

General Capabilities

LEARNING ACROSS CURRICULUM

By Dr. Susan Bliss

GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Comprises of interconnected knowledge, skills and behaviours that students develop and use in their learning across curriculums, their lives outside school, and assists them to live and work successfully in the 21st century.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

general capabilities are:

**Critical and creative thinking
Ethical understanding
Information and communication technology
Intercultural understanding
Literacy
Numeracy
Personal and social capability**

NSW EDUCATION STANDARDS AUTHORITY (NESA)

additional general capabilities are:

**Civics and citizenship
Difference and diversity
Work and enterprise**

<http://australian-curriculum.org/studentdiversity/gifted-and-talented-students-general-capabilities-and-cross-curriculum-priorities>

<https://news.bostes.nsw.edu.au/blog/2012/11/12/learning-across-the-curriculum>

<https://syllabus.nesa.nsw.edu.au/hsie/geography-k10/learning-across-the-curriculum/>

https://img00.deviantart.net/325d/i/2015/120/6/c/creative_thinking_by_bknight-d35izbr.jpg

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: SEVEN GENERAL CAPABILITIES

The following seven General Capabilities are integrated across Australian curriculums F-10



While each of the capabilities covers a particular body of learning, it should be noted that some knowledge, skills, dispositions and behaviours are shared across capabilities. In some cases, a particular aspect of one capability is covered in another, for example, the application of social and ethical protocols in the use of digital technologies is included in ICT capability, and effective communication in social interactions is included in Personal and social capability.

<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/general-capabilities-over/general-capabilities-overview/Australian-Curriculum-General-Capabilities.pdf>

GENERAL CAPABILITIES: COMPONENTS

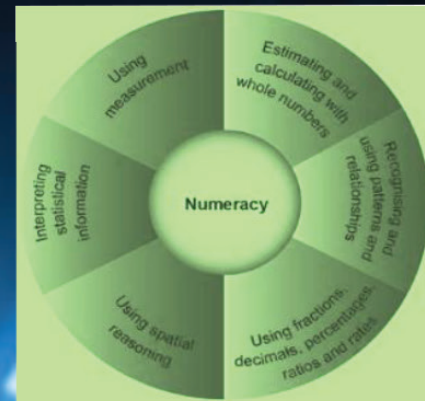
Teachers are expected to teach and assess general capabilities to the extent that they are incorporated within each learning area F-10

Graphics: <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/general-capabilities-over/general-capabilities-overview/Australian-Curriculum-General-Capabilities.pdf>

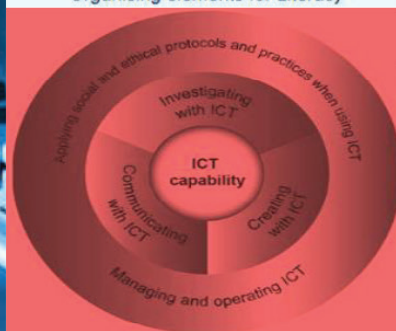
Background <http://bluesecure.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/xtrap.jpg>



