

Legal Studies

General senior subject

Legal Studies focuses on the interaction between society and the discipline of law and explores the role and development of law in response to current issues. Students study the legal system and how it regulates activities and aims to protect the rights of individuals, while balancing these with obligations and responsibilities.

Students study the foundations of law, the criminal justice process and the civil justice system. They critically examine issues of governance, explore contemporary issues of law reform and change, and consider Australian and international human rights issues.

Students develop skills of inquiry, critical thinking, problem-solving and reasoning to make informed and ethical decisions and recommendations. They identify and describe legal issues, explore information and data, analyse, evaluate to make decisions or propose recommendations, and create responses that convey legal meaning. They question, explore and discuss tensions between changing social values, justice and equitable outcomes.

Pathways

A course of study in Legal Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of law, law enforcement, criminology, justice studies and politics. The knowledge, skills and attitudes students gain are transferable to all discipline areas and post-schooling tertiary pathways. The research and analytical skills this course develops are universally valued in business, health, science and engineering industries.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- comprehend legal concepts, principles and processes
- select legal information from sources
- analyse legal issues
- evaluate legal situations
- create responses that communicate meaning.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Beyond reasonable doubt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal foundations • Criminal investigation process • Criminal trial process • Punishment and sentencing 	Balance of probabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil law foundations • Contractual obligations • Negligence and the duty of care 	Law, governance and change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance in Australia • Law reform within a dynamic society 	Human rights in legal contexts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights • The effectiveness of international law • Human rights in Australian contexts

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete four summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — combination response	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Investigation — argumentative essay	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation — inquiry report	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — combination response	25%

Recommendations: C or better in English and Humanities