DEMOCRACITY

Nominations module

AEC
Australian Electoral Commission

Nominations

Approximate play time

10 minutes

This module explains how to nominate to become a candidate.

Students are invited into a virtual divisional office where they explore eligibility requirements for nominees in the House of Representatives or Senate. Various scenarios are presented for students to learn about the nomination process including how to nominate, eligibility requirements and how the candidates appear on the ballot paper.

The 'Ballot draw' module outlines the transparent process to determine the order of names on the House of Representatives ballot paper using the process of 'double randomisation'.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the first module, students will:

- Recall the eligibility requirements to nominate to be a candidate for Parliament.
- Recognise the role of the AEC in the nomination process.

By the end of the second module, students will:

- Outline the process of double randomisation and its key role in the nominations process.
- Examine how the eligibility criteria of candidates interact with the broader democratic process.

Suggested extension knowledge and understanding activities

- Use this Nominations quiz questions to test your student's knowledge. Download the Nominations quiz answers.

Suggested extension application activities:

UNIT OF WORK: **Pathways to representation**

The linked unit includes these suggested learning activities:

- Students consider what requirements a class representative should have. If you wish to run for class representative, what makes you a good candidate?
- Conduct a class election nomination eligibility activity and ballot draw.

Supplementary links with AEC resources

Links to other AEC education and information resources:

- Get Voting resources: [Step 1 - get started planning and nomination](#)
- Formal AEC procedures: [Conducting the ballot draw](#)
- Get Voting resource: [Instructions for candidates – campaign](#)
- More information for nominating as a candidate: [Nomination guide for candidates](#)

Key questions

Nominations (level 1)

1. Who can nominate to be in parliament? Do you need a qualification or some experience?
   Answer: Australian citizens, 18 years or over and enrolled to vote. You don't need any special qualifications or experience. However, some people might not qualify such as people who are dual citizens.

2. Do you have to be part of a political party to nominate to be in Parliament?
   Answer: No, you don't. You can nominate to be part of a party, but you also can be an independent.

3. If you want to nominate, where should you go to get the right form?
   Answer: AEC website.

Ballot draw (level 2)

1. Why do you think the ballot draw is done in the public?
   Answer: So it's transparent and we can trust in the electoral system.

2. Is the order of candidates on the ballot paper random or determined by when candidates hand in their nomination papers?
   Answer: The order is random. It starts off with the order in which they handed it in and then a whole process takes places to make sure it's random.

Pathways to representation in Australian elections

DEMOCRACITY MODULE Nominations		**KEY CONCEPT** Representation	

RELATED CONCEPTS
- **Participation –** who can stand for election, and how?
- **Structure –** electoral systems, nomination rules, ballot order.

Overarching questions

How do nomination and ballot draw processes contribute to representation and equity in Australia's electoral processes?

Inquiry questions:

Factual – What are the requirements for nominating as a candidate in Australia?

Conceptual – How does the ballot draw contribute to fairness and impartiality in elections?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the activities, students will:

- Understand the nomination process and ballot draw procedures in federal elections.

- Investigate if ballot position can affect voter behaviour.

- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of the nomination process and propose informed improvements.

Suggested extension learning experiences and activities:

- Not everyone can be a representative; there are mandatory requirements. If you were to elect a class representative, what requirements for the role should they have? Develop a list for class discussion.

- Conduct a class election nomination eligibility activity. Use this nomination form for your election.

- Set up ballot draw for your class election. Ballot draw activity.

- Analyse research on ballot position effect. Conduct a classroom poll or experiment to analyse the impact of placement on outcomes.

- Debate ballot fairness – develop a proposal for improving fairness or accessibility in the nomination process.

