

Study Guide for the Australian Collaboration Fact and Issue Sheet

THE LONG TERM

FOR REVIEW

1 The long term in the international context

- 1a. Which sector of the world's population did the 2000 Millennium Declaration seek to address?
- 1b. Consider the eight goals and targets set out by the Millennium Declaration. Which ones do you consider most urgent and why?
- 1c. What does the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program study?
- 1d. What are "ecosystem services"?

2 Issues facing Australia

- 2a. Consider the list of long-term challenges facing Australia. Can you devise a diagram or flow chart to indicate how the different challenges relate to and feed into one another?

3 Identifying the long-term issues and setting the targets

- 3a. What is the typical focus of individual Australian governments?
- 3b. What is the Rudd Government's attitude to the long term?
- 3c. Which groups should contribute to a national conversation about long-term issues?
- 3d. How could this conversation be drawn into the heart of the political system?
- 3e. Do you know what "parliamentary committees" are? If not, you can find out at the following site:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/committee/index.htm>
- 3f. Give two examples of parliamentary committees in other countries and describe the role of each committee.
- 3g. What are the obstacles to having such committees in Australia?

4 The need for greatly improved capabilities for dealing with long-term problems

- 4a. Why is it necessary to achieve good cooperation between state and federal governments?
- 4b. What is the name of the peak ministerial council and who are its members?
- 4c. What is "mutual recognition"?
- 4d. Give two examples of agreements reached by COAG.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Topic for a Think/Pair/Share activity:

The Fact and Issue Sheet states that several of the Millennium Development Goals are very ambitious and might not be met, while the goals set by the Kyoto Protocol are inadequate to address the problem. What do you think about the role of goal-setting in politics? Is it a worthwhile activity or is it just a lot of "hot air"? Write down the reasons for your opinion before sharing with a partner. What does the rest of your class think?

2. The Fact and Issue Sheet lists a number of issues facing Australia that need a long-term approach. Are there any issues that you consider to be important that are missing from the list? Take some time to formulate your idea into a clear goal, and think about the steps that might need to be taken to achieve it. Share your goal with the class.

3. Question for class debate:

Does Australia pay enough attention to the long-term in its international relations? Consider Australia's alliance with the USA and its relationships with geographically closer neighbours such as Indonesia.

FOR RESEARCH

1. Idea for a class project:

How does a group of people go about setting and implementing common goals? Can your class identify and implement some goals as group? As a class, address the following questions:

i) Think about your class, school or local community. Could some things be done better? Which things are the most important ones to address first? Build up a class list of priorities. Is it easy or difficult to agree on what goals should be set?

ii) What steps would need to be taken to implement your class goal(s)?

2. Spend some time on the Millennium Development Goals' monitoring page:

<http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>

Do a small research project on one of the following:

i) Select a specific country and outline how it is faring with its Millennium Development Goals.

ii) Select a specific goal and outline how different countries are tracking in regards to this goal.

3. For advanced students:

Do some further research on the role and aims of COAG. What kinds of intergovernmental agreements does COAG forge? Why are these agreements important? Which issues were addressed at the most recent COAG meeting? How do these issues compare with the Millennium Development Goals? You can start your research here:

<http://www.coag.gov.au/index.htm>