**VICTORIAN STUDENTS’ PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM (VSPP) 2025:**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CONVENTION**

**Topic**

*Should the government ban businesses from being cashless?*



**TEACHER RESOURCE**

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The pre-convention activities and resources provided to support the VSPP are **suggestions** only.

They have been developed to help students prepare for the Secondary School Convention to debate this topic in more detail.

The pre-convention activities and resources provided can be completed independently of each other at the teacher’s discretion and choice. This means the teacher may choose to do **one**, **some**, or **all** the activities to help build students’ knowledge and help them prepare to be active participants in the Convention.

In using these suggested pre-convention activities and resources, teachers should make themselves aware of the content contained and the complexity of it to ensure it is appropriate for their student cohort and school context.

Teachers should plan for appropriate support to prepare their students for the Secondary School Convention by adapting, updating, extending, or removing activities (including task instructions) and any resources contained in this pack.

Students are ***not*** expected to complete all activities prior to participating in the Convention, nor are they expected to complete all post-convention activities.

## CONTEXT OF THE TOPIC

The rise of cashless businesses has generated a significant debate regarding their impact on society, especially in relation to financial inclusion, and accessibility. As more retailers and service providers are choosing to only accept digital payments over cash, questions arise about the implications of this decision for various groups in Victoria, especially those who only rely on cash transactions. There is no current law in Australia that requires businesses to accept cash. Businesses have the right to choose their payment methods. Some businesses, particularly those in hospitality, retail and public transport are choosing to go cashless for increased efficiency and great security. Under Section 36 of the Reserve Bank Act (1959) ( C’th) and Section 16 of the Currency Act 1965 (C’th) cash is legal tender in Australia. However, a business can refuse cash as payment if they clearly state that this is their policy before the transaction occurs. There are compelling arguments on both sides of this debate, and it is important for the government of the day to consider how such policies will affect the different demographics in our society, especially the elderly or vulnerable.

## LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM v2.0

This topic has strong links to Level 9 and 10 of the Civics and Citizenship Strands of the F-10 Victorian Curriculum.

Civics and Citizenship allows students to become more active and informed citizens so that they can participate in and support Australia’s democracy. They gain the knowledge and skill necessary to question understand and contribute to the world we live.

### The Links to the Convention topic:

Students can gain a better understanding of their rights as citizens including the right to participate in economic activities. A cashless economy can limit options for those who prefer to rely on cash because of privacy concerns or lack of access to banking services.

Students gain a better understanding of how government decisions impact society. This would include how economic policies and regulations affect businesses and consumers.

Students are encouraged to engage with current issues promoting critical thinking about government policies that may affect their lives as citizens. Discussion focused on cashless transactions can promote debate on accessibility, social justice, consideration of disadvantaged groups who do not have access to bank accounts or smartphones and consumer rights.

Achievement standard – Levels 9 and 10

**By the end of Level 10, students can:**

* evaluate the Australian government’s roles and responsibilities at a regional and a global level
* use a range of resources and perspectives to develop and evaluate questions to best investigate contemporary civic issues
* evaluate political, legal and civic institutions nationally and internationally
* evaluate the effectiveness of democratic decision-making and methods of civic participation, including by participating in civic processes
* evaluate civics and citizenship issues using evidence and diverse perspectives

### Level 9 & 10 Content Descriptions

|  |
| --- |
| **Government and Democracy**  Code: VC2HC10K04  *Students learn about the Australian Government’s roles and responsibilities at a regional and global level.*  **Elaboration:**   * analysing and evaluating the reasons for and effectiveness of Australia’s participation in the region and globally around a global issue   **The link to the topic:**  One reason why the government is interested in regulating cashless transactions is to improve tax compliance. Cash transactions are unreported and can lead to tax evasion. By promoting cashless payments, the government can create a more transparent economy where all transactions are recorded and traceable. Moving to a cashless society can also provide consumer protection against fraud and theft as digital payments today provide a layer of additional security through encryption and transaction tracking. Going cashless can improve efficiency and reduced costs as the handling of physical currency is no longer necessary. The global pandemic accelerated the shift towards cashless payments as a way to reduce physical contact and to reduce viral transmission. However, consideration does need to be given to financial inclusion and whether all citizens have access to technology and banking services to enable the move to go cashless. Small businesses may also struggle with additional costs due to the need to invest in new technologies or to pay transaction fees. Students need to learn about the government’s role, current global trends and the challenges that come with going cashless. |

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| **Citizenship, Diversity and Identity**  Code: VC2HC10K09  *Students learn about individual and group participation in, and contribution to, civic life and global citizenship.*  **Elaboration:**   * investigating individuals and communities, that actively participate in local and global civic life, * comparing the power held or perceived by different groups and individuals in Australian society   **The link to the topic:**  In Australia various individuals and communities participate in civil life through different means such as voting, advocacy, volunteering and engaging in the right to freedom of speech. This promotes a sense of belonging and responsibility amongst citizens. The government of the day holds significant power to legislate policies affecting financial transactions. Their position on whether businesses should be cashless can influence and indeed drive economic practice across the nation. Businesses that advocate for cashless transactions argue that it improves efficiency and reduces costs. Community groups representing marginalised communities highlight the risks associated with a cashless society if individuals do not have access to banking facilities or digital literacy. Consumers who are financially stable favour cashless options for ease and convenience while low-income individuals may resist these changes due to accessibility issues. The debate on whether the government should ban business from going cashless involves complex considerations around the needs of both consumers and businesses as well as the benefits to the Australian economy. |

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| **Skills: Investigating contemporary issues civics and citizenship**  *Students learn to develop and evaluate questions to investigate contemporary political, legal and civic issues.*  Code: VC2HC10S01  **Elaboration:**   * brainstorming questions about a contemporary local or global issue and then evaluating which question will result in the most useful answer * developing a question to investigate how the Australian Government has responded to a regional or global issue   **The link to the topic:**  The trend to towards cashless societies has been growing globally due to convenience, efficiency and technology advancements. However, it also raises concerns about privacy, accessibility for those without bank accounts and mobile devices and the potential exclusion of vulnerable members of our society. The trend to go cashless gained momentum during the COVID -19 pandemic when health concerns prompted businesses and consumers to prefer contactless methods of payment. The government’s response to this issue requires consideration for the need to regulate payment systems in Australia, the rights of consumers to choose their own payment preferences, the need for financial inclusion and public consultation to ensure that all affected groups voice their opinion and are heard. By considering all aspects of this topic students can explore a contemporary and topical issue as they prepare for the Convention. |

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| **Skills: Investigating contemporary issues civics and citizenship**  *Students evaluate information, data, perspectives and ideas from a range of sources on contemporary issues.*  Code: VC2HC10S02  **Elaboration**   * explaining multiple perspectives responding to a global contemporary issue * examining possible changes to laws about human rights in Australia or Victoria and the multiple perspectives on these changes   **The link to the topic:**  The issue of a government’s ban on cashless businesses in Australia raises an important examination of consumer rights, business efficiency, and human rights. Some groups argue that such a ban is necessary to ensure inclusivity for individuals who rely on cash, such as low-income and elderly populations. Conversely, businesses advocate for the freedom to operate using digital transactions rather than a physical currency due to operational efficiencies and safety concerns. Policymakers must balance these perspectives while considering potential changes to the laws that protect consumer rights without holding back innovation. Involving key stakeholders in this debate through public consultation and pilot programs could help assess whether such a ban is needed. |

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| **Skills: Participating in Civic Processes**  *Students learn to evaluate the effectiveness of democratic decision-making.*  Code: VC2HC10S06  **Elaboration**   * analysing the scope of consensus-building and what democratic decision-making may be needed at a bigger scale * evaluating the potential for democratic decision-making about global issues   **The link to the topic:**  Democratic decision-making involves consensus-building among all key stakeholders to reach agreements that reflect the collective interests of the members of our society. When addressing issues, such as government bans on cashless businesses, it is essential to evaluate economic impacts, social equity, and privacy concerns. Effective democratic processes require public engagement, transparency, and adaptability to ensure that policies meet the needs of all affected parties. In the long term the success of these decisions relies on comprehensive dialogue and consideration between the government, businesses and all consumers as the decision to go cashless will impact all of them in either a positive or negative way. |

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| **Skills: Communicating**  *Students learn to construct evidence-based arguments using civics and citizenship knowledge, concepts and different perspectives, and determine the most effective method of communication.*  Code: VC2HC10S08  **Elaboration:**   * using reflective tools to evaluate how they came to their perspective on a contemporary issue and what evidence they used to come to that perspective, including acknowledging evidence that does not support their perspective * analysing the media and campaign methods of communication in relation to global issues * analysing the most effective methods of communication when responding to contemporary issues * determining whether some methods of communication are more effective in particular campaigns   **The link to the topic:**  Students are encouraged to develop their skills to enable them to construct evidence-based arguments for this Convention topic. They are given the opportunity to consider and indeed analyse a range of media articles on this topic to understand the different perspectives before arriving at their own conclusion about whether the government should ban businesses from being cashless. They build on their communication skills through active listening, actively contributing to class discussion and completing the tasks to prepare for the Convention. |

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| **Critical and Creating Thinking**  **Questions and Possibilities**  *Students learn about when and how to critically reflect on suspension of judgement when generating and evaluating alternative ideas and possibilities from different perspectives*  Code:VC2CC10Q02  **Elaboration**   * comparing a creative process that quickly responds to initial judgements to one that intentionally suspends judgements over a period of time, reflecting on the quality of the ideas produced and discussing when each type of process might be used * discussing the concept of unconscious bias and how this might affect suspension of judgement when engaging with alternative perspectives, and discussing ways to mitigate this * discussing how challenging assumptions and being open-minded can assist in evaluating ideas to generate possibilities, for example with regard to developing enterprising behaviours (supported by research on specific entrepreneurs), or when engaging with different perspectives on a social issues related to becoming a cashless society * exploring when it is appropriate to suspend judgement and when it is not, for the purpose of generating alternative ideas and possibilities   **The link to the topic:**  Students develop their ability to generate and evaluate different ideas effectively. When discussing this topic, throughout the completion of these tasks and participating in the Convention they are encouraged to be open minded considering all the stakeholders affected by the decision to ban businesses from going cashless. Students need to consider economic access verses technological process and the implications of such a decision for all member of society, gaining a deeper insight into this topic and issue. From brainstorming ideas, to considering the choices other countries have made they can form their own conclusions based on facts, choices and the needs of the different groups that make up our society. |

## LEARNING INTENTION FOR THESE STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

**By the completion of these activities students will be able to:**

* Develop a comprehensive understanding of what it means for a business to be cashless and the implications of this choice on consumers, businesses and society
* Improve their research skills by gathering relevant information from reliable sources regarding the benefits and limitations of cashless transactions that relate to economic, social and technological perspectives
* Engage in critical thinking by analysing the different viewpoints on this topic
* Articulate their arguments clearly and persuasively to improve their public speaking and debating skills
* Work collaboratively with other students to discuss ideas, complete individual and group tasks and contribute to meaningful discussion about this topic

## SUCCESS CRITERIA FOR THESE STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

**Students will be able to:**

* Accurately explain what it means for a business to be cashless articulating both sides of the argument regarding government intervention
* Identify and describe the key stakeholders and their perspective on this topic (including government, business, consumers and special interest groups)
* Actively participate in the debate on this topic providing valid arguments during the Convention
* Consider the experiences of other countries that have gone cashless and decide whether these align with the needs of both business and consumers in Victoria and Australia.
* Gain better understanding of the role of government in business

## Activity 1: Introductory Tasks

### a: The Three Levels of Government – Classification Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* We understand what each of the three levels of government is responsible for.

