

LST315117 Legal Studies

15 TCE Points



Students will work through the following units as part of **Legal Studies**:

Unit 1: Australia's Westminster parliamentary system

This unit explores the key features in Australian government, including the rule of law, separation of powers and responsible government.

Unit 2: Federalism

This unit examines how power is shared between the Australian, state and territory governments and how this power has changed over time.

Unit 3: Australian and International law

This unit looks at where laws come from in Australia and internationally. It covers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customary law, laws made by parliaments and courts, and the growing role of international law. It also looks at how laws change and who is involved in law reform.

Unit 4: Dispute Resolution: Civil and Criminal

This unit focuses on how disputes are resolved in Australia, including court trials and alternative methods. It covers crime, criminal procedures, sentencing options, and the protections in place for victims, the accused, and the community.

Work Requirement

Students research a topical legal issue selected from a local, national or international context. Their research is compiled into a formal report that focuses on the legal and political aspects of their chosen topic.

How you'll be assessed:

Common types of internal assessments are:

- assignments
- short answer responses
- In-class essays

To be successful in this subject, students will require:

- Strong reading and literacy skills for assignments and essays
- Focus on time management and planning
- Strong research and writing skills are essential

The external assessment for this subject is a 3 hour exam. The dates for external exams in November are non-negotiable.

Completion of Work Policy

Assessment due dates are provided in the Program of Learning and on Canvas. Work must be submitted by the due date unless an approved extension has been granted. Unapproved late submissions will incur penalties as outlined in the *Completion of Work Policy*. Students needing extensions should contact their subject teacher before the due date with valid reasons, such as illness or unforeseen circumstances.

For more details refer to the Launceston College: [Completion of Work Policy](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All senior secondary students in Tasmania are expected to uphold academic integrity, meaning they complete their work honestly and fairly. This includes properly referencing any ideas, images, or information borrowed from others, allowing teachers to distinguish between original and sourced content.

Assignments will be submitted through Canvas, email, hard copy as directed in the task sheet.

For more details, refer to the Launceston College: [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

REFERENCING

The APA referencing system is recommended for Legal Studies. The standards for criterion 7 state that a student must:

- clearly differentiates the information, images, ideas and words of others from the learner's own.
- follows referencing conventions and methodologies with a high degree of accuracy.
- creates appropriate, well-structured reference lists/bibliographies.

COURSE DOCUMENT

The TASC website provides considerable information about the course. [Legal Studies - TASC](#)

OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Justice and Outcomes VCE Legal Studies Units 3 & 4, 16E (textbook – purchased by student)
- *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900* (UK) (the Constitution) (provided by teacher)
- Your Parliament: How Australia's parliament works (provided by teacher)
- A4 2 ring binder with dividers; A5 notebook (purchased by student)

