

The Individual & The State Video (ICAC)

The notion of a 'State'

1. What is a State?

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2. What are the advantages of living in a State?

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3. To what extent does our Australian Constitution protect its 'citizens' rights?

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4. What are assumed or implied rights? Are these protected in Australia?

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Legal Protection

1. What is the purpose of a "Bill of Rights"? Should Australia have a Bill of Rights?

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2. What are the advantages/disadvantages of having a Bill of Rights in Australia?

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3. Do legal mechanisms (eg. Our court system and the judiciary) provide enough protection for all Australian citizens? Explain.

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4. What methods for redress does Greg have if he wants to further pursue his complaint at this point? Why will these methods still not be very effective for him?

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Legal Controls on the State

1. What is the role of the Ombudsman? How is this power limited?

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2. What help can Greg's Member of Parliament provide him?

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3. What is the purpose of the Freedom of Information laws? What are some of the weaknesses of this legislation?

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4. What is a 'whistle-blower'? How important are their roles in the protection of individual rights?

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5. Why did Greg also seek help from the media in his complaint? What role does the media have in the protection of individual rights?

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6. Describe ‘Ministerial Responsibility’ under the Westminster System of Government.

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7. What is the power and role of ICAC? Explain if this government body was able to help Greg.

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8. Why are ‘open’ hearings in courts and at ICAC important in our society?

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Overview Questions

1. What are the various informal means of challenging State power?

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2. What are the various formal means of challenging State power?

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3. Design a flowchart showing the methods and institutions that Greg & Angela used to obtain redress for Greg's false arrest.