**Success Criteria**

* I can identify the key roles and responsibilities of each of the three levels of government.

**Task Instructions:**

**1. Identify the role of each of the three levels of governments and list at least 5 areas of responsibility. Refer to either of resources listed below to help you with this task.**

**2. Share with the rest of the class and create a list of the responsibilities of each level of government as well as an explanation of their specific role.**

**Resources:**

[**Three levels of government: governing Australia - PEO**](https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/nfc-technology-payment-vector-ounline-icon-contacless-wireless-payment-with-credit-gm895075002-247370784?searchscope=image%2Cfilm)

[**The three levels of government flashcards - POV resources**](https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/nfc-technology-payment-vector-ounline-icon-contacless-wireless-payment-with-credit-gm895075002-247370784?searchscope=image%2Cfilm)

**SAMPLE RESPONSES: (Student answers will vary)**

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| **Government Level** | **Role** | **Key Responsibilities** |
| **Local Government** | Responsible for issues at a community level through councils | Health inspections  Local roads  Street signs  Bus stops  Local libraries  local sport fields  Playgrounds  Community services  Local building controls  Footpaths  Garbage collection  Local environment  Trees |
| **State/Territory Government** | Responsible for issues that affect people in that state or territory | Power  Gas  Water  Sewerage  Consumer laws  Workplace laws  Buses  Traffic laws and lights  Police  Road signs  Major rod  School funding  State sport centres  Hospitals  Ambulance services |
| **Federal Government** | Responsible for issues that affect the whole country | Currency  Trade imports and exports  National road funding  Funding to states  Higher education  Telephone services  Broadcasting laws  Medicate  Drug control  International treaties |

### b: Victorian Government Departments– Matching Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* We can demonstrate an understanding of the specific roles and responsibilities of the ten Victorian government departments.

**Success Criteria**

* I can correctly match each department to its corresponding services and responsibilities.

**Task Instructions:**

**1. Refer to the State government departments below and match them with their specific responsibilities.**

**2. Share with the rest of the class and create a list of the responsibilities of each government department in Victoria.**

|  |
| --- |
| Department of Education; Department of Families, Fairness and Housing; Department of Health; Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions; Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action; Department of Justice and Community Safety; Department of Premier and Cabinet; Department of Treasury and Finance; Department of Transport and Planning; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. |

**SAMPLE RESPONSE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **State Government Department** | **Responsibilities** |
| Department of Energy Environments and Climate Action | Focus is on energy policy, environmental sustainability and climate change initiatives |
| Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning | Responsible for land use planning, conservation, water resources and energy policy |
| Department of Treasury and Finance | Responsible for managing the state’s finances including the preparation of the budget, taxation, financial reporting and economic growth |
| Department of Education | Oversees education policy in Victoria, including early childhood, primary and secondary school, vocational education and training institutions |
| Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions | Supports job creation initiatives, and improving the skills of workers to meet industry demands |
| Department of Health | Oversees public hospitals, mental health services, and health promotion programs |
| Department of Transport and Planning | Responsible for the planning and delivery of public transport including trains, trams and buses as well as road networks |
| Department of Families, Fairness and Housing | Focuses on families, housing support services, child pretention, disability services and social inclusion |
| Department of Premier and Cabinet | Coordinates the activities of the Victorian government including policy development and long- term planning, aboriginal and multicultural affairs |
| Department of Justice, and Community Safety | Focus is on law and order, oversees police services, emergency management, public safety initiatives and legal aid services |

### c: Key Vocabulary – Group Brainstorming Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* We will explore what a ‘cashless society’ means.

**Success Criteria**

* I will actively participate in the group brainstorming activity, contributing at least one idea or term to create a comprehensive list of specific words to help the class unpack the terms that will be used in this topic.

**Task Instructions:**

**In groups of four students or as a whole class develop a list of key term and words that would be relevant to this topic and in particular to define the term ‘cashless society’. Consider current trends for both businesses and consumers when paying for goods and services.**

**Options: This task can be done using a Word Splash, Padlet or a Word Cloud (sample provided – page 7).**

**Note:**

**Vocabulary list can be divided into two categories:**

**- terms students would be familiar with**

**- terms the teacher can add to expand the vocabulary list**

**What is a word splash?**

A word splash is a comprehension and vocabulary strategy that improves students’ understanding of the terminology relate to a specific topic. It involves the sharing of key terms and displaying these in the classroom as you unpack this topic as you prepare for the Convention.

**SAMPLE RESPONSE: (Student answers will vary)**

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| **Terms students would be familiar with:**  **Cashless society** – society where financial transactions are done using digital methods instead of physical cash or actual notes and coins  **Contactless payments** – consumers pay for goods and services by tapping card or mobile device  **Digital wallets** – store payment information electronically so user can make purchases without physical cash  **Tap and go** – contactless payments using debit/credit cards or mobile devices  **E-commerce** – buying and selling goods and services over the internet using cashless payments  **Transaction fees** – fees charged when processing an electronic payment based on payment method used  **Cybersecurity risks** – potential threats relating to hacking or data breaches that compromise personal financial information in a cashless society  **Cryptocurrency** – digital currency such as Bitcoin  **Online banking** – managing bank accounts and making transactions via the internet  **Buy now Pay later** – payment plans that allow consumer to defer payments for goods and services  **Terms teachers can add to the list to expand the vocabulary range:**  **QR code payments** – transactions made by using a QR code on a smartphone  **Electronic Funds Transfer** – transfer of money between accounts electronically  **Transactions** – buying or selling something  **Encryption –** process of protecting information or data  **Fraud detection-** process of identifying suspicious activity that indicates criminal theft of money, data or resources  **Economy -** process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country  **Vulnerable**- people from low socio-economic backgrounds, disadvantages, elderly, those living in remote areas  **Digital literacy** - having the knowledge and skills to effectively use technology e.g. smartphone  Inclusion  **Social impact-**the effect of a government’s, a business’s or organisation actions on the well-being of the community  **Economic impact-** the effect on an economy of a particular activity or decision  **Tax compliance –** following tax laws and regulations to correctly report income, expenses and other financial details to ensure the correct amount of tax is paid by an individual or a business  **Innovation-** to invent or create new ideas or products or take current ideas or ways of doing things and making them better  **Marginalised-** certain groups of people are made to feel less important or ignored as they are excluded from important social economic opportunities or decisions  **Consumer protection laws** – regulations to safeguard consumers using digital payments |

Example of a Word Cloud: ****

## Activity 2: Unpacking the Victorian Government’s Role in Business Regulation – Cloze Activity and Scenarios

**Learning Intentions**

We will gain an understanding of the various functions of the Victorian government in regulating businesses and how these contribute to the economy of Victoria.

**Success Criteria**

I will complete the cloze and application activities (scenarios) to consolidate my understanding of the role of government in business regulation as this is linked to the Convention topic.

**Task Instructions:**

**1. Refer to the word bank provided to fill in the gaps for each of the following sentences.**

**2. In pairs read the six scenarios provided to determine which Victorian Government regulations apply. Share with the rest of the class**

**SAMPLE RESPONSE:**

The Victorian government plays a key role in **regulating** businesses to make sure they operate **fairly**, safely and in accordance with the law. These regulations help protect consumers, workers and the environment while supporting the growth of the economy.

Businesses must register their names and obtain the necessary **licenses** such as a food handling permit. The Business Licensing Authority is in charge of licencing across a range of industries making sure businesses meet industry specific **standards.**

WorkSafe Victoria enforces **workplace safety laws** to protect employees. The Fair Work Act outlines the **minimum wages requirements** and workplace rights for all Victorian employees.

Consumer Affairs Victoria ensure businesses follow fair trading laws and **protect** consumers from misleading practices. If a business if found to be in breach of fair-trading laws, they can receive a fine.

The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for enforcing **pollution** and waste management laws for businesses. The Environmental Protection Act 2017 outlines the penalties that businesses can face for being in breach of environmental standards.

The Victorian Government manages state taxes like **payroll tax** and can help businesses grow through incentives. Other taxes they collect include land tax, insurance duty that applies to various insurance policies and land transfers. The State government uses this money to fund public services and **infrastructure projects** like the new Metro tunnel and the Footscray Hospital.

The government of Victoria has the responsibility to protect **consumer rights**. It has the legal authority to create laws that are designed to ensure that all consumers have access to goods and services without being discriminated against based on their **payment preferences** whether they involve cash, cards or electronic transfers.

The Victorian government can introduce laws that require businesses to accept **cash** as a form of payment in exchange for the products they sell to consumers. The government has to balance the **economic needs** **of** the state with **social** fairness to look after both the interests of consumers and businesses.

**Scenario Based Pair and Share Activity**

Decide which Victorian government regulations apply in the following scenarios:

**1**. A new café is opening in Williamstown and needs to ensure it follows the law. What regulations must it comply with?

**Work safety laws, food handling permit, business name registration, payroll tax**

2. A construction company has multiple workplace injuries. Which government body is responsible and what action should be taken?

