

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES: OXFAM AS AN INTEREST GROUP – TEACHER’S NOTES

UNIT 1	Ideas, actors and power
AREA OF STUDY 2	Political actors and power: Outcome 2
KEY KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roles and functions of interest groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advancing ideas and policies source of expert information and education about specific issues seeking to influence government decisions international networks and influences engaging with the public to build support and membership opportunities for citizen participation The roles and functions of the media in a liberal democracy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the media as a form of political participation and opportunities for citizen participation
KEY SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse case studies of political parties and interest groups, considering their roles, functions, influence and participation Analyse contemporary issues about, and case studies of, political actors Develop explanations, arguments and points of view which use contemporary evidence and examples
RESOURCES	<p>OXFAM AUSTRALIA’S ROLES AND FUNCTIONS</p> <p>Oxfam’s Brand Narrative: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2017-AC-012-Schools-A4-Brochure-FA2_p2-3.pdf</p> <p>Oxfam’s Six Goals to Change the World (Oxfam’s strategic goals in poster form): https://www.oxfam.org.au/get-involved/how-schools-can-get-involved/classroom-resources/oxfams-six-goals-to-change-the-world/</p> <p>More information on Oxfam’s Strategic Goals: http://resources.oxfam.org.au/pages/view.php?ref=1220&k=&search=&offset=0&order_by=relevance&sort=DESC&archive=0</p> <p>Oxfam Australia Annual Reports: https://www.oxfam.org.au/what-we-do/about-us/assessing-our-performance/annual-report/</p> <p>SEEKING TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT DECISIONS</p> <p>Oxfam Australia’s Submission to the Foreign Policy White paper Consultation: http://dfat.gov.au/whitepaper/submissions/documents/170227-433-Oxfam-Australia.PDF (Humanitarian crises and natural disasters, climate change and environmental issues, refugees)</p> <p>Accompanying media release: https://www.oxfam.org.au/media/2017/03/never-has-a-vision-for-a-more-prosperous-peaceful-and-secure-world-been-needed-more/</p> <p>Oxfam Australia’s 2017-18 Pre-Budget Submission: https://static.treasury.gov.au/uploads/sites/1/2017/06/C2016-052_Oxfam-Australia.pdf</p> <p>The following reports can also be used as case studies as they were documents produced primarily as reports for DFAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report – Walking with Timor-Leste: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Final-Timor-Briefing-Paper-SDGs_WEB.pdf Case study report – Humanitarian Partnership Agreement, Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk management capacity Building Program 2011-2017, case study: Building community resilience through partnerships: https://oxfam.box.com/s/tgwjir26u9dxnxd4997smgrc7nc07dym

RESOURCES (CONT.)

For the topic Political Campaigning in Australia:

Use the following link and additional research as needed to write a summary on how the political system works in Australia: <https://www.oxfam.org.au/get-involved/campaign-with-us/diy-campaigning/get-passionate-about-politics/>

ADVANCING IDEAS AND POLICIES AND PROVIDING EXPERT INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Reasons why Oxfam has a schools program <https://www.oxfam.org.au/get-involved/how-schools-can-get-involved/what-its-all-about/>

Food and Climate

- http://youtu.be/uu_Ulas87vs
- <https://www.oxfam.org.au/what-we-do/food-and-climate/>
- <https://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/grow>

National Close the Gap Day:

- <https://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/national-close-the-gap-day/>
- <https://www.oxfam.org.au/act/resources-for-teachers/close-the-gap-student-kit/>
(See these webpages for the most recent Close the Gap videos, or Oxfam Australia's YouTube channel).

Campaign for Australian Aid Fair Share Food Truck:

- http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/video/2015/feb/23/fair-share-food-truck-australian-aid-video?CMP=soc_567
- <https://www.devex.com/news/new-australian-aid-campaign-targets-youth-85553>
- <https://vimeo.com/120536443>

ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC AND OPPORTUNITIES OR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/get-involved/>
<https://www.oxfam.org.au/get-involved/youth/oxfam-ambassadors/>

OXFAM AUSTRALIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ONLINE CAMPAIGNS:

Online campaigns page: <https://actions.oxfam.org/australia/>
(This links to Oxfam Australia's most current campaigns)

The Campaign for Australian Aid: <http://www.australianaid.org/>
(Previously Make Poverty History: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/>)

Get Up! Action for Australia: <https://www.getup.org.au/>

OTHER RESOURCES:

Young people, political participation, digital participation:

- Lowy Institute Poll: <https://lowyinstitutepoll.lowyinstitute.org/democracy/>
- Young Australians are engaged in political issues, but unsure how democracy works: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-28/young-people-politically-engaged-but-confused-by-process/8996546>
- Why Australia's youth and political parties aren't talking: http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/10/21/why-australias-youth-and-political-parties-arent-talking_a_21588660/
- Politics in Schools? Yes, if we want children to be active citizens: <https://theconversation.com/politics-in-schools-yes-if-we-want-children-to-be-active-citizens-86413>

