



Legal Studies

What is Legal Studies?

The subject focuses on the development of a student's understanding of the relationships between law, society and the institutions of government. Students develop critical analysing skills in a broad range of topics from a sound understanding of the Australian Constitution and the making of statute and case law for the resolution of legal disputes using the adversarial system.

Why study Legal Studies?

Legal Studies explores Australia's legal heritage and the dynamic nature of the Australian legal system within a global context. Legal Studies provides students with a sound understanding of the structures of the Australian legal system and demonstrates how that system responds and contributes to social change while acknowledging tradition. By analysing the Australian legal system, students consider how diverse groups in society, including Indigenous Australians, influence and are influenced by the legal system.

Legal Studies provides insight into law-making and the processes of dispute resolution and administration of justice. Students evaluate the merits of the adversary system of trial and other forms of dispute resolution systems and processes; in addition, students investigate legal perspectives on contemporary issues in society. They reflect on, and make informed judgments about, strengths and weaknesses of the Australian legal system. Students consider how, and to what degree, these weaknesses may be remedied.

An informed citizenry is essential in any effective parliamentary democracy. Civic literacy involves an appreciation of the principles, procedures, and interconnections of the Australian legal system. It develops in an individual the confidence to become involved in decision-making within the legal system. Through civic literacy, an individual gains a capacity for socially responsible action by developing social and legal awareness of how active citizenship can improve society. By examining the system of

constitutional government in Australia, students recognise the rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups, and institutions. Through the examination of their own values and attitudes, students have an opportunity to reflect critically on values inherent in the Australian legal system.

Course content of Legal Studies

Students study the following four topics:

- Topic 1: The Australian Legal System
- Topic 2: Constitutional Government
- Topic 3: Law-making
- Topic 4: Justice Systems

Assessment Components

Assessment in Legal Studies consists of the following components, weighted as shown:

School Based Component: 70%

- Assessment Type 1: Folio (50%)
- Assessment Type 2: Inquiry (20%)

Externally Moderated Component: 30%

- Assessment Type 3: Examination (30%).

Legal Studies continued

Learning Requirements of the Course

The learning requirements summarise the knowledge, skills, and understanding that students are expected to develop and demonstrate through their learning.

In this subject, students are expected to:

1. display knowledge and understanding of the influences that have shaped the Australian legal system
2. know and understand legal principles, processes, and structures
3. recognise how the Australian legal system responds to cultural diversity
4. demonstrate civic literacy through active inquiry into the legal system
5. evaluate how the changing global community influences the Australian legal system
6. evaluate the ways in which legal issues shape and are shaped by society now, and how they may do so in the future
7. communicate informed observations and opinions on contemporary legal issues and debates, using legal terminology and appropriate acknowledgment of sources.

These learning requirements form the basis of the:

- learning scope
- evidence of learning that students provide
- assessment design criteria
- levels of achievement described in the performance standards.

Future Pathways in Legal Studies

Stage 2 Legal Studies offer students a number of pathways to post-secondary study and the world of work. They may offer a useful background to further study in related courses.

There are a number of nationally accredited vocational education and training qualifications to which these subjects can lead — for example, in justice services, legal administration, and legal services.

The Legal Studies subjects have a broad application in a number of vocational fields and life experiences that deal with relationships, social justice, and citizenship.

The legal profession comprises many different practice areas such as Administrative Law, Family Law, Human Rights Law as well as Civil and Criminal Law.

Required Text(s) for Legal Studies

'Court and Tort' student workbook – G Baily.

Legal Studies Key Ideas Stage 2

What are the prerequisites?

There are no prerequisites to study Stage 2 Legal Studies.



TRINITY COLLEGE
Senior

Contact Details

For more information about studying Year 12 at Trinity College Senior, please contact the Head of Year 12 on 8523 8705 or visit: www.trinity.sa.edu.au/curriculum/index.htm

Further Information

More information about SACE may be obtained from the SACE Board of South Australia webpage at: www.sace.sa.edu.au