**WorkSafe Victoria, investigation of the causes of workplace injuries and fines**

3. A small business is caught making false claims about its products. Which government department would investigate this and what penalties could it face?

**Consumer Affairs Victoria, fines if found in breach of fair-trading laws**

4. A manufacturing company is accused of polluting the local river. What legal consequences could it face?

**Under the Environment Protection Act 2017 it would be fined**

5. A Mornington ice cream shop has a sign in the window saying it only accepts cash. Can it do this? Give a reason for your answer.

**This is acceptable as long as it is made clear to the consumer that cash is accepted before a transaction is finalised.**

6. An employee is being underpaid as a casual at a local fish and chip shop. Which Act is it breaching?

**The Fair Work Act**

## 

## Activity 3: Different Methods of Payment – PowerPoint and Scenario Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* We will consider the different payment methods available for businesses in Victoria.
* We will evaluate the advantage and disadvantages of each payment method to determine the most suitable option for a range of typical business scenarios.

**Success Criteria**

* I will participate in the brainstorming session about the different payments currently used by business in Victoria.
* I will be able to recommend the most appropriate payment method and provide one advantage and one disadvantage of each method.

**Task Instructions:**

**a. On a post it note list at least 4 different methods of payment used by consumers when buying products from businesses.**

**b. Listen to the teacher driven Power Point on the methods of payments available to consumers and take notes on page 17.**

**RESOURCE:** [**POWERPOINT [LINK]**](https://vctagroup-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/geoffrey_oneill_ncsonline_com_au/EVwdihAjrolCpjC1PxesN7UB6AYLWBSj1eP0APDm7SZlmA?e=3SP2cu)

**c. Complete the See Think Wonder sheet provided on page 18 in relation to the first slide which refers to ‘How Australians Pay’ Snapshot provided by the Reserve Bank of Australia and share your thoughts with another student after you have considered the information on the link**

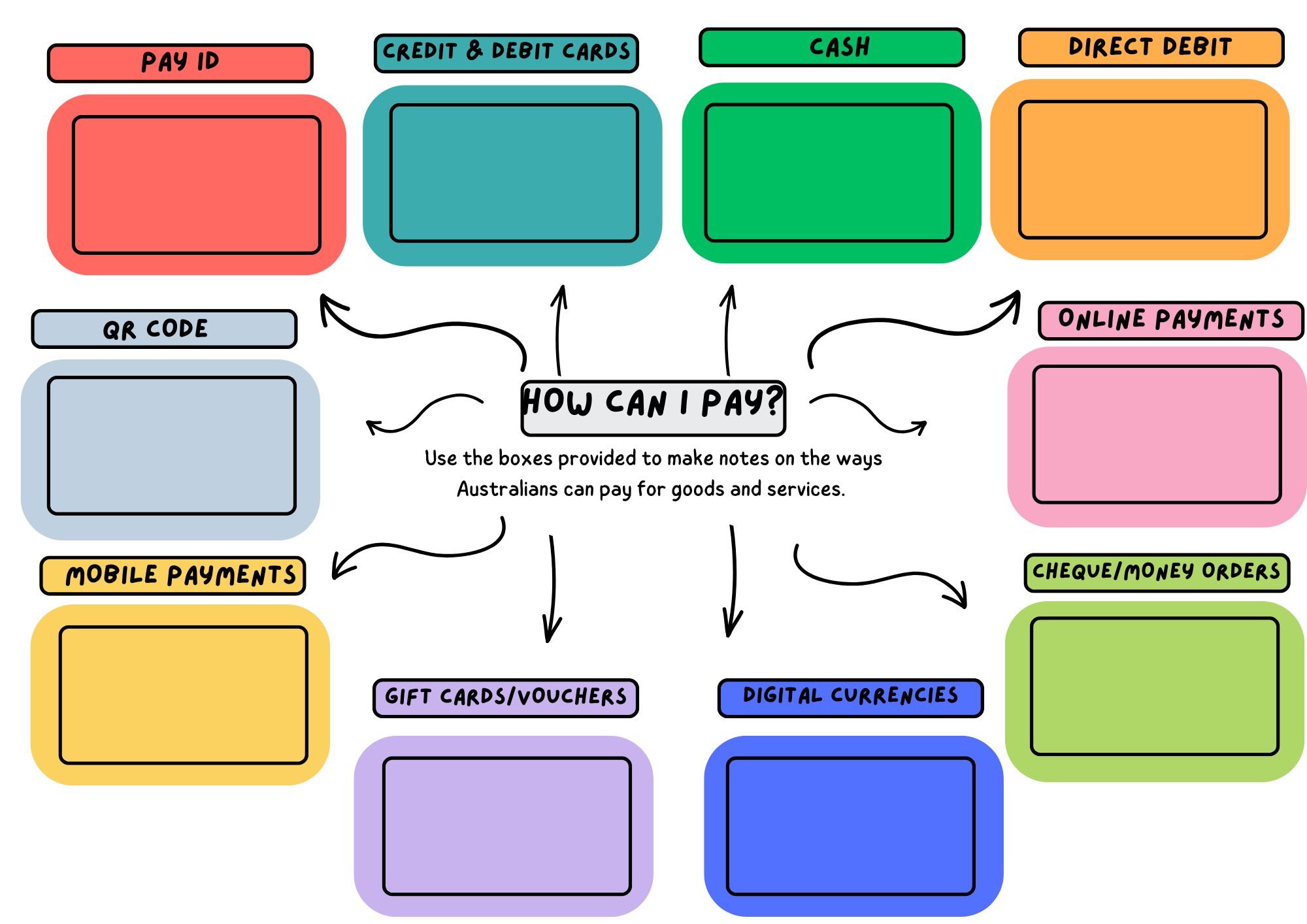
**d. Complete the quiz linked below (pages 19-21) to the to test your understanding of the different methods of payment available to consumers today.**

**e. Read each of the scenarios and answer the questions that follow.**

### a. Post-It Note - Methods of Payment Activity

Please stick you Post-It Notes here or write them in the blank space provided.

**(Student answers will vary)**

b. PowerPoint Notetaking – Methods of Payment **(Student answers will vary)**

### c. I SEE, I THINK, I WONDER

[**How Australians Pay – Snapshot**](https://www.rba.gov.au/snapshots/how-australians-pay-snapshot/pdf/how-australians-pay-snapshot.pdf?v=2025-04-28-11-56-37)

**SAMPLE RESPONSES (**Student answers will vary)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Glasses outline**I see**  **(what do you notice?)** | **Brain in head with solid fillI think**  **(opinion based on observations)** | **I wonder**  **Thought bubble outline**  **(ask questions about what you want to know more about)** |
| Most people make payments using their cards (76%)  Less people are using cash to make payments (13%)  More people are using PayID to make them payments  A high proportion of people use automatic payment methods (83%) | More and more people prefer cards to cash when making payments    More options are available to consumers now in terms of the methods they use to pay for their goods and services  Fewer people deal with cash today than 20 years ago, so less cash is circulating in the economy | As we become more technologically savvy using our mobile phones to make payments will there be any need for cash in the future?  What happens if the internet goes down and people do not have access to cash?  Should we be so reliant on technology to make our payments for goods and services? |

### d. Quiz: Methods of Paying for Goods and Services

**Instructions**: Read each question carefully and circle the correct answer.

**SAMPLE RESPONSES (HIGHLIGHTED)**

1. **Which of the following is a non-cash method of payment?**

A. Coins

B. Banknotes

C. Debit card

D. Paying with $50

1. **One advantage of using a credit card is:**

A. It does not require a bank account

B. You can spend money you don't currently have

C. It earns you more cash

D. It has no interest

1. **Which payment method is best described as “buy now, pay later”?**

A. EFTPOS

B. Debit card

C. Cash

D. After pay

1. **Which of the following payment methods takes money from your bank account immediately?**

A. Credit card

B. Gift card

C. Debit card

D. Buy now, pay later

1. **What is a potential disadvantage of using the “Buy Now, Pay Later" services?**

A. You get too many rewards

B. It can lead to debt if not repaid on time

C. You cannot use it online

D. It's only for adults over 50

1. **Which payment method does not require internet or electricity?**

A. Credit card

B. Online banking

C. Cash

D. Mobile payment

1. **What is one advantage of using digital wallets (e.g. Apple Pay or Google Pay)?**

A. You can only use it at home

B. You need to have the exact change

C. It allows for contactless payment

D. It is slower than using cash

1. **Which method of payment is most used for online shopping?**

A. Cash

B. Debit card

C. Credit card

D. Gift card

1. **What does EFTPOS stand for ?**

A. Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale

B. Easy Funds Transfer Online Payment System

C. Emergency Funds Transfer on Point Sale

D. Electronic Finance Transaction on Payment System

1. **One benefit of using a debit card instead of a credit card is:**

A. You can borrow money

B. You earn more interest

C. You avoid going into debt

D. You pay more fees

1. **What does a QR code do in a payment system?**

A. Shows your bank balance

B. Stores contact details

C. Links to a payment page or app

D. Charges your phone

1. **Which of the following is required to make a payment using a QR code?**

A. A PIN number

B. A printer

C. A QR scanner or phone camera

D. A password

1. **What is PayID commonly linked to?**

A. Your physical home address

B. Your credit score

C. Your phone number or email address

D. Your driver's licence

1. **One benefit of using PayID is:**

A. You need to visit the bank each time

B. You no longer need to know someone’s BSB and account number

C. It works only with cash

D. It requires a credit card

1. **Which of the following is an example of a digital currency?**

A. Apple Pay

B. Bitcoin

C. PayID

D. Credit card

1. **What is one risk of using digital currencies like Bitcoin?**

A. You must be over 65

B. The value can change quickly

C. They are backed by the government

D. They are only used for online shopping

1. **What makes digital currencies different from regular money?**

A. They are printed by a bank

B. They can only be used in shops

C. They are not physical and not issued by a central bank

D. They are used only by children

1. **When scanning a QR code for payment, what should you check first?**

A. The weather

B. If your friend already paid

C. That the code comes from a trusted source

D. The size of the code

**19. What is one disadvantage of using a gift card?**

A. You can only use it with cash

B. It usually has an expiry date

C. It earns interest over time

D. It can be used in any country

**20. If you lose a physical gift card, what usually happens?**  
 A. You can always get a free replacement  
 B. The store refunds the money instantly  
 C. It may not be replaced or refunded  
 D. The money doubles as compensation

