

WEEK 4 TUTORIAL**Exercise 4.1 – Queensland Parliament and Executive (prepare in advance!)**

Answer the following, using the lecture material from previous weeks; and/or fact sheets from Queensland Parliament website:

- Parliament (Sheets 3.1, 3.7, 3.20)
 - Governor (Sheet 2.2)
 - Executive (Sheet 4.2)
-
- (a) The colony of Queensland came into existence on December 10, 1859, when Queen Victoria signed Letters Patent separating Queensland from New South Wales.
 - (b) In 1860, only males over the age of 21 who owned or rented property worth £50 or more were eligible to vote in Queensland's first parliamentary elections.
 - (c) The Electoral Act 1905 introduced the concept of 'one vote, one value', which meant that electorates were required to have roughly equal numbers of voters.
 - (d) The Electoral Act 1973 introduced a number of changes to the electoral system, including lowering the voting age to 18, introducing optional preferential voting, and increasing the number of electoral districts from 78 to 82.
 - (e) The Parliament of Queensland consists of the Queen (represented by the Governor), the Legislative Assembly (lower house), and the Legislative Council (upper house).
 - (f) Queensland Parliament is unicameral, meaning it has only one house (the Legislative Assembly) instead of two houses like other states. This was introduced in 1922 due to concerns about the cost of running a bicameral parliament during a time of economic depression.
 - (g) The process for making laws in the Queensland Parliament involves a bill being introduced into either the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council, where it is debated, amended, and then passed. The bill must then receive royal assent from the Governor before it becomes law.
 - (h) Hansard is the official record of parliamentary debates and proceedings. It includes transcripts of speeches, questions and answers, and other information related to parliamentary business. Information that could be obtained from Hansard includes details about proposed laws, parliamentary debates, and voting records.
 - (i) No, there are no laws of the Queensland Parliament that can be overridden by the British Parliament. Since 1986, the Australia Act has ensured that the Australian Parliament and state parliaments have complete legislative independence from the British Parliament.
 - (j) The Executive Council is a body of senior government ministers appointed by the Governor. The role of the Governor with respect to the Executive Council is to chair its meetings and provide advice to the council on matters such as the appointment of government officials and the use of executive power.
 - (k) The Governor of Queensland has a number of specific roles and functions, including granting royal assent to bills passed by the Queensland Parliament, appointing and dismissing government ministers and senior public officials, and acting as the ceremonial head of the state. Other legal terms that relate to the Governor's role include the reserve powers (which allow the Governor to refuse a minister's request for an election or to dismiss a government), and the prerogative of mercy (which allows the Governor to grant pardons or reduce sentences for convicted criminals).