

9. Year 12 Subjects 2011 (Commerce)

VCE Legal Studies Units 3&4

Unit 3: Law-making

The purpose of this unit is to enable students to develop an understanding of the institutions that determine laws and the processes by which laws are made. It considers reasons why laws are necessary and the impact of the Commonwealth Constitution on the operation of the legal system. Students undertake an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the law-making bodies and the processes used to influence change and reform.

Areas of study:

- Parliament and the citizen
- The Constitution and the protection of rights
- Role of the courts in law making

Assessment:

- Outcome 1 - Students should be able to explain the structure and role of parliament, including its processes and effectiveness as a law-making body, describe why legal change is needed, and the means by which such change can be influenced.
- Outcome 2 - Students should be able to explain the role of the Commonwealth Constitution in defining law-making powers within a federal structure, analyse the means by which law-making powers may change, and evaluate the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Constitution in protecting human rights.
- Outcome 3 – Students should be able to describe the role and operation of courts in law-making, evaluate their effectiveness as law-making bodies and discuss their relationship with parliament.

Assessment Break-Down:

Assessment tasks for this unit can be chosen from a variety of assessment tasks including one or more of:

- A case study
- Structured questions
- A test
- An essay
- A report in written format
- A report in multimedia format
- A folio of exercises.

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VCE Legal Studies Units 3&4 (Cont...)

Unit 4: Resolution and Justice

Students examine the institutions that adjudicate criminal cases and civil disputes. They also investigate methods of dispute resolution that can be used as an alternative to civil litigation. Students investigate the processes and procedures followed in courtrooms and develop an understanding of the adversary system of trial and the jury system, as well as pre-trial and post-trial procedures that operate in the Victorian legal system. Using the elements of an effective legal system, students consider the extent to which court processes and procedures contribute to the effective operation of the legal system. They also consider reforms or changes that could further improve its effective operation.

Areas of study:

- Dispute resolution methods
- Court processes and procedures, and engaging in justice

Assessment:

- Outcome 1 - Students should be able to describe and evaluate the effectiveness of institutions and methods for the determination of criminal cases and the resolution of civil disputes.
- Outcome 2 – Students should be able to explain the processes and procedures for the resolution of criminal cases and civil disputes, and evaluate their operation and application, and evaluate the effectiveness of the legal system.

Assessment Break-Down:

Assessment tasks for this unit can be chosen from a variety of assessment tasks including one or more of:

- A case study
- Structured questions
- A test
- An essay
- A report in written format
- A report in multimedia format
- A folio of exercises.

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VCE Legal Studies Units 3&4 (Cont...)

Graded Assessment – Units 3 and 4

- School Assessed Coursework for Unit 3: 25%
- School Assessed Coursework for Unit 4: 25%
- End of year examination: 50%

Other Information

- Legal Studies does NOT have a mid-year Exam, but a Practice Exam is held during the third week of the July term break. Other practice exams are also held during Semester Two. It is important that students take every opportunity to ready themselves for the final examination.

Entry – Units 3 and 4

There are no entry requirements for students to get into Unit 3 Legal Studies. However, it is preferable if students complete one or both of Unit 1 and 2 Legal Studies prior to attempting to complete the Unit 3 and 4 progression. Students must complete Unit 3 before completing Unit 4.