### e. SCENARIO ACTIVITY

**SAMPLE RESPONSES (**Student answers will vary)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 1:** A customer visits the Victoria Market in Elizabeth Street Melbourne and decided to buy fresh flowers. They hand over a $20 note to the vendor who gives them change. | |
| **Method of Payment:** Cash | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| immediate payment, no electronic fee charges | not as commonly accepted as card payments, risk of loss or theft of money |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 2:** A shopper at Coles, goes to the self-service checkouts, scans their grocery items and uses the debit card function to pay for their purchases. | |
| **Method of Payment:** EFTPOS payment using debit card | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| convenient, secure and widely accepted | requires shopper to have sufficient funds in account for purchase |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 3:** A customer buys a new mobile phone from the Vodafone store at Chadstone and uses their credit card to pay in monthly instalments. | |
| **Method of Payment:** credit card allows user to access bank funds for initial payment | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| allows for delayed payments, possible reward points earned, buyer protection | high-interest rate charges if not repaid on time |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 4:** A public transport user taps their smartphone on the Myki reading using Google Wallet to pay for their train ride to Bendigo**.** | |
| **Method of Payment:** contactless payment | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| fast, secure, eliminates need for physical cards or cash | risk of fraud if mobile device is lost |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 5:** A student buys a new laptop from Harvey Norman using After Pay to split the costs into four interest free payments. | |
| **Method of Payment:** Buy now, pay later | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| no upfront fees, easy approval | late fees apply if payments missed |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 6:** A technologically savvy enthusiast purchases concert tickets online using Bitcoin through a merchant who accepts this method of payment**.** | |
| **Method of Payment:** Cryptocurrency payment | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| decentralized system of payment (does not use a bank) and secure | limited business acceptance and can have volatile value (changes quickly) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 7:** A small business pays their supplier using a cheque which is then deposited into the supplier’s bank account. | |
| **Method of Payment:** Signed instruction to a bank to release funds to the supplier from the small business’s cheque account | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| safer than cash as can be cancelled if lost or stolen, paper trail of transaction, payer specifies amount and date of payment | take several days to clear, can bounce if insufficient funds in small business’ account, time consuming process |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 8:** A gaming business offers a magazine subscription service through automatic billing system to its customers. | |
| **Method of Payment:** Recurring online payment | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| convenient as automatic payments, may get discount if join, can cancel at any time without penalties | can have hidden fees, may forget about automatic payments and not have the funds in the account, can be difficult to cancel with follow up emails needed to stop payments |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 9**: A customer makes a purchase of toys from amazon.com.au | |
| **Method of Payment:** Credit card or debit card to make online payment | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| payments processed immediately, can offer rewards points, fraud protection, faster checkouts | may lead to overspending, fees and high interest rates linked to credit card purchases, data breaches and identify theft possible with online shopping |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenario 10:** A local café wants to provide a quicker ordering service by offering multiple mobile payments. | |
| **Method of Payment:** Mobile payments including Apple Pay, Google Pay | |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| quicker transactions, minimal physical contact during payment process, appeal to tech savvy customers | merchants and customer must have compatible devices, reliance in internet, transaction fees, always a security risk, limited acceptance by older customers |

## Activity 4: Media Analysis – Comprehension Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* We will improve our reading comprehension skills by analysing online newspaper articles
* We will gain an understanding of the arguments for and against the Convention topic through the comprehension activity related to both the newspaper articles and the YouTube clips.

**Success Criteria**

* Ican write a summary of the article in 1-2 sentences
* I can identify arguments for and arguments against the topic of governments should ban businesses from going cashless.

**Task Instructions:**

**1. You will be assigned a newspaper article or a YouTube clip to read/ watch. (this can be an individual student task or a pair and share task)**

**2. Complete the worksheet summarising the key points made in the article or clip and list any advantages or disadvantage raised in the article on this topic.**

**3. Share with the rest of the class.**

**YouTube clips:**

[9 News – Customers outraged as some stores go cashless](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UW-tV5XYso) (2.08 minutes)

[ABC News – Going cashless](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UW-tV5XYso) (3.49 minutes)

[Behind the News – Cash Mandate](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UW-tV5XYso) (3.17 minutes)

[7 News – Major cash payment changes on the way for Australians](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnuQoD4_JyU) (1.37 minutes)

**Newspaper articles:**

[ABC News – Australia’s transition to a cashless society raises concerns about financial exclusion, privacy and safety](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-23/cashless-society-financial-exclusion-safety-privacy-concerns/102706718)

[Queensland Government – The future is cashless](https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/information-and-communication-technology/queensland-government-digital-futures-and-foresight/signals/the-future-is-cashless)

[Yahoo Finance – Expensive downside of going cashless revealed](https://au.finance.yahoo.com/news/expensive-downside-of-going-cashless-revealed-212341858.html)

[Cash Matters – Australia would be poorer](https://www.cashmatters.org/blog/australia-would-be-poorer-without-cash) *[without](https://www.cashmatters.org/blog/australia-would-be-poorer-without-cash)* [cash](https://www.cashmatters.org/blog/australia-would-be-poorer-without-cash)

[Australian Seniors - Rise of the cashless society](https://www.seniors.com.au/home-contents-insurance/discover/cashless-society)

[9 News – Cash may no longer be king, but here’s why it looks set to stay](https://www.9news.com.au/finance/cashless-society-cash-is-no-longer-king-but-past-year-has-proved-it-could-be-here-to-stay/1077a426-ca2f-4c5e-8ccf-fc9d7fc5ccbf)

[Cashless businesses face consumer boycotts as people claim it denies freedoms - ABC News](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-12/cashless-backlash-boycott-threats-from-consumers/102462556)

[Kids News – The Barefoot Investor: this is why kids should still case about cash](https://www.kidsnews.com.au/money/the-barefoot-investor-this-is-why-kids-should-still-care-about-cash/news-story/e062528993dbeba08c582d4ad3db0feb)

[The Nightly – Cash Out Day Australia: physical currency advocates to withdraw big sums of money from banks and ATMs on Tuesday](https://thenightly.com.au/australia/cash-out-day-australia-physical-currency-advocates-to-withdraw-big-sums-of-money-from-banks-and-atms-on-tuesday-c-18416032)

**SAMPLE RESPONSES (**Student answers will vary)

**YouTube clips:**

***Note****: These 4 clips can be allocated to students individually or collectively as one task or they can be allocated to individual students with the 9 newspaper articles*

**1.** [9 News – Customers outraged as some stores go cashless](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UW-tV5XYso) (2.08 minutes)

*\*\*\*Short, easy to understand and suitable for EAL students*

**Summary of key points of video clip:**

The clip provides an overview of the move of many businesses like cafes and fast-food outlets towards digital transactions which means they are going cashless. A petition has been presented to parliament with over 12,000 signatures in support of the government protecting the right to use cash when making transactions.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of a going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Increases business efficiency * Reduces paper waste * Consumers now have access to the technology to pay digitally on their mobile devices * Reduces crime rate as businesses that are cashless will not be a targeted for burglaries increasing staff safety | * Personal choice as some consumers still prefer to deal with cash * Growing surcharges and services fees associated with the use of cards when making purchases adds to the cost of goods and services |

**2**. [ABC News – Going cashless](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UW-tV5XYso) (3.49 minutes)

*\*\*Short, clear and easy to follow explanation of some of the arguments for this debate which is suitable for low literacy or EAL students*

**Summary of key points of article/ video clip:**

Amusing snapshot of the move to going cashless with some valid points about why this has occurred with a discussion of the pros and cons provided**.** The Reserve Bank has noticed a decline in the use of physical currency and the rapid increase of digital transactions in our society.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantage of going cashless** |
| * Australia is following the trend of other countries moving towards becoming cashless * Increased demand for online shopping post the pandemic indicates the need for digital transactions * Physical cash has the potential to transmit germs due to multi handling by individuals making digital transactions a cleaner and safer option * Reduction in crime rates and tax avoidance as traceable transactions and general deterrence for would be criminals as businesses no long deal in physical cash * Converting money to different currencies is easier for trading and travel purposes | * Increased rate of bank and ATM closures is making it more difficult to access physical cash * Reliance on a reliable internet service wherever you are in Australia – rural or city * Some members of the community still rely on cash like buskers, charities and families to give pocket money to children * Potential increase of cybercriminal activity * The need for backup is higher if technology fails * People who are not technologically savvy will struggle to use cards and mobile devices for their goods and services purchases |

**3.** [Behind the News – Cash Mandate](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UW-tV5XYso) (3.17 minutes)

**Summary of key points of video clip:**

Video focuses on the move from cash to card and its rise in popularity especially amongst young people. Raises some good points about the need for cash despite more people using cards when buying goods and services. Also refers to the Federal government’s decision to enforce (put into place) new rules to force some business to accept cash for essential services like groceries and fuel.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantage of going cashless** |
| * Convenient to use * Always available to use unlike cash which you can lose * Easier to track spending * Easier to pay for things as just need to tap * Increase of online shopping * COVID -19 pushed more people to go cashless when businesses were not accepting notes and coins for goods and services | * Tend to overspend with cards whereas with cash you are limited to what you are carrying in notes and coins * Some people think it is more convenient to have cash * Still has a purpose like giving cash to homeless people to help them buy goods and services * Greater risk of online scams and hackers when using cards * Additional fees for paying with cards * Older generation still prefers to use cash * Global software outages can mean payment systems go offline |

**4.** [7 News – Major cash payment changes on the way for Australians](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnuQoD4_JyU) (1.37 minutes)

**Key discussion points raised:**

News report on the closure of another Commonwealth Bank branch in Sydney and locals protesting as they prefer to pay in cash not by cards. Raises some points about why cash needs to continue to be available for consumers to use. Reference to the Federal government’s announcement of new rules forcing businesses to accept cash for essentials like groceries, petrol and medicines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantage of going cashless** |
| * The focus of the newsclip is reasons why cash should continue to circulate in the community, so no advantages provided | * 1.5 million Australian still use cash to pay for their goods and services * Still legal tender so must be accepted by businesses * Older generations prefer to use cash not cards * Issues when technology fails * Older people are concerned about hackers |