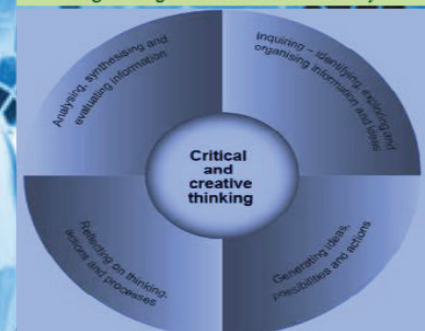
Organising elements for Literacy



Organising elements for Numeracy



Organising elements for ICT capability



Organising elements for Critical and creative thinking



Organising elements for Personal and social capability

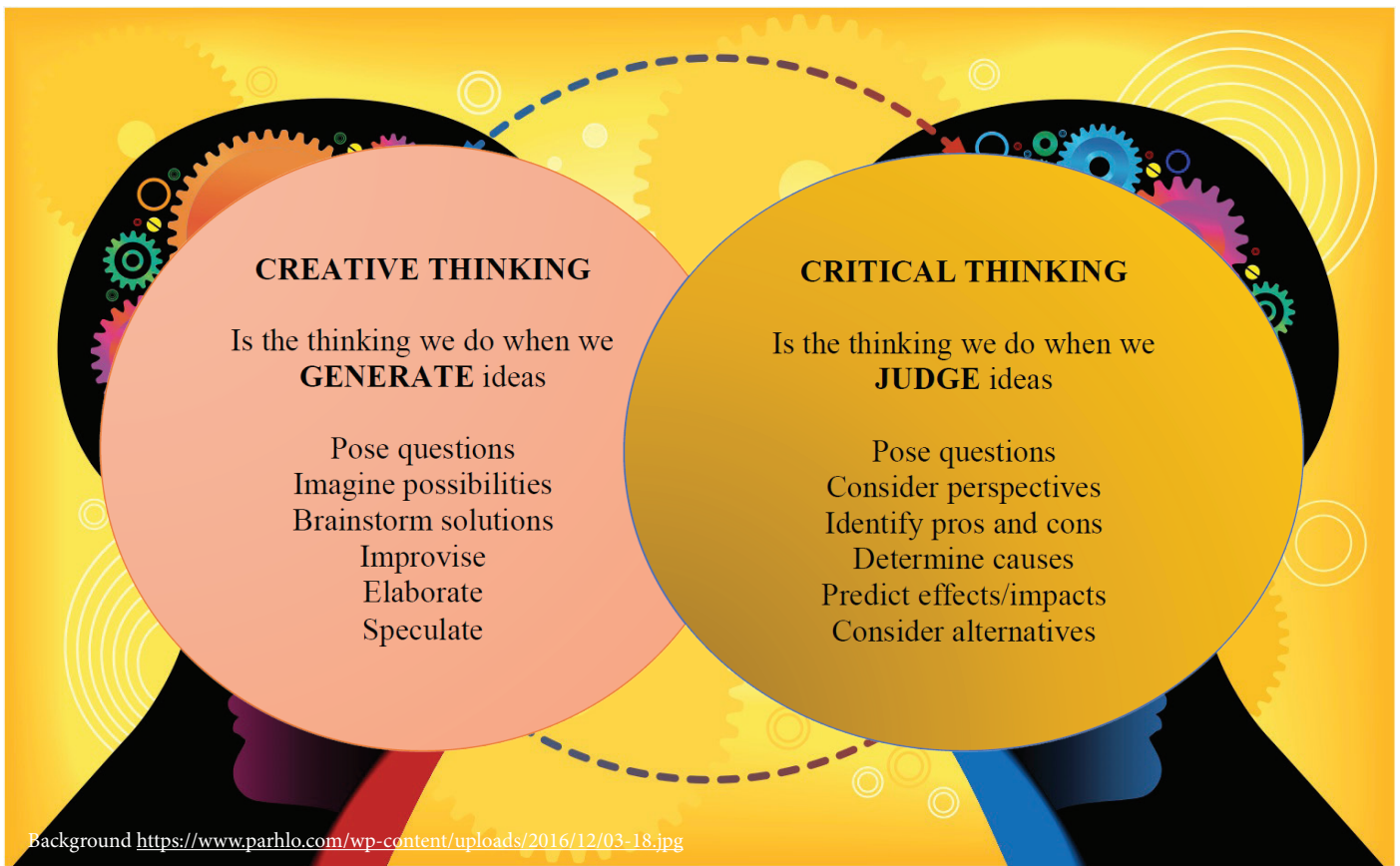


Organising elements for Ethical understanding



Organising elements for Intercultural understanding

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CREATIVE THINKING AND CRITICAL THINKING?