VCE AUSTRALIAN AND GLOBAL POLITICS

RESOURCES (CONT.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giving voice to the young: survey shows people want under-18s to be involved in politics: https://theconversation.com/giving-voice-to-the-young-survey-shows-people-want-under-18s-involved-in-politics-83101• Young Australians are more political than we think, research suggests: https://www.sbs.com.au/news/young-australians-are-more-political-than-we-think-research-suggests• From slacktivism to ‘feel-good’ protests, activism is broken: Here’s how to fix it: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-25/activism-is-broken-heres-how-we-fix-it/9077372• More than ‘slacktivism’: we dismiss the power of politics online at our peril: https://theconversation.com/more-than-slacktivism-we-dismiss-the-power-of-politics-online-at-our-peril-79500• Challenging “Slacktivism”: Activism On Social Media Is Not Enough: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/challenging-slacktivism-activism-on-social-media_us_5817c2dbe4b09b190529c8ae• theconversation.com/giving-voice-to-the-young-survey-shows-people-want-under-18s-involved-in-politics-83101• Young Australians are more political than we think, research suggests: https://www.sbs.com.au/news/young-australians-are-more-political-than-we-think-research-suggests• From slacktivism to ‘feel-good’ protests, activism is broken: Here’s how to fix it: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-25/activism-is-broken-heres-how-we-fix-it/9077372• More than ‘slacktivism’: we dismiss the power of politics online at our peril: https://theconversation.com/more-than-slacktivism-we-dismiss-the-power-of-politics-online-at-our-peril-79500• Challenging “Slacktivism”: Activism On Social Media Is Not Enough: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/challenging-slacktivism-activism-on-social-media_us_5817c2dbe4b09b190529c8ae
SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES Student handouts available.	<p>The following suggested learning activities are designed to be taught after teachers have covered other material from VCE Unit 1.</p> <p>The activities address several dot points. Teachers should choose when to apply each activity as part of their teaching and learning program.</p> <p>ACTIVITY 1: SOCIAL MEDIA PROJECT ON THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF OXFAM AS AN INTEREST GROUP</p> <p>Students are to create a simulated social media feed demonstrating their understanding of the roles and functions of Oxfam as an interest group.</p> <p>Step 1: Research</p> <p>Students research Oxfam as an interest group using the suggested links and fill out the accompanying worksheet.</p> <p>Step 2: Create</p> <p>Using a simulated Facebook or Twitter feed template, students create a series of status updates or tweets that demonstrate their understanding of the different roles and functions of Oxfam as an interest group. The accompanying worksheet could be used to explain this task to students.</p> <p>Step 3: Assessment</p> <p>Students combine their Facebook or Twitter entries using Word or PowerPoint and submit it to the teacher or present it to the class.</p> <p>ACTIVITY 2: WEBQUEST ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION</p> <p>Students are to undertake a comparative exercise researching online campaigns, based on one of the three options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Oxfam Australia offline campaign, compared to an Oxfam Australia online campaign• An Oxfam Australia offline campaign, compared to a GetUp! online campaign• An Oxfam Australia campaign, compared to other social justice or environmental campaigns

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Student handouts available.

Step 1: Research

Students select and research two campaigns or groups using the suggested resource links above as a starting point, and fill out the accompanying worksheet.

Step 2: Evaluate

Using the data for both campaigns compiled on the worksheet, students will work in pairs to evaluate which group, in their opinion, is more effective in:

- reaching its audience;
- achieving its aims;
- encouraging young people to join.

Step 3: Discuss

Students investigate and define the following terms and discuss as a class:

- activist
- clicktivist
- activism
- clicktivism
- slacktivism

Do students feel that these terms are accurate?

Do students want to join/participate in these or other organisations/ campaigns? Why or why not?

Step 4: Assessment

Students create a four-minute vlog which compares and contrasts the chosen organisations/campaigns. (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_blog)

To get ideas about creating your own vlogs, see <http://www.becomeablogger.com/17272/5-secrets-to-creating-a-better-vlog-with-your-smartphone/>

Responses can be submitted to the teacher and shared with the class by uploading the completed file onto a class blog (or similar) to enable ideas to be shared.

Sending the students' assessments to Oxfam is also very much welcomed, to both share on their blog Educating for Change (www.oxfam.org.au/category/blogs/educating-for-change/) and to help them improve Oxfam's resources. Contact Oxfam's Schools Program Coordinator via schools@oxfam.org.au

OTHER SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Create a report or presentation on the ways young citizens can be involved with Oxfam, and how they provide particular opportunities for young people via volunteering or online political activism, using the Oxfam materials and links provided.
- **Request an Oxfam speaker** to present on the ways young people can be involved with Oxfam, and how they provide particular opportunities for young people.