**Newspaper Articles:**

**Article 1:**[ABC News – Australia’s transition to a cashless society raises concerns about financial exclusion, privacy and safety](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-23/cashless-society-financial-exclusion-safety-privacy-concerns/102706718)

*\*\*Good article to highlight some of the major advantages of a government ban on businesses going cashless.*

**Summary of key points of the article:**

The article raises some important points about why businesses are going cashless including data from the Reserve Bank that only 13% of all payments in 2022 were cash based. The article also highlights that the pandemic and the increase in online shopping are reasons for the move to digital transactions.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of a going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Phasing out or removing physical cash means increased convenience, as digital transactions are easy and accessible to use for consumer purchases * Transparency so less issues with tax avoidance * Increased safety for employees and a reduction in the handling of physical notes and coins due to germ risks and potential for robberies | * People with disabilities and those who live in remote and regional areas of Australia may have problems accessing digital financial services due to their skills or access * Many people aged over 65 still rely on cash as their main form of payment for goods and services * Heavy reliance on cash by low- income groups * Small percentage of the population does not have bank accounts so will struggle with digital transactions such as undocumented workers and newly arrived migrants * Sweden’s experience indicates the need for physical cash for the disadvantaged * Victims of abuse still rely on cash to be able to live as they have limited access to online financial services * In emergency situations like floods and bushfires people need cash for essential goods and services * Electrical and telecommunication outages cause issues for digital transactions due to the need for the internet |

**Article 2:** [Queensland Government – The future is cashless](https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/information-and-communication-technology/queensland-government-digital-futures-and-foresight/signals/the-future-is-cashless)

*\*\*This discussion paper presents an overview of some of the key considerations in relation to going cashless. The language can be complex so suits to students with strong comprehension skills.*

**Summary of key points of the discussion paper:**

This discussion paper talks about how cashless payments are becoming more common in Queensland especially after the pandemic and the boom in online shopping. It examines the pros and cons of society going cashless and the need to be inclusive of all citizens when deciding on the methods available to pay for goods and services. It also refers to the experience of overseas countries and what they are doing in terms of digital transactions versus cash payments.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Convenience of using digital transactions to make purchases by consumers * Transparency to reduce tax evasion as tracking of income and payments is easier than when using cash * Stability due to a reduction in crime * Inevitable and well underway so we need to accept that it will become the norm/way for making payments * Steady decline in the use of physical cash to make purchases and payments | * Disadvantages groups like people with disabilities, undocumented workers, refugees, victims of abuse and those who live in remote and regional areas * Potential for cyberattacks, power outages and natural disasters can raise issues about people having the ability to use digital transactions to make their purchases especially for essentials * The need for governments to improve consumer protection and promote competition with this innovation * The need for more investment in digital infrastructure and literacy to reduce the exclusion of some groups, especially the most vulnerable members in the community |

**Article 3:** [Yahoo Finance – Expensive downside of going cashless revealed](https://au.finance.yahoo.com/news/expensive-downside-of-going-cashless-revealed-212341858.html)

*\*\*Interesting article that can lead to further class discussion and debate about whether students who have cards or use digital payments spend more than those who are still using cash.*

**Summary of key points of the discussion paper:**

The article talks about how using cashless payment methods in Australia can lead to spending more money than when using cash. While cashless payments are convenient, they can also cause people to overspend and face financial issues if they don’t manage their budgets well.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Convenient and safe to use for consumers * Easier to use as there is no reliance on physical cash increasing the number of digital transactions in the community | * Tend to buy more when using digital transactions due to the emotional satisfaction * Paying with cash requires consumers to physically count the money whereas using cashless payments requires a tap or a swipe which can make it more difficult to control and budget for * Trend to \*‘cash stuff’ in envelopes by consumers as part of a budgeting process to pay bills is not possible with digital transactions leading to overspending   \*Separate physical money into different envelopes to pay for bills such as telephone, gas etc. |

**Article 4:** [Cash Matters – Australia would be poorer](https://www.cashmatters.org/blog/australia-would-be-poorer-without-cash) *[without](https://www.cashmatters.org/blog/australia-would-be-poorer-without-cash)* [cash](https://www.cashmatters.org/blog/australia-would-be-poorer-without-cash)

*Short blog that could be used with another article or a clip to enable students to continue to explore discussion points on this topic*.

**Summary of key points of the article:**

The article emphasizes that Australia would face significant economic and social disadvantages if it does transition to be a cashless society. Finance expert Sarah Wells highlights the disadvantages of such a decision by businesses without government intervention**.**

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| None provided | * People living in remote parts of Australia as well as Indigenous Australians, new immigrants, the very old and the very young will not benefit from such a decision * Young children will be disadvantaged as they will not learn the skills of budgeting by being given a specific amount of cash to spend at shopping centres to enable them to learn to make good choices * People who do not have bank accounts will not be able to access cashless payments * Some people do not have the digital literacy required to be able to understand cashless transactions especially the elderly who have had a lifetime of paying with cash * In emergency situations and disasters there is a greater need for cash to buy essentials due to internet failure or power outages and this will also impact on business owners who have relied on only cashless payments * People should have the right to choose their preferred methods of payment * Privacy issues, risks of cyberattacks and digital fraud all influence some people to still conduct their transactions in cash |

**Article 5:** [Australian Seniors - Rise of the cashless society](https://www.seniors.com.au/home-contents-insurance/discover/cashless-society)

*\*\*Insightful article with some personal stories to help students understand the impact of going cashless, easy read and accessible for all students.*

**Summary of key points of the article:**

The article talks about how society is moving towards using less cash and more digital payments. It includes amusing personal stories from journalists and senior citizens, expert points of views and the effects of going cashless on society.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * No need to queue or waste time when making payments or withdrawing cash from ATM’s or banks * There is a significant increase in online shopping for consumer convenience, that is less time consuming than physically going to the shops * Lowers crime rate, as people cannot be mugged for their wallets and cash register hold ups are not common any more * Lower money laundering/fraud and tax evasion increasing government revenue for public services * Range of cashless ways to pay thanks to technology and innovation including Apple Pay, Biometric payments (using face or fingerprints as ID) AfterPay, digital cards, cryptocurrency and smart watches | * Issues can arise when using smartphones to make payments if the authentication does not work * Wide range of reasons we use cash will disappear like the ability to make purchases at garage sales, charity contributions and giving children cash to make small purchases * Severely disadvantaged groups like mentally or physically impaired cannot cope with digital transactions * Using cash helps family’s budget better and is essential during an emergency or an outage for consumers to be able to buy supplies * Those aged over 65 tend to prefer in person transaction as they are not comfortable with debit cards and online banking * Fear of security and safety with online banking * Lack of financial literacy to cope with the transition to cashless * Charities, buskers, church collections and grandkids will all be negatively impacted if we go cashless |

**Article 6:** [9 News – Cash may no longer be king, but here’s why it looks set to stay](https://www.9news.com.au/finance/cashless-society-cash-is-no-longer-king-but-past-year-has-proved-it-could-be-here-to-stay/1077a426-ca2f-4c5e-8ccf-fc9d7fc5ccbf)

*\*\*Easy read for students although they will need to consider the advantages related to their own methods of payment (some are suggested) as the article focuses on the impact of going cashless.*

**Summary of key points of the article:**

The article from 9 News discusses the changing methods of payment consumers are using methods highlighting the decline of cash and the rise of digital transactions.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless (suggestions)** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Pandemic increased the trend to use cashless transactions due to safety concerns * Digital payment methods have gained popularity due to their convenience and speed * Reduced costs associated with handling cash such as security and transportation expenses * Younger generations are more technology savvy and will use technology driven payments over cash * The driving forces behind the move to a cashless society are technological changes and consumer preferences | * Banks have closed 926 ATM’s and 230 local branches in the last financial year * Macquarie Bank has taken the lead to go cashless providing digital only payments, phasing out/stopping cash deposits with customers who are now only able to access cash through ATMs * Number of businesses have gone cashless including Gloria Jeans, McDonald’s, and KFC in some of their stores * The cash mandate/order by the federal government for businesses to accept cash for essential items like groceries and fuel will not come into effect until 2026 * People may not be spending cash but seem to be holding on to it according to figures released by the Reserve Bank in June 2024 |

**Article 7:** [Cashless businesses face consumer boycotts as people claim it denies freedoms - ABC News](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-12/cashless-backlash-boycott-threats-from-consumers/102462556)

*\*\*Some valid points raised to help students understand this topic.*

**Summary of key points of the article:**

The article focuses on cashless businesses facing a consumer boycott as many individuals argue that the refusal of businesses to accept cash payments goes against personal freedoms and rights.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Increasing number of businesses are refusing to accept cash payments for hygienic reasons after the pandemic of 2020 * Convenience and security reasons influence businesses to prefer digital transactions * Improved speed of service for customers * Improved staff health and safety as no cash handling means less contact with customers, especially during the flu season * Reduced costs and risks associated with transporting cash to banks * It will be the choice of the business to decide if it is worth going cashless | * Lack of freedom of choice for consumers * Currently no laws to stop businesses from refusing cash payments * Money is still legal tender and people still want to use cash * Some people oppose the change to digital transaction based on their unwillingness to use this method of payment for goods and services as they have always used cash |

**Article 8:** [Kids News – The Barefoot Investor: this is why kids should still case about cash](https://www.kidsnews.com.au/money/the-barefoot-investor-this-is-why-kids-should-still-care-about-cash/news-story/e062528993dbeba08c582d4ad3db0feb)

*Interesting article about what Scott Pape found when he tried to pay with cash and why it is important to keep cash as an option in our society.*

**Summary of key points of the article:**

The article discusses the point of view of Scott Pape, also known as the ‘Barefoot Investor’ regarding cash and its role in personal finance.

