

Australians do not vote for the head of state. The Queen holds that position. The prime minister recommends a person to the Queen to serve as her representative. That person becomes the governor-general. Citizens do not vote for the Queen, the governor-general, or even the judges on the High Court.

Australians enjoy many freedoms. They have freedom of religion and freedom of speech. They have the freedom to choose their own jobs, and they can travel around the country or to other countries. Australians can vote for the leaders that make laws and lead the country. Their level of freedom is similar to what people have in the United Kingdom and the United States.

1. Explain the three ways Australia organizes its government.
2. What is the Queen's responsibility in Australia?
3. Explain how a citizen participates in the Australian government.

Australia's Economy

Australia has one of the freest economies in the world. Australia is a mixed-market economy. The government does not own major industries or businesses. Prices are set by the agreement of buyers and sellers rather than by government rules.

In Australia, people are free to own their businesses and property. Business owners decide what they want to produce. In the same way, farmers decide what products they will produce and how much of the products to produce. Buyers and sellers are able to agree on prices. Competition between sellers helps to keep the prices good for buyers.

Business owners and consumers can depend on good laws to protect them. The courts are considered fair and honest. Bribery is rare, and it is punished by strict law.

It is very easy to start a business in Australia. In some countries it can take months to a year or more to start a business. In Australia, the paperwork usually takes less than a week.

1. Compare and contrast Australia's economy to Cuba's economy.
2. Who answers the three basic economic questions in Australia?