Stories from the Bunker – The Stenograph

Focus questions

Below are some focus questions to accompany this episode. You can tailor these for your student cohort.

1) Test how fast you can write and type – compare which is quicker and more accurate?

2) Do you/your family members use any codes in your life to communicate more quickly or easily? (eg on mobile phones) . What are some other codes that have been used in history – why?

3) Hansard reporters used shorthand to record what politicians say in the Chambers – what is shorthand? Research shorthand – see if you can write a few words in shorthand and race your friend writing in longhand.

4) What is a Stenograph machine and how does it work?

5) Communications technology has changed significantly in recent history – research how Hansard is recorded now.

6) Research how Hansard got its name and how long it has been a part of parliament.

7) What are some reasons it is important for people to know what is happening in parliament?

8) Read Hansard online – can you find a speech given by your local member of parliament?

Want more?

Teacher Resources – #HansART activity

Learn more about the records of Hansard with this creative project that asks participants to rearrange, remix and reframe the written word to craft your own record.

Teacher resources on this site show how to use original Hansard excerpts for this activity in the classroom using following topics: Indigenous rights, Immigration and refugees, Women's rights.

Records of the Parliament – PEO Factsheet

Access Hansard scripts online - Hansard Online

https://www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/

Access Historical Hansard scripts online – from 1901-1980

Other MoAD collection items:
We have many other objects in out collection that show how, over time, the public have been kept aware of what happens in Parliament. You can find more about these on our website:

"House of Representatives Visitors' Gallery Upstairs…' Sign"
https://collection.moadoph.gov.au/objects/1999-1098/

"Newspaper Stand" https://collection.moadoph.gov.au/objects/1999-1318/

"Telephone that was used by William McMahon"
https://collection.moadoph.gov.au/rooms/m9413/objects/2006-1048/

"Typewriter" https://collection.moadoph.gov.au/objects/2005-0024/

"Television" https://collection.moadoph.gov.au/objects/2004-0044/

"Early Laptop" https://collection.moadoph.gov.au/rooms/u91/objects/2005-0023/

Australian Curriculum 8.3 - Links

Year 5 HASS:

Civics and Citizenship

The key values that underpin Australia's democracy (ACHASSK115)

How people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve a civic goal (ACHASSK118)

Year 6 HASS:

Civics and Citizenship

The key institutions of Australia's democratic system of government and how it is based on the Westminster system (ACHASSK143)

The responsibilities of electors and representatives in Australia's democracy (ACHASSK145)

The roles and responsibilities of Australia's three levels of government (ACHASSK144)

The shared values of Australian citizenship and the formal rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens (ACHASSK147)

Year 7 Civics and Citizenship:

The key features of government under the Australian Constitution with a focus on: the separation of powers, the roles of the Executive, the Houses of Parliament, and the division of powers (ACHCK048)

Year 8 Civics and Citizenship:

The freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement (ACHCK061)

How citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups, and direct action (ACHCK062)

How laws are made in Australia through parliaments (statutory law) and through the courts (common law) (ACHCK063)

https://www.moadoph.gov.au/learning/