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Governments prefer every transaction to be electronic for tax compliance as they can better track spending * Cash transactions have dropped in the last 12 years from over 60% to just 13% according to the Reserve Bank (2022 figures) | * Some people who want to use cash instead of digital transactions are unable to make purchases * Businesses like Armguard who transported cash between businesses and banks are struggling to operate due to less need for their services by businesses who are now cashless * Currency is part of the country’s national identity and security which means the design of the physical currency reflects important historical figures, landmarks and cultural symbols that are unique to Australia * Less stability for individuals who prefer to use cash to avoid cyber threats and to have more control of their money * Reference to Sweden having second thoughts about going cashless with households advised to withdraw and use cash regularly * Does not teach students/children the value of money using it as a visual aid |

**Additional points made by Soctt Pape that can be considered:**

* Cash provides individuals with greater control over their finances as they can manage their spending habits better compared to digital payments only
* Digital transactions tend to increase impulse spending compared to cash payments
* Need to have some cash for financial independence through budgeting and savings
* We must not be totally reliant on technological advances
* Use both physical currency and digital transactions for better money management

**Article 9:** [The Nightly – Cash Out Day Australia: physical currency advocates to withdraw big sums of money from banks and ATMs on Tuesday](https://thenightly.com.au/australia/cash-out-day-australia-physical-currency-advocates-to-withdraw-big-sums-of-money-from-banks-and-atms-on-tuesday-c-18416032)

*Easy read about what some members of the community are doing to keep cash in the community.*

**Summary of key points of the article:**

This is a very recent article that focuses on a campaign to stop the move to becoming a cashless society by encouraging people to withdraw money from ATMs on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 designating/labelling it as ‘Cash Out Day.’

**Key discussion points raised:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages of going cashless** | **Disadvantages of going cashless** |
| * Australian are using less notes and coins to pay for their transactions, with only 13% doing so in 2022 compared to 70% in 2017 * The amount of cash being used in the community is expected to drop to just 4% by 2030 * Cash is harder to access with at least 339 bank branch closures in 2023-2024 * The cost of transporting cash is increasing so the RBA expects that it will only be around for another 10 years as more and more people go cashless for their transactions | * Physical cash is still legal tender and should be accepted by all retailers in exchange for goods and services * 1.5 million people still use cash today * Older Australians, those living in regional and rural communities still prefer cash * Surcharges (additional fees) on cards when making payments increase the price of goods and services * The move to a cashless society will have a negative impact on seniors and vulnerable people who struggle with technology and online banking potentially causing digital exclusion (increasing the gap between those who have access to technology, the internet and the ability to use this technology and those who do not) * Seniors worry about online and credit card scams |

## Activity 5: Real World Examples- Research Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* We will explore real world examples of countries that have implemented cashless policies to understand the benefit, challenges, social and economic impacts of this decision.

**Success Criteria**

* I will participate in group work to research another country’ s approach to becoming cashless.
* In my group we will consider the benefits and challenges that the country has faced in this process.

**Task Instructions:**

**1****. Watch the introductory video as a class. Complete the strengths and limitations table and review your answers as a class.**

**2. In groups of 3-4 students you will then be allocated a country that has implemented a cashless policy. Research your country, read the articles provided and as a group write a summary of the benefits, challenges, social and economic impact of this decision on the worksheet provided.**

**3. Summarise your findings about all 4 countries and share with the rest of the class.**

### a. Introductory video

**Cashless Economies Real-World Case**

[Cashless Economies Real-World Cash Studies](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMoD0qnZd78) (5.39 minutes)

**SAMPLE RESPONSES (Student answers will vary**)

**Key points raised in video:**

Provides a quick overview of some of the issues countries face with digital transactions

**CASE STUDY 1: SWEDEN**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BENEFITS** | **LIMITATIONS** |
| * Less crime rate as businesses do not carry cash * Increased business efficiency and tracking of transactions * More tax revenue as business transactions can be tracked or monitored more | * Exclusion of some groups like the elderly and those in rural areas who still rely on cash, * Cyber threats due to hacking and greater potential for fraud * Technical issues as reliant on the Internet * Greater government control |

**CASE STUDY 2: INDIA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BENEFITS** | **LIMITATIONS** |
| * Increased digital banking, * Greater tax compliance as business transactions can be tracked and monitored as opposed to using cash which does not leave any records and documentation * More new bank accounts as people need them to be able to do online transactions without the use of cash | * Time delays because of the introduction of a new system * Not enough digital infrastructure for the demand e.g. internet, broadband etc * Lack of internet in rural areas |

**CASE STUDY 3: CHINA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BENEFITS** | **LIMITATIONS** |
| * Speed and convenience of digital transactions * Reduce crime rate and fraud * Financial inclusion of small businesses and street vendors – have access (can get) to financial products like bank accounts and digital online services | * Greater government control and surveillance, * Lack of individual privacy |

### b. Group Research

**In your group research your country and refer to the links below for the relevant articles read to complete the worksheet that follows:**

**Country 1: Sweden**

As of 2023 only 10% of business transaction were done using cash. Many banks have stopped offering over the county cash services making it harder for individuals to access and use cash and notes.

[The Conversation – Sweden is a nearly cashless society – here’s how it affects people who are left out](https://theconversation.com/sweden-is-a-nearly-cashless-society-heres-how-it-affects-people-who-are-left-out-216586)

[The Guardian – Sweden and Norway rethink cashless society plans over Russia security fears](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/oct/30/sweden-and-norway-rethink-cashless-society-plans-over-russia-security-fears)

[The Guardian – Back to cash: life without money in your pocket is not the utopia Sweden hoped](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/mar/16/sweden-cash-digital-payments-electronic-banking-security)

**Country 2: India**

India is undergoing a significant transformation towards becoming a cashless economy, driven by technological advancements, government initiatives, and changing consumer behaviours. This shift has been accelerated by the introduction of digital payment systems, particularly the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has revolutionized how transactions are conducted in the country.

[Clear Tax – Cashless economy: objectives, importance, impact on Indian economy, advantages and disadvantages](https://cleartax.in/s/cashless-economy)

[The Conversation – Why a ‘cashless’ society would hurt the poor: A lesson from India](https://theconversation.com/why-a-cashless-society-would-hurt-the-poor-a-lesson-from-india-79735)

**Country 3: China**

China is rapidly transitioning to a cashless society, driven by the widespread adoption of mobile payment platforms such as Alipay and WeChat Pay. This shift has been facilitated by several factors, including technological advancements, government policies, and changing consumer behaviours. As of 2024, approximately 86% of the population engages in mobile payments, marking a significant departure from traditional cash transactions.

[Infographic – China going cashless – what does it mean for consumers, trade, and the economy?](https://www.eos-intelligence.com/perspectives/technology/infographic-china-going-cashless-what-does-it-mean-for-consumers-trade-and-economy/)

[The Guardian – Cash is king – for now: China signals it will slow transition to cashless society](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/29/china-slows-cashless-society-transition-cash-digital-currency-mobile-payment-system)

**Country 4: United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom is experiencing a significant shift towards becoming a cashless society. This transition has been pushed by various factors, including technological advancements, changing consumer behaviours, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[The Guardian – ‘A fundamental right’: UK high street chains and restaurants challenged over refusal to accept cash](https://www.theguardian.com/money/2025/mar/16/uk-high-street-chains-restaurants-cash-payments#:~:text=Following%20a%20steady%20decline%20in,%2C%20a%20four%2Dyear%20high)

[BBC – Shops and firms will not be forced to accept cash](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c20gevkx8gyo)

[Unbiased – A cashless society: what are the pros and cons?](https://www.unbiased.co.uk/discover/personal-finance/budgeting/a-cashless-society-what-are-the-pros-and-cons)

**SAMPLE RESPONSES: (Student answers will vary)**

**Country: Sweden**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths:**  **Convenience and efficiency –** reduced time spent on transactions with instant transfers between consumers and businesses  **Crime Reduction: d**ecreasing crime rate especially theft and robbery; moving towards digital payments has helped police track illegal financial transactions and reduce criminal behaviour  **Improved Collection of Tax: d**igital transactions are automatically recorded enabling the government to monitor economic activity and enforce tax payments. Has led to increased tax revenue as less cash dealings.  **Financial acceptance –** mobile banking solutions are helping those who relied on cash | **Weaknesses:**  **Exclusion of vulnerable groups:** significant challenges for certain groups including the elderly, low-income individuals and those without access to technology or banking services  **Privacy concerns:** increased concerns about privacy and data security as each transaction done digitally can be tracked by businesses and government and could lead to misuse of personal information  **Cybersecurity risks –** attract cyber criminals with a greater risk of electronic frauds and scams |
| **Social Impact:**  **Changes in social interactions:** can change the way people interact with each other in social settings e.g. giving money as gifts  **Sense of alienation: i**ndividuals who are unwilling or unable to adapt to digital payments may feel excluded from society  **Cultural shifts:** changing spending habits, increased spending and less budgeting compared to the physical currency | **Economic impact**    **Cost saving for businesses** – reduces costs from handling cash such as transportation, security and storage  **Increased economic activity**: more spending allows for more demand for goods and services and increased business growth  **Role of Central Bank**: will undergo change as less cash being used changes their role in terms of maintaining the physical money supply |

**Country: India**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths:**  **Increased financial inclusion:** provide access to banking services for the wider population including those in rural areas through the use of mobile wallets and Unified Payments Interface  **Improved transparency and less corruption:** Digital transactions create traceable records and make it harder for tax evasion and money laundering  **Convenience and efficiency:** faster and more convenient than cash transaction reducing time spent on handling physical cash  **Cost savings**: eliminating cash mean less printing, transporting and security. Business save on expenses related to cash handling allowing them to grow their business. | **Weaknesses:**  **Digital access:** Significant number if India’s population do not have access to smartphones or a reliable internet especially in rural areas  **Cybersecurity risks:** Increased reliance on digital payments increases potential for cyberattacks, identify theft and fraud  **Exclusion of Vulnerable groups –** elderly and those who are not technologically savvy struggle with a cashless system  **Technology dependence –** if there are technical failure or outages disrupts access to funds and the ability of consumers to make purchases |
| **Social Impact:**  **Changes in consumer behaviour:** The shift towards digital payments will change spendinghabits and may lead to increased spending due to the convenience of electronic transactions  **Privacy Concerns:** increased concerns regarding privacy and government surveillance may make individuals stressed and uncomfortable due to the level of monitoring  **Cultural shift:** moving away from physical change will alter the beliefs and behaviours around money, cash gift giving and budgeting | **Economic impact**  **Increased tax revenue** **-** as income is harder to hide from the government authorities, increasing revenue for public services  **Growth in technology companies** – provide innovative or creative payment solutions leading to more jobs and economic growth  **Global competitiveness** – promoting more trade with other countries through efficient electronic payments |

