

Junior B, Quarter Final

TOPIC: *That we should abolish the citizenship test*

1. Type of Topic

This topic is a normative topic. That means that the affirmative team should present a model, in which they define what this policy – of abolishing the citizenship test – will look like. The negative equally gets to define a countermodel, in this debate that can include changes to the citizenship test or otherwise to the process of gaining Australian citizenship. They can also choose not to propose a countermodel and instead support the status quo.

2. Background / Context

Passing the citizenship test is one hurdle in a list for those seeking Australian citizenship. After being granted a visa, and then permanent residency, you must then pass the citizenship test once you've spent a minimum of 4 years as a permanent resident. In addition, you must pay a \$540 processing fee.

The citizenship test itself assesses four criteria, 'Australia and its people', 'Australia's democratic beliefs, rights and liberties', 'government and law in Australia' and 'Australian values'. It consists of 20 multiple choice questions. The pass mark is 75% overall and 100% on the Australian values questions.

The test is only offered in English.

3. Questions for Consideration

- Who does the citizenship test prevent from gaining citizenship?
 - What countries are they likely to come from?
 - What socio-economic background are they likely to be of?
- What benefits are there to an Australian citizenship?
- Should Australia be more open to immigration than it is currently?
- Is there value in all Australian citizens learning English?

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