Information about the 2012 examination

The examination will be based on the *Legal Studies Senior External Syllabus 2007*. It will consist of two papers. Paper One will have 10 minutes perusal/planning time and 2 hours 30 minutes working time. Paper Two will have 10 minutes perusal/planning time and 3 hours working time. A list of the syllabus topics to be assessed in 2012 is attached.

**Paper One**

Paper One will consist of two parts:

- Part A: Knowledge and understanding (short-response questions)
- Part B: Investigation (questions based on case studies; responses of approximately 300 words in length are required).

**Paper Two**

Paper Two will consist of two parts:

- Part A: You, the Law and Society
  - Section 1 — Jobs
  - Section 2 — Technology
- Part B: Law in a Changing Society.

Essay responses of approximately 600 words in length are required.

**Prepared research task**

The syllabus requires each candidate to complete a prepared research task during the year. Candidates will take their research material into the examination room for use in responding to one of two essay questions in Paper Two: Part A — Section 2.

Refer to page 6 of the syllabus for the methodology diagram that must be used to provide a framework for the research.

Although the research material itself will not be assessed by markers, it must be handed to the supervisor at the end of the examination. Research material allowed in the examination room may be handwritten or typed, and may include material such as notes, diagrams, references, quotations. All research material must fit on one double-sided sheet of A4 paper.

**Research topic: Technology**

Candidates will research one of the following topics:

“The internet has created a forum where copyright infringement is extremely easy. Piracy and attempts by copyright owners to keep control of their intellectual property is a daily battle conducted both online and in the courts.”

or
“The number of people using online social networks has exploded in recent years. For example, it is estimated that around half of Australian internet users are on Facebook. Users of online social networks may be exposed to fraud and identity theft due to the large amount of personal data they make available.”

When responding to the selected essay question, candidates will be expected to use their research material to provide a legal response that:

- explains the current law
- evaluates legal and related social issues
- recommends any necessary reforms.

**Level of achievement**

Each candidate’s level of achievement will be determined by applying the syllabus standards to an overall assessment of responses across both Paper One and Paper Two.

**Enquiries**

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Syllabus topics to be assessed in 2012

Paper One

The Legal System
• Why have laws?
• How are disputes resolved?

Crime and Society
• How are criminal matters prosecuted?
• What are types of offences?
• What defences and excuses are available to accused persons?
• What are the consequences of conviction?

Civil Obligations — Agreements
• What constitutes an enforceable agreement?
• What are the remedies for breach of contract?

Civil Wrongs — Torts
• What is a tort?
• What are the elements of negligence?
• What are some aspects of negligence?
• What are the defences to negligence?
• What are some other torts?
• What are some remedies for tort?

Paper Two

Part A — Section 1
You, the Law and Society — Jobs
• What are the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees?
• How are workers’ health and safety protected at work?
• What current legal issues relate to the world of work?

Part A — Section 2
You, the Law and Society — Technology
• How does civil law respond to changing technology?
• What ethical issues does technology raise for society?
• What current legal issues relate to technology?

Part B
Law in a Changing Society
• What makes a good law?
• What factors influence the making and changing of laws?
• What current legal issues relate to law in a changing society?