**Country: China**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths:**  **Increased convenience and efficiency:** mobile payments allow users to make payments quickly and efficiently without the need for physical cash leading to faster transaction speeds  **Financial inclusion:** access to financial services through smartphones, allow those without traditional bank accounts to participate in economy especially in the rural areas of China  **Cost reduction for business –** less expenses for businesses related to handling cash e.g. security needs for transportation and storage  **Improved data collection and business insights:** better tracking of customer spending patterns to enable businesses to make more informed decision about products | **Weaknesses:**  **Exclusion of vulnerable people:** older adults and those in rural areas may not have access to smartphones and digital literacy  **Cybersecurity risks**: digital transactions increate the cyber threats including fraud, identity theft, and hacking  **Dependence on technology:** over reliance on technology such as the internet can be problematic due to power outages and technical issues; reliance on digital payments can disrupt business activity |
| **Social Impact:**  **Changes in consumer behaviour:** more consumer spending through impulse due to ease of digital transactions  **Community acceptance**: young people are embracing the new technologies while older individuals prefer traditional cash transactions  **Privacy concerns:** greater tracking of spending and surveillance by businesses and government due to digital transactions | **Economic impact:**  **Increased economic activity:** promotes faster transactions so people are spending more in retail, transportation and services  **Great tax compliance:** less tax evasion as digital payments can be tracked for more tax revenue  **Innovation in financial services:** development of new technology and business models to address different segments of the marks |

**Country: United Kingdom**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths:**  **Reduction in crime:** cash is untraceable and used in illegal activities so the move to digital payments has led to less bank robberies, burglaries and corruption  **Convenience and efficiency:** no longer need to carry physical cash or go to ATMs for individuals and businesses can reduce costs of handling cash  **Improved tax compliance:** with digital payment government can reduce tax evasion as they are traceable unlike cash payments  **Environmental benefits:** less impact on the environment producing physical currency e.g. printing notes and minting coins | **Weaknesses**  **Exclusion of vulnerable:** some groups like elderly, low-income individuals and those in rural areas might struggle with technology, and not have the necessary mobile devices or internet access  **Privacy concerns:** digital transactions product extensive data about consumer behaviour which can be observed by financial institutions and businesses  **Cybersecurity risks**: increased possibility of cyberattacks, fraud, identify theft and data breaches  **Technological dependence**: power outages or technical issues can cause issue for both consumers and businesses if relying only on digital payments |
| **Social Impact:**  **Increased inequality:** those that cannot or are not able to adapt to digital payments will become even more disadvantaged  **Changes in spending habits:** consumers find it easier to overspend compared to when making purchases with physical cash  **Personal relationships:** may be affected where individuals rely on the help of others for digital transactions e.g. the elderly | **Economic impact:**  **Increasing economic growth:** more spending boosts economic activity  **Improved business operations:** reduced cash handling costs and improved consumer spending habits improves outcomes for businesses  **Tax revenue increases:** traceable transaction leads to the government collecting more tax revenue for public services |

**Summary of common elements of the four countries:**

* All four countries have made significant investments in technology to promote digital payments
* The governments of each country have implemented regulations or initiatives to encourage individuals and businesses to adopt digital rather than cash payment methods
* More consumers are preferring cashless transactions with increased spending
* All four countries promote the use of digital transactions as they are easy, convenient and enable young technologically savvy individuals to adapt to this this methods of payment, reducing crime and increasing tax revenue because of traceable records
* All four countries have security concerns in terms of potential fraud and cyber threats as well as possible power outages and technical issues will have a significant impact on digital marketplace

## Activity 6: Stakeholder Perspectives – Think-Pair-Share Activity

**Learning Intentions**

* To understand the perspective of various stakeholders regarding the potential transition to a cashless society.
* To consider the implications of this move on different groups in our society.

**Success Criteria**

* To provide argument for and against the transition to a cashless society from the perspective of different stakeholders.
* To be able to consider the consequences on different groups if the government does not implement a ban on businesses from being cashless.

**Task Instructions:**

**1. As think pair share activity you will be allocated a stakeholder who has a vested or strong interest in this debate topic.**

**2. List all the arguments for and against this ban relevant to your stakeholder.**

**3. Share with another student, then a group of students and then with the class.**

**4. Write a summary of the key points about how your stakeholder will be affected if there is a ban imposed on businesses being cashless.**

**Note to teachers: Refer to the following link for further ideas on how to engage students in this activity** [**Engaging Perspectives Card Deck POV resources**](https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/teach-and-learn/Resources/engaging-perspectives)

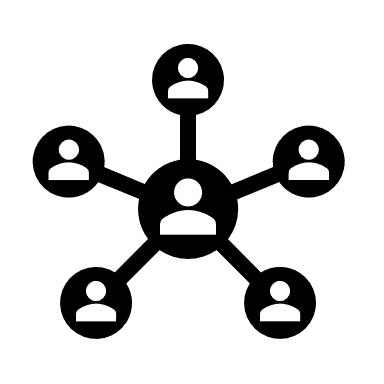
**These flashcards are designed to help students explore and understand a diverse range of viewpoints as they continue to prepare for the Convention and this topic.**

**Definition of a stakeholder:**

Any person or organisation who is positively or negatively impacted/affected by an action, change or initiative

**Stakeholder means any people or groups who are positively or negatively impacted by a project, initiative, policy or organisation**

**Possible arguments**– convenience, reduced crime rate, ability to track spending more effectively, privacy concerns, cybersecurity risks, vulnerable groups, technology failures, less control of spending, increased costs of going digital etc.

**Key stakeholders impacted by this decision:**

* Consumers
* Businesses
* Financial institutions
* Government bodies
* Special interest group

**SAMPLE RESPONSE: (Student answers will vary)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder** | **Arguments for** | **Arguments against** |
| **Consumers** | * **Convenient** – quicker and easier than handling cash * **Tracking expenses** – digital payments allow customers to keep track of their spending habits through transactions histories * **Less cash** means less risk of theft * **Digital payments** come with added security features e.g. encryption and fraud detection * **Quicker access** to a range of financial services through mobile and online payment options | * **Privacy concerns** as digital footprint (trail of data) can be tracked by business or government which raising concerns about personal privacy * **Not all customers** have equal access to technology or the internet * **Increased dependency** on technology means if technical issues or outages arise can stop customers from making purchases * **Some groups** in the community e.g. elderly prefer to use cash * **Additional fee charges** when using cardsto make payments * **Loss of potential** discounts with cash payments |
| **Businesses** | * **Reduced costs** as less handing of cash, banking and security measures * **Increased sales** as customers more likely to spend without need for physical cash * **Transaction efficiency** as faster leading to shorter wait times for customers * **Data collection** – digital transactions can help business gather data/information to understand consumer behaviour and preferences | * **Transaction fees** as business may pay fees for processing electronic payments * **Cybersecurity risks** as increased reliance on digital systems may mean more data breaches or hacking * **Customer resistance** – some prefer each due to a mistrust of technology leading to loss of sales |
| **Financial institutions** | * **More profits** as transaction fees on digital payments * **Reduced operational costs** due to less staff and a physical presence * **Risk management** **improvements** as access to digital records | * **Investment costs** as need to update traditional banking methods to support digital age with additional staff training * **Increased risk exposure** as need to update fraud and scam detection processes |
| **Government bodies** | * **Improved tax compliance** as can track income of businesses * **Cost saving** as less printing and distribution of currency * **Improved economic checking** as digital transaction allow for better tracking of economic activity * **Reduction in some crimes** related to cash e.g. robberies | * **Regulatory issues** with new digital currencies and payment schemes that can be complex and time consuming * **Loss of control of Reserve Bank** with shift to private digital currencies |
| **Special interest groups** | * **Easier access** to financial services for disadvantaged groups * **Consumer protection** for fraud, scams, and dispute resolution methods | * **Exclusion of some groups** in the community due to lack of access to technology or banking services |

## POST CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

### Activity 1: Fishbowl discussion

**Learning Intentions**

* To create an engaging and inclusive environment where we can all actively participate in meaningful conversations about this topic.
* To continue to develop our verbal communication skills and share our opinions as well as actively listen to other students share their ideas on this whether the government should ban businesses from going cashless.

**Success Criteria**

* I will contribute to the class discussion sharing my ideas and supporting them with evidence or examples from the Convention if I am in the inner circle.
* I will listen attentively to the opinions of other students if I am in the outer circle.
* I will help promote a collaborative learning environment.

**Task Instructions:**

**The focus of this task is to promote student voice. In a fishbowl discussion the students form two circles. A small group of students are seated in a circle surrounded by a larger group of students.**

**The smaller inside group will have a group discussion on this topic while the rest of the students listen to the arguments presented about whether the government should ban businesses from going cashless.**

**The outer group can then present arguments that oppose this point of view based on their Convention experiences.**

**The exchange of ideas is a summary of the discussion points at the Convention, and it ends with a vote either supporting the ban or opposing the ban. This can be done with a show of hands, sticky notes on the board or students moving to one side of the room to indicate whether they favour or oppose the government’s action.**

**Prepare the Classroom:**

Arrange the chairs in two circles - the inner circle should have about 5-6 chairs for the participants to actively discuss this topic. The outer circle can have more chairs for the observers and counter arguers.

Students should have note pad and pens to record their thoughts, opinions and questions.

**The topic:**

Present the issue that was the focus of the Convention revisiting terms like what ‘cashless’ means and the possible reasons behind a government ban.

**The rules:**

Remind students that for this activity to work active participation and listening is required.

**The process:**

Begin with the debate question and ask questions like what the potential benefits are of banning cashless transactions to the members of the inner circle. Ensure students offer their opinion. If a member of the outer circle wants to offer an opinion, they can tap someone in the inner circle and swap seats. There should be a flow of discussion with time limits.

Allocate one student to write the summary of key arguments for and against banning cashless transactions – remind them to consider privacy, accessibility, security and the effect on the economy.

**The reflection:**

After the discussion has finished, bring the class together and ask students to share one idea they are able to take away from this activity and to consider if their point of view changed during the discussion.