Week	Date	Program of Learning 2025	Notes / Assessments
1	6 Feb	Introduction to Legal Studies and the criminal justice system	<i>Yr 11s and 12's return February 8 (Thursday)</i>
2	10 Feb	Unit 4 - Adversary system: principles of justice, contest	
3	17 Feb	Adversary system: party control, role of the judge	
4	24 Feb	Adversary system: Role of the jury, strict rules of evidence/procedure	<i>Wed 26 Feb – Launceston Cup AT1: Adversary system test (Major - Cr3)</i>
5	3 Mar	Unit 4 - Rights of the Accused: presumption of innocence, standard of proof, burden of proof	<i>Supreme Court visit</i>
6	10 Mar	Rights of the Accused: Bail, police procedures, preliminary proceedings	<i>Mon 10 Mar – Public Holiday</i>
7	17 Mar	Rights of the Accused: Jury challenges and appeals, rights of the victim	<i>At2: ROTA test (Major - Cr4)</i>
8	24 Mar	Unit 1 - Westminster: liberal democracy, 5 key features	
9	31 Mar	Westminster: bicameralism, constitutional monarchy, rule of law	
10	7 Apr	Westminster: separation of powers, representative and responsible government	<i>AT3: Westminster assignment (Major Cr1,6, 7)</i>
Term 1 break – Saturday 12 April – Sunday 27 April			
1	28 Apr	Unit 2 – Federalism: Introduction to Federation	
2	5 May	Federalism: Alteration to the division of powers, referral of powers and tied grants	
3	12 May	Federalism: Referendums	<i>AT4: Division of Powers assignment (Major Cr1,6,7)</i>
4	19 May	Federalism: High Court interpretations	
5	26 May	Unit 4 - Sentencing: factors/principles/aims of punishment	
6	2 June	Sentencing options: prison and DATOs	<i>Fri 6 June - Moderation Day (LC students work from home)</i>
7	9 June	Sentencing: evaluation and effectiveness	<i>Mon 9 June – Public Holiday AT6: Sentencing test (Major - Cr4)</i>
8	16 June	Revision	
9	23 June	Exams – Start Thursday 26 th June	Mid-Year Assessments Level 3 & 4
10	30 June	Exams	Mid-Year Assessments Level 3 & 4
Term 2 break – Saturday 5 July – Sunday 20 July			
1	21 July	Unit 3 – Australian and international law: Intro of topical legal issue (TLI), common law and customary law	
2	28 July	Australian and international law: Statute law	
3	4 Aug	Australian and international law: law reform	<i>AT7: Australian and IL assignment (Minor Cr2)</i>
4	11 Aug	Australian and international law: International law	
5	18 Aug	TLI	<i>AT8: Mini TLI assignment (Moderate - Cr2,5,6)</i>
6	25 Aug	TLI	
7	1 Sep	LAWFEST	<i>Two-day excursion to Hobart</i>
8	8 Sep	TLI	<i>AT9: Major TLI assignment due (Major - Cr 2,5,6,7)</i>
9	15 Sep	Unit 4 – ADR processes: restorative justice	<i>Visit by youth justice police officer</i>
10	22 Sep	ADR processes: tribunals	<i>AT10: ADR assignment (Major - Cr3)</i>
Term 3 break – Saturday 27 September – Sunday 12 October			
1	13 Oct	ADR processes: strengths/weaknesses of adversary system	
2	20 Oct	Revision	
3	27 Oct	Revision	
4	3 Nov	Revision	<i>Mon 3 Nov – Public Holiday</i>
Exams begin (Monday 10th November) - Exams end (Thursday 20th November)			

ASSESSMENT

Criterion-based assessment helps students see how well they're meeting course outcomes at the end of their study. While there is continuous feedback to guide learning, final assessments focus on showing what students have achieved by the end. Ratings are given as 'A', 'B', or 'C', based on course standards. A 't' indicates partial achievement below a 'C', and a 'z' means no evidence provided.

Schools follow TASC's quality assurance to keep standards consistent. More details are on the [TASC website](#). Final awards are based on both internal and TASC-supervised external assessments.

Criteria

The assessment for *Legal Studies* Level 3 will be based on the degree to which the learner can:

1. describe and analyse structures and processes of Australia's Westminster parliamentary system of government*
2. describe and analyse aspects of Australian and International law *
3. describe and analyse Australian dispute resolution systems and processes*
4. describe and analyse Australia's criminal justice system*
5. describe and analyse a topical legal issue*
6. apply inquiry and research skills to plan and undertake investigations into legal issues
7. communicate legal and political information*

* = denotes criteria that are both internally and externally assessed

Award Requirements

The minimum requirements for an award in *Legal Studies* Level 3 are as follows:

EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (EA)

10 'A' ratings, 3 'B' ratings (5 'A' ratings, 1 'B' ratings from external assessment)

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT (HA)

5 'A' ratings, 4 'B' ratings, 4 'C' ratings (2 'A' ratings, 3 'B' ratings, 1 'C' rating from external assessment)

COMMENDABLE ACHIEVEMENT (CA)

4 'B' ratings, 8 'C' ratings (2 'B' ratings, 3 'C' ratings from external assessment)

SATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENT (SA)

11 'C' ratings (4 'C' ratings from external assessment)

PRELIMINARY ACHIEVEMENT (PA)

7 'C' ratings

A learner who otherwise achieves the ratings for a CA (Commendable Achievement) or SA (Satisfactory Achievement) award but who fails to show any evidence of achievement in one or more criteria ('z' notation) will be issued with a PA (Preliminary Achievement) award.