

Politics



Main issues facing voters in Australia's federal election

Section A: Warm up

Answer the following questions based on your own experience.



- What problems are there in Australia?
- What do you know about Australian Politics?
- What were the major parties led by John Howard and Kevin Rudd in the 2007 election?
- What is Global warming?
- What is the Kyoto Protocol?



Section B: Vocabulary

Match the word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ Policy | (a) opponent |
| 2. ___ Election | (b) giving out/giving off/releasing something |
| 3. ___ Opposition | (c) promise |
| 4. ___ Protocol | (d) local; national |
| 5. ___ Successor | (e) Someone who follows another; takes up the same position |
| 6. ___ Emissions | (f) ballot vote |
| 7. ___ Pollution | (g) contaminated – E.g. toxic waste; greenhouse gases, smog, litter |
| 8. ___ Pledge | (h) guiding principle |
| 9. ___ Surplus | (i) the rules of correct behavior of people in a situation |
| 10. ___ Domestic | (j) extra; excess |

Section C: Reading

Read the following article from the Mainichi newspaper.

Main issues facing voters in Australia's federal election

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) -- Many **policies** being offered at Australia's **elections** on Saturday by Prime Minister John Howard and **opposition** Labor Party leader Kevin Rudd are very similar. Here are some of the key differences:

-- CLIMATE CHANGE

Howard has refused to ratify the 1997 Kyoto **protocol** on global warming but says he will sign up to a **successor** agreement if developing nations like China and India are included. He has also vowed to set up a national carbon dioxide **emissions** trading system by 2012, but declined to set emissions targets until after the election. Labor says it will sign the Kyoto protocol immediately and has a loose goal of cutting Australia's greenhouse **pollution** by 20 percent by 2020 and 60 percent by 2050.

-- IRAQ

Howard has repeatedly **refused** to set a deadline for withdrawing Australia's roughly 1,600 troops in around Iraq, despite widespread opposition to the **deployment** an a continuing poor security environment. Rudd says he will pull out Australia's 550 combat troops in a phased **withdrawal**, leaving some 1,000 to support the U.S. mission.

-- LABOR LAWS

Howard's government introduced sweeping labor laws that lifted **restrictions** on **firing** staff and changing overtime and other rules to favor bosses, though he was forced to wind some of the powers back because of strong public opposition. Rudd has **pledged** to scrap large parts of the laws, arguing they unfairly force workers off collectively bargained agreements that guarantee **annual leave** provisions and overtime rates.

-- ECONOMY

Howard has promised to keep the budget **surplus** at 1 percent of gross **domestic** product and to push Australia's **unemployment** rate, already at 33-year lows, below 4 percent. Labor has a slightly looser aim, promising to keep the budget in surplus on average over the economic cycle and maintain strong economic growth.

(Mainichi Japan) November 24, 2007

Section D: Comprehension

Write your answers to the following, then discuss with a partner.

- What are the four main issues in the 2007 election?
- What did the parties say they would do about them?

	Liberal	Labour
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Section E: Discussion

Please answer the following questions.

- Who is the Prime Minister of your country? What party do they belong to?
- What problems are there in your country?
- If you were the Prime Minister, what would you do?
- What things do you do to help with global warming?

Section F: Gap Fill

Fill in the spaces with words from the box

pledged

policies

protocol

unemployment

pollution

elections

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