

LEGAL STUDIES

Unit 3 Rights & Justice

COURSE OUTLINE:

In this area of study, students explore the criminal justice system, key personnel, and the use of plea negotiations to determine a criminal case. Students investigate the rights of the accused and of victims, and explore the purposes and types of sanctions and sentencing considerations. They consider the impact of time, costs and cultural differences on the ability of the criminal justice system to achieve the principles of justice. Students synthesise and apply legal principles and information relevant to the criminal justice system to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios.

AREAS OF STUDY:

- The Victorian criminal justice system
- The Victorian civil justice system

OUTCOMES:

On completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Explain the key principles in the criminal justice system, discuss the ability of sanctions to achieve their purposes and evaluate the ability of the criminal justice system to achieve the principles of justice during a criminal case.
2. Explain the key principles in the civil justice system, discuss the ability of remedies to achieve their purposes and evaluate the ability of the civil justice system to achieve the principles of justice during a civil dispute.

ASSESSMENT:

See Unit 4

Unit 4 The People, the Law & Reform

COURSE OUTLINE:

In this unit, students explore how the Australian Constitution establishes the law-making powers of the Commonwealth and state parliaments, and how it protects the Australian people through structures that act as a check on parliament in law-making. Students develop an understanding of the significance of the High Court in protecting and interpreting the Australian Constitution. They investigate parliament and the courts, and the relationship between the two in law-making, and consider the roles of the individual, the media and law reform bodies in influencing changes to the law, and past and future constitutional reform. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios.

AREAS OF STUDY:

- The people and the law-makers
- The people and reform

OUTCOMES:

On completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the ability of parliament and courts to make law and evaluate the means by which the Australian Constitution acts as a check on parliament in law-making.
2. To explain the reasons for law reform and constitutional reform, discuss the ability of individuals to change the Australian Constitution and influence a change in the law, and evaluate the ability of law reform bodies to influence a change in the law.

ASSESSMENT:

S or N based on the demonstrated achievement of the outcomes specified above, School Assessed Coursework and end-of-year examination.

Unit 3 School Assessed Coursework: 25%

Unit 4 School Assessed Coursework: 25%

Units 3 and 4 end-of-year examination: 50%