

Why study Legal Studies?

Subject guide 2013



What is Legal Studies all about?

Legal Studies is about developing an understanding of the Australian legal system and how it affects your basic rights, obligations and responsibilities. You will explore how to become an active and informed citizen and learn how to constructively question and contribute to the improvement of laws and legal processes.

By examining factors that have led society to create a legal system, you will develop knowledge and understanding of the frameworks which regulate and shape our society.

You will develop confidence in approaching and accessing the Australian legal system and will develop a better appreciation of the relationship between social and legal structures.

What will you learn?

The Legal Studies course enables you to learn through the investigation of legal issues, exploring four core areas of study the legal system, criminal law, introduction to civil obligations and human rights.

In addition, you will investigate several of these possible elective areas of study civil wrongs (torts) and the law, employment and the law, environment and the law, family and the law, housing and the law, Indigenous Australians and the law, international law, sport and the law, technology and the law.

Through the investigation of legal issues you will develop high-order thinking skills, including analysing, evaluating and justifying and will learn using case studies and scenarios.

How will you learn?

As a student of Legal Studies, you will examine case studies and legal situations from local, national and global contexts. You will apply your knowledge and understanding of legal concepts and processes to situations in order to identify and examine legal issues and different stakeholders' perspectives. You will select and organise information from sources to facilitate the analysis of legal issues.

From different perspectives and viewpoints, you will evaluate and synthesise a range of information and critique stakeholder responses. You will make recommendations about the suitability of legal outcomes and their implications for justice and equity. You will examine

and justify your own opinions by making constructive judgments and informed commentaries on the law, its system and processes.

In class activities, you will have opportunities to work individually and in teams to engage in learning experiences such as debates, discussions and mock trials.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment in Legal Studies gives you opportunities to apply your legal knowledge and understanding in a variety of situations. You will be given opportunities to communicate this information to audiences through written and spoken modes, or a combination of modes in a multimodal presentation.

In Legal Studies, assessment instruments include extended responses (including an independent inquiry) and examinations. An independent inquiry involves undertaking an independent, self-directed, in-depth investigation of a topical legal issue facing Australian society. Extended responses include responses to research or stimulus materials, such as legal case studies, legislation, essays, articles, speeches or presentations. Examinations may be extended response tests or short response tests, which include short answer responses.

In Year 12, you will be expected to complete at least one independent inquiry, at least one extended response and at least one supervised extended response test, responding to an unseen question.

How can parents/carers help?

Your parents/carers may help you by:

- discussing different views of current Legal Studies issues with you
- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources
- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities
- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in this area of study or related industry
- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour
- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.



Where can Legal Studies take you?

This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). If you would like to learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html.

A course of study in Legal Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in law, law enforcement, criminology, justice studies, social work, government, corrective services, business, education, economics and politics.

For further information about future tertiary pathways, consult the QTAC Guide to Tertiary Courses www.qtac.edu.au.

More information

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the *Legal Studies Senior Syllabus 2013*. If you would like more information, please visit the subject page on the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/20322.html or email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au.