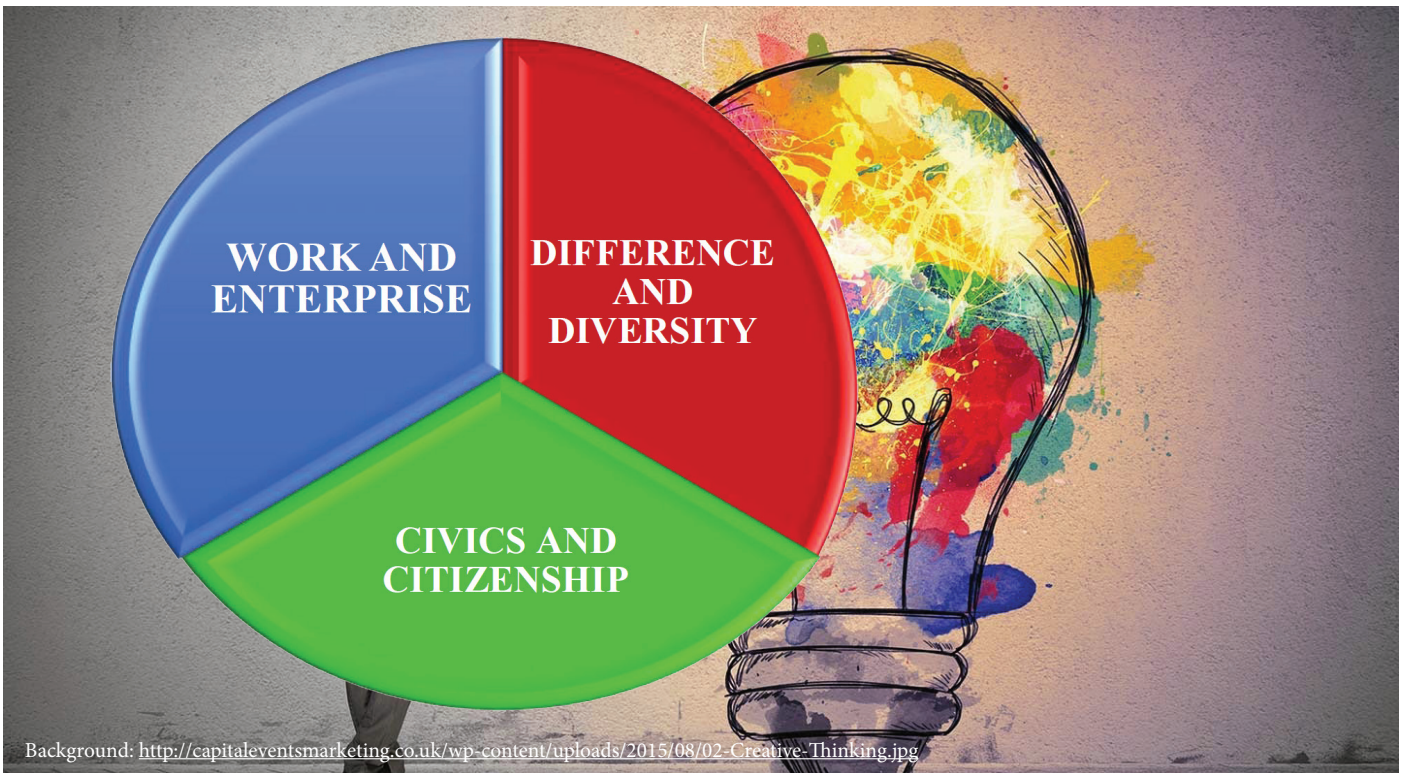


WHAT IS CULTURE? HOW CAN STUDENTS' DEVELOP CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING?



NSW EDUCATION STANDARDS AUTHORITY (NESA): THREE EXTRA GENERAL CAPABILITIES

The following General Capabilities, *Difference and Diversity*, *Civics and Citizenship* and *Work and Enterprise*, are integrated across NSW syllabuses K-10



WHAT IS DIFFERENCE AND DIVERSITY?

The General Capability, *Difference and Diversity*, is integrated across NSW syllabuses K-10



Diagram: <http://sites.psu.edu/testingite/wp-content/uploads/sites/14618/2014/10/diversity.png>

WHAT IS CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP?

