

D Grade Round 2

That we should abolish the Australian citizenship test

Background:

In Australia, and many other nations, new candidates for citizenship are required to take a test to confirm their understanding of culture, history, values and traditions. Citizens by birth do not take this test.

The current version of the test can include questions on Australian democracy, national iconography (flags, coats of arms) and national days.

As a comparison, the United Kingdom's Citizenship test can include questions on flags, historical political movements, the British Empire and William Shakespeare.

This debate is not necessarily limited to the current version of the test. However, the negative team must be in favour of some form of test as a requirement for citizenship and the affirmative must contend that having no test is the best option.

Becoming a citizen of Australia carries both privileges (such as the right to return and serve in the Defence Force) and responsibilities (such as paying tax and voting).

Questions for consideration:

- What should Australia expect from immigrants hoping to become citizens?
- Is being a citizen important to people in the modern day?
- What role can a citizenship test play for society?
- Can a test assess someone's suitability to be an Australian citizen?
- Does a test provide candidates with helpful information?
- Is a test unnecessary gatekeeping?

Resources:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/citizenship/test-and-interview/prepare-for-test/practice-test-new>

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/citizenship-subsite/Pages/Learn-about-being-an-Australian.aspx>

<https://theconversation.com/is-the-australian-citizenship-test-failing-team-australia-31230>

<https://theconversation.com/australias-natural-history-and-native-species-should-be-on-the-citizenship-test-106940>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/new-australian-citizenship-test-you-will-fail-if-you-don-t-answer-one-of-these-five-questions-correctly>