

Legal Studies 2019 v1.1

Unit 1 sample assessment instrument

September 2018

Investigation — inquiry report

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers in planning and developing assessment instruments for individual school settings.

Schools develop internal assessments for each senior subject, based on the learning described in Units 1 and 2 of the subject syllabus. Each unit objective must be assessed at least once.

Assessment objectives

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

1. comprehend the legal concepts, principles and processes of Australian and/or Queensland criminal trials and/or punishment and sentencing systems
2. select legal information from sources relevant to criminal trials and/or punishment and sentencing in the Australian and/or Queensland criminal justice systems
3. analyse a legal issue involving criminal trials and/or punishment and sentencing within the Australian and/or Queensland criminal justice systems
4. evaluate a legal situation relevant to criminal trials and/or punishment and sentencing in the Australian and/or Queensland criminal justice systems
5. create a response that communicates meaning to suit the intended purpose in a written report.

Subject	Legal Studies
Technique	Investigation — inquiry report
Unit	1: Beyond reasonable doubt
Topic	3: Criminal trial process 4: Punishment and sentencing

Conditions			
Duration	4 weeks, including 10 hours of the time allocated for Unit 1. Students may use class time and their own time to develop a response.		
Mode	Written response	Length	1500–2000 words
Individual/group	Individual	Other	—
Resources available	A variety of extracts from case law, legal databases, legislation, government and other institutional websites, published reports, media and expert commentaries, and lobbyist statements.		

Context



Image: U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Barry Loo, (public domain) from <https://www.jble.af.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2000352197/>

Task

Create an inquiry report that investigates one area of non-violent crime, focusing on one offence. Using your research and understanding of the elements of the offence, analyse a legal issue involved with the criminal trial and/or punishment principles and processes.

Evaluate alternative arguments and make two recommendations that improve the legal outcomes available to the defendant.

To complete this task, you must:

- select legal information including legislation, 2–3 relevant cases, and trends or patterns in offending and/or sentencing. Provide a reference list and citations
- demonstrate comprehension of relevant legal concepts, principles and /or processes within the report
- analyse and examine viewpoints of two significant stakeholder groups regarding the scenario chosen
- evaluate using legal criteria and discuss the implications of your recommendation
- format the report using a contents page, headings and subheadings.

Stimulus
—
Checkpoints
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 1: Progress check — (1) choice of criminal area made, (2) a list of possible sources that contain relevant legal information, (3) outline of report including structural elements such as headings.
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 2: Progress check — intended main points for analysing and evaluating elements of the report.
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 3: Progress check — draft response.
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 4: Final response.
Feedback
Authentication strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher will provide class time for task completion. • The teacher will collect copies of the student response and monitor progress at key checkpoints. • The teacher will collect and annotate one complete draft. • Students must submit a declaration of authenticity.
Scaffolding
<p>The suggested word count is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction and conclusion — 300–400 words in total, to allow for depth in the body of the report • comprehension and analysis — 600–800 words • evaluation including recommendations — 600–800 words.