of parliament and government.

1. **Australia’s Head of State:**
   1. Queen of Australia, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
   2. The Governor-General acts as the Queen’s representative.
   3. Australia is a constitutional monarchy.
   4. Role of the Governor-General:

* Signs all Bills passed by the Australian Parliament into law (Royal Assent).
* Signs regulations.
* Performs ceremonial duties.
* Approves the appointment of the Australian Government and its ministers, federal judges and other officials.

1. **Australia’s leaders:**
   1. Governor-General: The representative of the Head of State in Australia.
   2. Governor: The representative of the Head of State in each Australian state.
   3. Prime Minister: The leader of the Australian Government.
   4. Premier: The leader of a state government.
   5. Chief Minister: The leader of a territory government.
   6. Government Minister: A member of parliament chosen by a government leader to be responsible for an area of government.
   7. Member of Parliament (MP): A elected representative of the Australian people in the Australian Parliament.
   8. Senator: An elected representative of a state or territory in the Australian Parliament.
   9. Mayor or Shire President: The leader of a local council.
   10. Councilor: An elected member of a local council.
2. **How is Australia governed?**
   1. The Australian Government is also called the Federal Government or the Commonwealth Government.
   2. The Australian Parliament has two houses:

* The House of Representatives: Lower House, the People’s House.
  + - * Australia is divided into federal electorates, where Australian vote for one person to represent them in the House of Representatives.
      * The important work of the House of Representatives is to consider, debate and vote on proposals for new laws or changes to the laws, and to discuss matters of national importance.
* The senate: Upper House, the House of Review or the State’s House.
  + - * The states are equally represented in the Senate.
      * Both mainland territories elect two representatives each,
      * Senators consider, debate and vote on new laws or changes to the laws, also discuss matters of national importance.
  1. The members of both House are directly elected by the Australian people at federal elections.
  2. State and territory government:
* Each state has its own constitution and its own parliament.
* The leader of a state government is the Premier and the leader of a territory government is the Chief Minister.
  1. Local Government:
     + The states and Northern Territory are divided into local government areas.
     + Each area has its own local council.
     + Councils are responsible for planning and delivering services to their local community.

1. **What do the three levels of government do?**
   1. Australian Government:
      * taxation
      * national economic management
      * immigration and citizenship
      * employment
      * postal services and the communications network
      * social security (pensions and family support)
      * defence
      * trade
      * airports and air safety
      * foreign affairs (relations with other countries).
   2. State and territory government:
      * hospitals and health services
      * schools
      * railways
      * roads and road traffic control
      * forestry
      * police
      * public transport
   3. Local governments
      * street signs, traffic controls
      * local roads, footpaths, bridges
      * drains
      * parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, sports grounds
      * camping grounds and caravan parks
      * food and meat inspection
      * noise and animal control
      * rubbish collection
      * local libraries, halls and community centres
      * certain child-care and aged-care issues
      * building permits
      * social planning
      * local environmental issues.
2. **Role of political parties:**
   1. A political party is a group of people who share similar ideas about how a country should be governed.
   2. Most members of parliament belong to political parties, some do not belong to any political party, they are called independent.
   3. You are free to join a political party if you choose.
3. **How Australian Government formed?**
   1. After an election, the political party or coalition of parties with the majority of members in the House of Representatives forms the Australian Government. The leader of this party becomes the leader of the Australian Government, the Prime Minister.
   2. The party or coalition of parties with the second largest number of members in the House of Representatives is known as the Opposition. Its leader is called the Leader of the Opposition.
   3. The Prime Minister chooses MPs or Senators to become ministers. Ministers are responsible for important areas of government (called portfolios), such as employment, Indigenous affairs or the Treasury.
4. **How are laws made?**
   1. A member of the Australian Parliament proposes a new law or a change to the law. This proposal is called a Bill.
   2. The House of Representatives and the Senate consider, debate and vote on whether they agree with the Bill.
   3. If the majority of members in each House of Parliament agrees to the Bill, it goes to the Governor-General.
   4. When the Governor-General signs the Bill, it becomes a law. This is called Royal Assent.
   5. State and territory parliaments make their own laws in a similar way.
5. **How are laws administered?**
   1. The court:
      * Interpreting and applying the law, independent of the government.
      * Their decision bases on the evidence before them.
   2. Judges and magistrates:
      * The highest authority in the court.
      * Independent and no one can tell them what to decide.
   3. Juries:
      * A court will use jury in some cases.
      * They are a group of ordinary people randomly chosen from the general population.
      * The judge explains the law to the jury and if the jury find a person guilty, the judge decides the penalty.
   4. The police:
      * To maintain peace and order in the community, to protect life and property.
      * To arrest and bring someone that has broken the court of law.
      * You can report crimes and seek assistance from your local police.
   5. Criminal offences in Australia:
      * Some of the most serious crime include murder, assault, sexual assault, and violence against people or property, armed robbery, having sexual relations with children, illegal drugs and fraud.
      * Carrying weapons such as knives or guns is against the law.
   6. Traffic offences:
      * Road and traffic rules are controlled by state and territory governments. People can be fined large amounts of money or even sent to prison for breaking traffic laws. To drive a car in Australia, you must have a local driver’s licence and the car must be registered.