

Legal Studies



Course Description

In contemporary Australian society there is a range of complex laws that exist to protect the rights of individuals and to achieve social cohesion. These laws are made by bodies such as parliament and the courts and are upheld by a number of institutions and processes within the legal system. Members of society interact with the laws and the legal system in many aspects of their lives and can influence law makers. The study of VCE Legal Studies enables students to become active and informed citizens by providing them with valuable insights into their relationship with the law and the legal system.

Course Structure

Unit 1: The presumption of innocence

In this unit students describe the main sources and types of law and evaluate the effectiveness of laws. They explain the purposes and key concepts of criminal law. They use legal reasoning to argue the criminal culpability of an accused based on actual and/or hypothetical scenarios. Students explain the key concepts in the determination of a criminal case.

Area of Study

1. Legal foundations
2. Proving guilt
3. Sanctions

Unit 2: Wrongs and rights

Students explain the purpose and key concepts of civil law and resolution of a civil dispute. They investigate a contemporary human rights issue in Australia.

Area of Study

1. Civil liabilities
2. Remedies
3. Human rights

Unit 3: Rights and Justice

In this unit students explore the criminal justice system and the civil justice system.

Area of Study

1. The Victorian criminal justice system
2. The Victorian civil justice system

Unit 4: The people, the law and reform

In this unit, students explore the ability of parliament and courts to make law and evaluate the means by which the Australian Constitution acts as a check on parliament in law-making. They explain the reasons for law reform and constitutional reform.

Area of Study

1. The people and the law-makers
2. The people and reform

Entry and Recommendations

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Students must undertake Unit 3 and Unit 4 as a sequence.

Assessment

Satisfactory Completion

Demonstration of achievement of outcomes and satisfactory completion of a unit are determined by evidence gained through the assessment of a range of learning activities and tasks.

Level of Achievement

Unit 1 and 2

- Folio of exercises
- Presentation
- Role-play
- Debate
- Report
- Examinations

Unit 3 and 4

- Unit 3 School-based Assessment (25%)
 - Case study
 - Essay
 - Report
 - Folio of exercises
- Unit 4 School-based Assessment (25%)
 - Case study
 - Essay
 - Report
 - Folio of exercises
- Examination (50%)

