Sample unit of work: Human rights and International law

Units of work in Legal Studies can be developed using contextualised learning experiences and assessment opportunities based on the relevant subject matter from the identified areas of study.

A unit of work provides teaching strategies and learning experiences to allow students to demonstrate the dimensions and objectives of the Legal Studies Senior Syllabus 2013.

The sample units of work incorporate the objectives described in the dimensions of the syllabus. They offer flexibility to cater for a variety of learning styles and school contexts. They are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

The sample resources demonstrate:
- organisation and development of course content
- teaching and learning that supports the syllabus
- learning experiences that support achievement of the objectives described in the dimensions
- alignment between content, learning experiences and assessment.

Using inquiry-based learning to build units of work

Inquiry-based learning is central to learning in Legal Studies. An inquiry-based learning approach should underpin teaching and learning of Legal Studies, and therefore the skills of inquiry require explicit teaching.

This sample unit of work uses inquiry-based learning to frame and guide the development of authentic and relevant learning experiences for students.

Building learning experiences

Over a unit of work, learning experiences demonstrate the:
- identified subject matter from the chosen area of study
- relevant dimensions and objectives
  - Knowing and understanding the law
  - Investigating legal issues
  - Responding to the law.

Table 1 provides example learning experiences for inclusion in a unit of work.

Table 1: Example learning experiences in a unit of work

| Explain why a Bill of Rights exists. |
| Analyse whether a Bill of Rights is an effective document. Explain any problems. |
| Make recommendations as to what human rights should be included in a Bill of Rights. Justify all suggestions. |
### Sample unit of work: Human rights and International law

**Inquiry focus:** How effective is the legal system in promoting human rights, peace and resolving conflict within and between nation states?

#### Areas of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core — Human Rights</th>
<th>Elective — International law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The legal and political provision of individual rights creates responsibilities for individuals and society. Australian law attempts to balance the rights and responsibilities of the individual with the best interests of the greater community.</td>
<td>International law is important in providing forums to peacefully settle disputes between nations and in its attempt to limit and regulate modern armed conflict. International law plays a role in regulating what nations do within their boundaries and in their external relationships with other nations around the world.</td>
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#### Year level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 — Semester 1</td>
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#### Duration

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55 hours</td>
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#### Dimensions and objectives

**Knowing and understanding the law**
- define and describe facts using legal terminology
- explain legal concepts and processes
- communicate meaning using language conventions to suit purpose and audience

**Investigating legal issues**
- select and organise legal information from sources
- analyse legal situations to identify and examine legal issues and stakeholders’ perspectives
- apply legal concepts and processes to legal issues to determine legal outcomes

**Responding to the law**
- evaluate the law and stakeholder responses
- make decisions and recommendations about legal outcomes and their implications
- justify decisions and recommendations using evidence and legal reasoning

#### Phase of inquiry | Learning experiences

**Define**
- Brainstorm individual rights in Australia. **Define, describe** and summarise the major sources of rights in Australia — constitutional, common law and statutory.

**Investigate**
- Examine the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website (www.citizenship.gov.au) and **describe** the rights of Australian citizens. Compare these to the brainstorm list of rights. **Explain** the responsibilities of citizens using <www.citizenship.gov.au>.

**Define/Comeuate**
- Prepare a poster which **communicates** the rights and responsibilities of all Australian citizens.

**Analyse/Apply**
- **Anayse** the interrelationship between citizen rights and responsibilities by completing a comparative table. **Analyse, evaluate** and debate the topic ‘To what extent should individual rights be limited?’
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning experience</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluate/Justify</strong></td>
<td>Prepare a letter to the editor which evaluates the limitations imposed during the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Define</strong></td>
<td>Define international and domestic law. Construct a table which explains and analyses the major differences between domestic and international law, their key features and purposes, how they are created and their levels of enforceability. Describe the subject of international law — i.e. International legal person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyze/Apply</strong></td>
<td>Analyse why states (e.g. Australia) obey international law. Communicate findings in a written report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Define</strong></td>
<td>Explain how human rights are recognised in international law. Describe the different sources of international law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investigate</strong></td>
<td>Research the origins and sources of human rights law. Prepare a timeline of how human rights law has developed over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyze/Apply</strong></td>
<td>Analyse how effectively international human rights laws are implemented into Australian domestic law. Apply international human rights laws to recent case studies to identify the significant legal issues for Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Define</strong></td>
<td>Prepare a poster which summarises and explains the role of the Universal declaration of human rights. Develop a presentation which explains the roles of the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court, International Criminal Tribunal of the Former Yugoslavia and European Court. Prepare a flowchart which explains the treaty making process in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investigate</strong></td>
<td>Investigate and describe the role, function and influence on international law of a major international non-government organisation, e.g. International Red Cross, Amnesty International, Greenpeace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analyze/Apply</strong></td>
<td>Analyse how Australian domestic laws have been developed as a result of the ratification of international documents, such as anti-discrimination legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluate/Justify</strong></td>
<td>Evaluate why there is no legislative or constitutional Bill of Rights federally in Australia. Evaluate which human rights (including corresponding responsibilities) should be protected and promoted. Prepare a letter to the editor which justifies all decisions and recommendations made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Define</strong></td>
<td>Describe transnational crime and the measures used to deal with transnational crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investigate</strong></td>
<td>With reference to a current example (e.g. human trafficking, people smuggling, drug trafficking) evaluate the effectiveness of the measures used to deal with this example and offer justified recommendations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communicate</strong></td>
<td>Prepare a seminar presentation to communicate the findings.</td>
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### Sample unit of work: Human rights and International law

#### Possible assessment ideas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions and objectives</th>
<th>Investigating legal issues</th>
<th>Responding to the law</th>
<th>Assessment technique, conditions and item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowing and understanding the law</td>
<td>• explain legal concepts and processes</td>
<td>• evaluate the law and stakeholder responses</td>
<td>Extended research response Written 1000–1500 words Investigate some examples of how Australia responds to international crime and evaluate the effectiveness of this response.</td>
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<td>• evaluate the law and stakeholder responses</td>
<td>Extended research response Multimodal 5–7 minutes Prepare a seminar for presentation at a Human rights convention. As part of your presentation, describe a strategy used by the international community to deal with either genocide and/or crimes against humanity. Evaluate the effectiveness of the response by the international community.</td>
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Dimensions and objectives are selected based on the assessment task. Teachers develop an instrument-specific standards matrix based on the selected exit standards.