# Why was racism a uniting factor for Australia? Answer sheet

1. The title ‘The only way’

The title is significant as it strongly suggests that federation is the only option to exclude those from Chinese backgrounds in Australia. It represents political propaganda that appealed to society’s fear of Asia at the time.

## Features of the cartoon - potential answers

| Feature | What it means |
| --- | --- |
| Use of women  | Depicts ‘mothers’ of the country knowing what is ‘best’ |
| Women clinging to lever saying ‘Federation’ | Signifies that women of Australia are agreeing to Federation but are waiting on the men of different states to stop disagreeing and come together |
| ‘The Chinese pest’ caption on the large exaggerated Chinese face | Represents the dominant political view of the time as The Chinese who had come to Australia in the gold rush were seen as barriers to the goal of achieving a racially ‘pure’ society |
| Caption from Victoria | -Shows Victoria as a leader in Federation discussions  |
| Caption from Chorus | -reinforces that fear of the Chinese was seen as a uniting factor |
| Citation | -Note that the source was published in the *Melbourne Punch* and helps communicate the message present in the caption from Victoria |
| Four women are labelled as representing SA, NSW, Qld and Victoria (leading the way) while the smallest woman remains anonymous | -Smallest woman represents that Tasmania was viewed as a small but important player in Federation and Western Australia was absent in this period. WA did not welcome the idea of Federation until 1900 when a major gold rush in WA brought them into greater contact with the political ideas of the other colonies |