

## **ATS1353 - GLOSSARY (SAMPLE)**

### **Terms: A**

#### **Accountability:**

The extent to which citizens attribute credit or blame towards their government for policies and performance.

### **Terms: B**

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### **Terms: C**

#### **Checks and balances:**

Government institutions are given powers that counter balance one another.

#### **Civil liberties:**

Rights that citizens have relative to government, and that should not be restricted by government.

**Civil society:** The arena that exists outside the state or the market and within which individuals take collective action on shared interests. Civil society includes interest groups and social movements, but is a broader concept.

#### **Constitutions:**

A collection of rules that set down the institutions of government and the rules under which it operates. The primary function of a constitution is to describe who and what - generally an institution or office - does what, when and how.

#### **Constitutionalism:**

1. A reference to the standards towards which constitutional arrangements should aspire, a form of government predicated on the principle of restraint (normative level)
  - Term is used in this sense to promote certain features and values which a constitution should possess.
2. A reference to prevailing attitudes towards constitutional government (cultural or sociological level)
  - Term is used here to make sense of why some constitutions are more stable and durable than others.

#### **Corporatism:**

Where peak associations representing capital and labour negotiate with the government to achieve wide-ranging economic and social planning.

### **Terms: D**

#### **De-facto state:**

Control territory and provide governance, but are not recognised by the international community.