Pathways to representation in Australian Elections - Suggested assessment rubric

Criteria	Level 1-2	Level 3-4	Level 5-6	Level 7-8
Criterion A: Knowing and understanding Understanding of nomination processes, eligibility, and ballot draw systems.	Demonstrates limited understanding of democratic processes or terminology.	Demonstrates basic understanding with some accurate information.	Demonstrates clear understanding with accurate use of civic terms and examples.	Demonstrates thorough understanding with detailed explanations and insightful connections between electoral procedures and fairness.
Criterion B: Investigating Research into nomination requirements and the impact of ballot draw.	Investigation lacks clarity; sources are minimal or unrelated.	Investigates with partial relevance; basic conclusions are drawn.	Investigates effectively with relevant sources and sound analysis.	Investigates thoroughly using reliable sources, critically examines implications of ballot positioning and candidate accessibility.
Criterion C: Communicating Presentation of civic processes and impacts.	Communicates with limited clarity or structure; ideas may be confusing.	Communicates with some structure; ideas are mostly clear.	Communicates effectively using appropriate format, structure, and terminology.	Communicates with clarity, creativity, and coherence; presentation is persuasive and well-reasoned.
Criterion D: Thinking critically Evaluation of fairness, accessibility, and electoral outcomes.	Demonstrates limited reflection or basic conclusions.	Reflects on electoral fairness with some supporting ideas.	Reflects thoughtfully; evaluates current systems and offers suggestions.	Evaluates thoroughly with nuanced understanding; presents informed, impartial recommendations for improving democratic processes.

Nominations quiz

Question 1:
What is a divisional returning officer in charge of?

A. Printing the ballot papers.

B. Running the election in an electoral division.

C. Informing the Prime Minister of how people are voting.

D. Providing updates to Parliament about news and events in an electoral division.

Question 2:
To become a candidate for the House of Representatives or the Senate, you must be:

A. An Australian citizen.

B. Enrolled or eligible to enrol.

C. 18 years or older.

D. All of the above.

Question 3:
True or false: You can be a dual citizen and nominate to be a candidate.

A. True

B. False

Question 4:
If a candidate has dual citizenship, how can they become eligible to be a candidate?

A. Give up their non-Australian citizenship.

B. Write to the divisional returning officer for an exemption.

C. Pay a higher candidate fee.

D. Not applicable – dual citizens are allowed to nominate as a candidate.

Question 5:
If an independent candidate nominates for the House of Representatives, how many signatures do they need from the public to nominate?

A. 151

B. Depends on the electoral division

C. 100

D. 1000

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Question 6: When do nominations need to be lodged by?

A. By the start of the ballot draw.

B. By the close of nominations.

C. Before the election is announced.

D. Before the pre-poll period starts.

Question 7: Who can attend the ballot draw of candidates?

A. The media.

B. Candidates.

C. Members of the public.

D. All of the above.

Question 8: During the ballot draw, what does the first ball draw decide?

A. The number that will represent the candidate during the second draw.

B. The date of the election.

C. How many candidates can run.

D. The position of the candidate on the ballot paper.

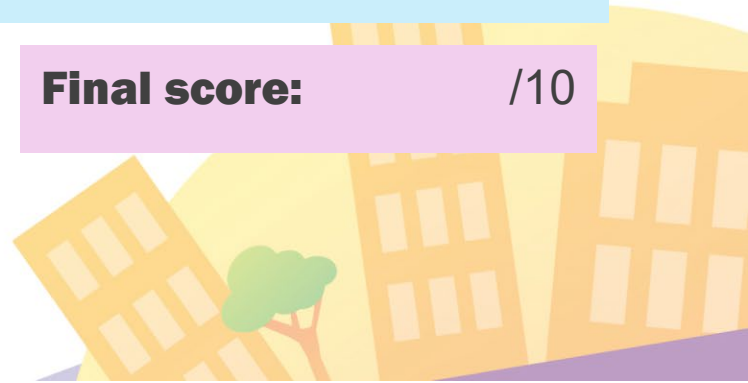## Question 9: During the ballot draw, what does the second ball draw decide?

A. The date of the election.

B. The number that will represent the candidate during the second draw.

C. How many candidates will appear on the ballot paper.

D. The position of the candidate on the ballot paper.

Question 10: True or false: Anyone in attendance at the ballot draw is allowed to spin the bingo barrel.