The General Capability, *Civics and Citizenship*, is integrated across NSW syllabuses K-10



*In **Geography**, students will develop the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes for **responsible, informed and active participation** in **Australian society** and as **global citizens**. Students explore ways they can shape their lives, value their belonging in a diverse and dynamic society, and positively contribute at a range of scales. Active citizens support democratic participation, foster individual and group involvement in civil society, critically question existing political institutions and social, economic and political arrangements, and facilitate democratic change. Students learn to participate in decision-making and to exercise critical judgement about political issues. Comparisons with other civil societies enrich their understanding of the nature of **democracy** in Australia and in other countries. Students examine the **role of citizens** in the context of government systems and institutions as well as political and social life in Australia and other countries.*

<https://syllabus.nesa.nsw.edu.au/hsie/geography-k10/learning-across-the-curriculum/>

Civics and Citizenship Education <http://www.civicsandcitizenship.edu.au/cce/>

- NSW Parliament includes a range of educational programs including information about organising a visit to parliament.
- Federal parliamentary education office is designed for students and includes role play activities for Years 6 to 9.
- Australian electoral commission. Teacher resources section includes a range of fact sheets and online professional learning on how to run an election.
- Museum of Australian Democracy provides Immersive learning experiences for students and a range of resources for Years 5 to 12.
- Civics and citizenship education contains a range of resources, information, activities and links for teachers, students and parents.
- Search Scootle and ABC Splash for teaching and learning activities.

The Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship

[http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Shape of the Australian Curriculum Civics and Citizenship 251012.pdf](http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Shape%20of%20the%20Australian%20Curriculum%20Civics%20and%20Citizenship%20251012.pdf)

WHAT IS WORK AND ENTERPRISE?

The General Capability, *Work and Enterprise*, is integrated across NSW syllabuses K-10

GEOGRAPHY

Develops students' knowledge and understanding of employment as contributing to patterns of **internal and international migration**. Recognises role of **employment** in **human wellbeing** and **development**.

Explores impacts on people, places and environment of **business activities**, including **trade**

Investigates effects of **production** and **consumption** on **environment**, and **sustainable business practices**.

Researches how **organisations** (e.g. NGO, UN) have a role in community action, such as environmental protection.

Meteorologist, park ranger, environmental and UN organisations.

MATHEMATICS

Develops work-related knowledge, skills and understanding through experiences e.g. constructing **budgets**, calculating **wage** and salary earnings, investigating and determining **leave loadings**, using deductions and 'pay-as-you-go' (**PAYG**) instalments to calculate a **tax**, and investigating **tax rebates and levies**. Performs calculations involving **discounts**, and **profit and loss**, and uses statistics to predict **future earnings**, monitor **inventories**, and analyse and interpret information gained from **surveys**.

Actuary, accountant, engineer, scientist, researcher

SYLLABUS

Commerce (*accounting, legal studies*); **Creative Arts** (*dance teacher, painter*); **Technologies** (*ICT, construction-engineer, carpenter*); **PDPHE** (*gym teacher, dietician, personal trainer*); **Languages** (*for travel, trade, business, cultural understanding*); and **VET**

SCIENCE

Develops work-related skills, and the value of working individually and collaboratively when conducting investigations. Provides opportunities to prioritise **safe practices** and understand **potential risks and hazards** when conducting investigations.

Engineer, scientist, marine biologist, doctor, geologist, researcher (gene, viruses), astronomer, zoologist

ENGLISH

Develops **skills** required in the **workplace** and **values and attitudes** about work. Develops skills for **effective work participation** including **literacy**, working in **groups** and **acquiring, processing, assessing and communicating information**.

Develops an understanding of the ways in which language is used for particular **audiences, purposes and contexts**.

Enables **communication** skills important for **future vocational education and training**.

Writer, editor, journalist, lawyer

<https://syllabus.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

Image: <https://www.intheblack.com/~media/intheblack/allimages/careers/2015/future-work-feature.jpg>