**SAMPLE RESPONSE: (Student answers will vary)**

**Summary of potential arguments for and against this topic:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Arguments in favour of a government ban** | **Arguments against a government ban** |
| **Accessibility –** ensures all citizens especially the vulnerable and those with no access to bank accounts can still make daily transactions. A cashless economy would exclude these groups from participating leading to discrimination**.** | **Business efficiency and cost reductions –** many businesses will argue that going cashless leads to better operations and lower costs as they do not need armoured transport services, time for staff to count cash and to pay bank deposit fees. |
| **Legal Tender Rights –** Cash is still considered legal tender in Australia so businesses must accept it to pay debts. The government has the responsibility to protect consumer rights without the influence of businesses. | **Consumer preference –** There has been a significant shift towards digital payments with many customers preferring the convenience of using cashless transactions. |
| **Consumer protection –** consumers should have the same access to goods and services regardless of their payment methods. They should not be denied making purchases because they do not have access to electronic payment methods. | **Hygiene and safety concerns –** The pandemic increased awareness around the potential for germs and bacteria with the exchange of cash. Many businesses preferred to minimise contact points between customers and staff and digital payments allows this to happen. |
| **Financial literacy –** Cash can help consumers better manage their spending encouraging better financial habits and budgeting. | **Technology advances –** Digital payment technology is constantly evolving with improved security features supporting the transition to a cashless society. |

### Activity 2: Impact of the decision to ban businesses from going cashless on key stakeholders

|  |
| --- |
| **Learning Intentions**   * To identify the stakeholders that would be affected by the government banning businesses from going cashless. * To consider the different perspective of these groups. * To develop an understanding of how this ban could and would influence the economy, social equality and other possible challenges.   **Success Criteria**   * I can identify the impact of this decision on key stakeholders. * I can analyse the impact of this decision on each of these stakeholders. * I can understand the economic, social and regulatory considerations of this government ban. |

**Task Instructions:**

**1. In pairs decide who the key stakeholders are that will be impacted by the decision to ban cashless transactions and label each box.**

**2. Write a summary of the effective of banning cashless transactions on the economy, social implications and government regulations for each stakeholder.**

**3. Write a concluding statement about whether you support or oppose the ban and share with the class.**

**SAMPLE RESPONSE: (Student answers will vary)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Consumers** | **Economic Impact –** some prefer digital payments for convenience speed and security and will continue to prefer this option to use cash  **Social Impact –** Vulnerable groups like elderly or people with disabilities will struggle with digital payments so compulsory cash acceptance will help them**.** But young tech savvy consumers will prefer and rely on digital payments  **Government regulations –** need for stronger consumer protection laws to ensure business provide both cash and digital payment options |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Businesses** | **Economic Impact –** business that have operate cashless systems will need to reintroduce cash handling, increasing costs for staff training, cash storage and security  **Social impact –** cashless transactions reduce the risk of theft and fraud improving workplace safety; will force businesses to manage cash increasing security risks  **Government regulations –** will need to comply with new laws, facing possible penalties for refusing cash transactions |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Financial institutions** | **Economic Impact -** reduced revenue from transaction fees if increases in cash usage  **Social impact –** slows down transition to digital banking  **Government regulations –** may need to ensure banks provide sufficient cash access at both ATMs and branches |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Government** | **Economic impact –** managing higher volumes of cash would increase costs related to currency production, distribution and anti-counterfeiting measures  **Social impact –** must ensure inclusion for both types of consumers – cash for some and digital banking for others to ensure votes and government support  **Government regulations –** need to implement laws to balance consumer rights especially in relation to cash access with businesses free to choose payment methods |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vulnerable**  **groups** | **Economic impact –** will not be excluded from everyday transactions even if they do not have a bank account or access to digital payments  **Social impact –** fairer and more inclusive system  **Government regulations** – consumer protection laws needed to force cash acceptance to avoid financial discrimination of these groups |

**Concluding Statement: *Answers will vary.***

Banning cashless transactions will create economic issues for business. However, they will also offer social benefits for those that are financially vulnerable. Government decisions should balance the needs of all consumers to ensure fairness. Both options have advantages and disadvantages and the move to a cashless economy should be slow and well planned to enable the next generation who will be more technologically savvy to be better prepared and accepting of the digital payment options.

### Activity 3: Write a Petition Task

|  |
| --- |
| **Learning Intentions**   * To understand the purpose of a petitions. * To understand the structure of petitions. * To be able to write a persuasive argument.   **Success Criteria**   * I can clearly state the purpose of my petition. * I can provide at least three well thought out arguments that support the need for action regarding this issue. * I can use persuasive language throughout my petition. * I can format my petition correctly |

|  |
| --- |
| **Task Instructions:**  **1. Read the information provided about what a petition is and visit the links to help you with this task.**  **2. Follow the guidelines and write your own petition either in favour of the government banning cashless transactions for businesses or opposing the government’s decision.**  **3. Share your petition with the rest of the class.** |

**What is a petition:**

A petition is a formal written request to an organisation like a business, a government or a court seeking action or a change. A public petition is signed by many individuals advocating or supporting a cause or requesting a change. It is a way a group of people can show their support for the change.

You have been hired by your locally community group to write a petition to your local businesses encouraging them to continue to accept cash.

Consider what you have learned at the Convention and write the petition text providing strong reasons why members of the community should sign and share the petition supporting locally businesses continuing to accept cash or alternatively why they should go cashless.

Refer to the following helpful websites for further information about what a petition looks like and how to start one:

[PEO – Example petitions](https://peo.gov.au/teach-our-parliament/classroom-activities/having-your-say/start-a-petition/example-petitions) [POV – Start a petition](https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/start/)

**Step- by- step guide on how to write a petition:**

**1**. **Define your goal** – do you support the government’s ban or oppose it?

**2.** **Decide who is the decision-maker of your request** – is it the government, local businesses etc. – who can take action?

**3. The Issue** – consider all the arguments presented for and against this topic at the Convention.

**4. Write the petition text** – begin with a convincing title that summarises your request, provide a summary of the issues, clearly state what you are asking for and end with a strong closing argument that highlights your request.

**5. Share** with the class.

**SAMPLE RESPONSE: (Student answers will vary)**

**Sample A: Petition to Ban Cashless Businesses**

To the State Government of Victoria

We the undersigned citizens submit this petition urging the government to pass legislation that bans businesses from refusing cash payments. While our society is quickly shifting towards digital transactions, we need to consider the rights and accessibility of all individuals particularly those who are vulnerable or marginalised.

Reasons for the submission of this petition are:

**Inclusivity and accessibility** as a significant number of people rely on cash for their daily transactions. Low-income earners, elderly citizen and groups with no bank account (e.g. homeless) use cash as their primary form of payment. Banning cashless business means that everyone can participate in the economy without fear of discrimination based on their financial status or access to banking services.

**Cash transactions** address privacy concerns as personal data can be the subject of cyber-attacks and data breaches. Your citizens should have the freedom to choose how they make their financial payments without fear of being monitored.

**The ability to use cash** promote economic participation by all citizens. When businesses refuse cash payments, they exclude those individuals who prefer to pay by cash as a matter of personal choice.

We urge the government to take immediate action by drafting and passing legislation that bans all businesses in Victoria from operating on a strictly cashless basis. This step will protect disadvantaged groups in the community but also give consumers the right to choose.

Thank you.

**Sample B: Petition against a Ban on Cashless Businesses**

We the undersigned wish to express our strong opposition to any government mandate/order that seeks to ban businesses from adopting cashless payment systems. We believe that the choice to accept or decline cash as a form of payment should remain with the individual business based on their operation needs and customer preference.

Reasons for the submission of this petition are:

**Business should have freedom of choice** to adopt a business model that suits their needs. Many businesses have found that going cashless improve efficiency by reducing transaction times, less risks of theft and lower costs associated with handling cash.

**A significant proportion of consumers** prefer cashless transactions due to convenience and speed. They find it easy to make digital payment and feel more security as they do not have to carry cash.

**Cash creates more costs** for the business as it involves handling, storing and transportation. Post pandemic most consumers prefer contactless payments to reduce the potential for contamination.

**Technology** is moving at a fast pace with digital solutions available across various industries including banking, shopping and services.

We urge the government to allow business to decide but also to understand the benefits that come with the range of modern payment methods thanks to the internet, technology and the digital age we live in. Thank you.

## ADDITIONAL TEACHER REFERENCES:

You may find these resources helpful to unpack the topic as you prepare for the Convention with your students.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Suggested Resource** | **Overview** |
| [RMIT – Why mandating cash payments is a good thing for the community](https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/media-releases-and-expert-comments/2024/nov/cash-mandate) | Short Article by Dr Zhong that supports the Federal government mandating Australian businesses accept cash for essential items like groceries and medicine. |
| [The University of Melbourne – Retailers encouraged to embrace cashless revolution](https://fbe.unimelb.edu.au/newsroom/retailers-encouraged-to-embrace-cashless-revolution) | Some interesting data provided indicating that consumers spend more when they go cashless compared to physical money. Indicates that retailers will benefit by being cashless as sales are boosted. |
| [RMIT – The move to a cashless society is well underway](https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/acumen/the-move-to-a-cashless-society-is-well-underway) | Explores the move to a cashless society and how it can be traced back to the introduction of the bankcard 50 years ago. Convenience and technology are the driving forces for the shift for both businesses and consumers, The article also considers why government regulations are necessary. |
| [The Economist – The future of money: three ways to go cashless](https://youtu.be/3InbMow9IYo?si=T072MjbOJvEXlzqg) (7.33 minutes) | The video examines how digital technology has changed the way consumers shop and the rise of non -cash payments worldwide |
| [ABC News – In an increasingly cashless society, some people without housing are being left behind](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-01-27/cashless-society-impacts-on-homeless-people-without-housing/103313098) | Article focuses on the plight of the homeless as society moves towards cashless transactions with an estimate of only 13% of Australians now using cash. This is posing a serious problem to one of the most vulnerable groups in our community. |
| [J.P. Morgan – Would a cashless society be a better one?](https://www.jpmorgan.com/payments/payments-unbound/magazine/articles/cashless-society-two-sides) | Short article that provides both the pros and cons of countries going cashless and the importance of government intervention to protect the more vulnerable members of our community. |
| [9 News – The risks of becoming a cashless society](https://youtu.be/OAubDXoIbW0?si=2YtSD0TjhXhB0Uho) (4.33 minutes) | Good discussion about the role of banks in the push for individuals to go cashless and the costs they bear in transporting cash to regional areas. Reference also to the removal of cheques by 2028. 13% of transactions are done in cash which is the same statistic coming through media articles. |