A. True

B. False

Final score: /10

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Nominations quiz answers

Question	Answer
1. What is a divisional returning officer in charge of?	**B:** Running the election in an electoral division.
2. To become a candidate for the House of Representatives or the Senate, you must be:	**D:** All of the above.
3. True or false: You can be a dual citizen and nominate to be a candidate?	**B:** False.
4. If a candidate has dual citizenship, how can they become eligible to be a candidate?	**A:** Give up their non-Australian citizenship.
5. If an Independent candidate nominates for the House of Representatives, how many signatures do they need from the public to nominate?	**C:** 100.
6. When do nominations need to be lodged by?	**B:** By the close of nominations.
7. Who can attend the ballot draw of candidates?	**D:** All of the above.
8. During the ballot draw, what does the first ball draw decide?	**A:** The number that will represent the candidate during the second draw.
9. During the ballot draw, what does the second ball draw decide?	**D:** The position of the candidate on the ballot paper.
10. True or false: Anyone in attendance at the ballot draw is allowed to spin the bingo ball.	**A:** True.

Nomination eligibility activity

To nominate as a candidate for election into the Australian parliament, there are several steps to make sure that the person is eligible.

To nominate for either the Senate or the House of Representatives, you must be:

- at least 18 years old,

- an Australian citizen,

- either enrolled or eligible to be enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

You cannot nominate for the Senate or the House of Representatives if you are:

- currently a member of a state parliament or territory legislative assembly and have not resigned before the hour of nomination.

- disqualified by section 44 of the Constitution. See examples here: Candidate eligibility - Australian Electoral Commission.

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Consider

- What criteria do you think are important for being eligible to nominate in our election?

For our class election, we will choose our own eligibility criteria. This could be things like involvement in an extracurricular activity, attendance criteria, or something else we think is important for someone who will represent the class.

What criteria do you consider essential to nominate for the class election? Why are these criteria important?

Finalised your criteria?

Use the accompanying 'Nomination Form' to include your chosen requirements and make it available to those wishing to nominate for election.

Nomination Form

Use this form to nominate to run for the class election. All sections must be completed and submitted no later than _____

1. Your name as it appears on the class roll:

2. The class you are a member of:

3. Contact email:

Eligibility checklist

	Yes	No
Criterion A:	☐	☐
Criterion B:	☐	☐
Criterion C:	☐	☐

I confirm the information in the checklist above to be true and correct.

Signature of candidate

Date

Ballot draw activity

The candidate positions on a ballot paper are determined by a ballot draw. The ballot draw is a randomised system that keeps it fair for all candidates. The AEC conducts the draw publicly.

Prior activity: Complete the nomination activity.

Note: If time does not allow to conduct a ballot draw you can use the 'randomiser' option on the ballot paper generator in Get Voting.

To see an example of a 'nomination ballot draw' in action watch this AEC video.

Materials required:

- Number Picker Wheel - Pick Random Number by Spinning
- Ballot order table

Conducting the draw

On the 'Number picker wheel', type the number of candidates into the MAX range box. For example, if you will have four candidates enter 4. After each spin, click 'remove choice' to reset the wheel.

Student assistants:
- 1 x student to 'spin' the Number Picker Wheel.
- 1 x student to write up the candidate names using the template provided.
- 1 x student to write the numbers as they're drawn.

Draw 1: The first draw (wheel spin) assigns a number to each candidate.

1. Insert candidate names under 'Draw 1' in the first column of the ballot order table.
2. 'Spin' the wheel to reveal the first number.
3. Record the number in column 1 for 'assigned number'. The first number called is written against the first candidate on the list. Each candidate keeps this number for draw 2.

Draw 2: The second draw (wheel spin) determines the order in which each candidate appears on the ballot paper.

1. Reset the Number Picker Wheel with correct number of candidates.
2. 'Spin' the wheel to reveal the first number.
3. Record the number in the top row of the second column of the table.
4. Ensure 'remove choice' is clicked after each spin.

You can now prepare ballot papers using the Get Voting ballot paper generator.

Going further: For a full explanation of how the AEC conducts the draw see the AEC website.

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Ballot order

Draw 1: Assigned number	Draw 2: Ballot paper position
Candidate name: **Assigned number:**	**Ballot position 1:**
Candidate name: **Assigned number:**	**Ballot position 2:**
Candidate name: **Assigned number:**	**Ballot position 3:**
Candidate name: **Assigned number:**	**Ballot position 4:**

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