

Legal Studies

COURSE DETAILS

Hours	240 hours
Type	Board Developed Course
Duration	2 years
Unit Value	2-unit Year 11 2-unit Year 12
HSC Exam	Yes
ATAR	Yes
Exclusions	Nil
RECOGNITION	HSC Qualification

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Legal Studies is about examining how laws are made, as well as understanding their implications for individuals and society. Legal Studies is taught using current legal issues as the focus of class and group discussions, mock trials, mini-moots, videos and research projects. Students may undertake excursions to the various courts and legal institutions.

Students have the opportunity to investigate issues that illustrate how the law operates in practice. This is achieved by investigating, analysing and synthesising legal information and investigating legal issues from a variety of perspectives.

AIMS

Legal Studies develops students' knowledge, understanding and critical thinking skills in relation to the legal system and its effectiveness in promoting a just and fair society, with a view to empowering students to participate effectively as responsible citizens at the local, national and international level.

TOPICS COVERED

Year 11 Course

Students gain an understanding of the nature, function and importance of the law and the legal system. Topics include:

- The Legal System
- The Individual and the Law
- The Law in Practice, including a study of a contemporary issue.

Year 12 Course

Students examine the application of specific laws that affect our society, including criminal law. Topics include:

- Crime
- Human Rights
- Two options from: global environmental protection, consumer, family, workplace, shelter, indigenous peoples and world order.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment strategies may include:

- Examinations
- Research project
- Written Tasks
- Oral presentations
- Class tests

POTENTIAL CAREERS / REASONS TO CHOOSE COURSE

Legal Studies is the ideal course for students who wish to pursue further studies in law and criminology. Students will benefit from a willingness to express their opinions verbally and in writing.

Students will need to be able to analyse issues from differing perspectives to draw conclusions about the operation of the legal system. Legal Studies, when combined with further study can lead to careers in the police service, the court system, business, youth work, corrective services as solicitors, barristers, law clerks etc.

Growth areas are in family law, business law and the laws relating to negligence and duty of care.

YEAR 11 COURSE OUTCOMES (from NESA)

- P1 identifies and applies legal concepts and terminology
- P2 describes the key features of Australian and international law
- P3 describes the operation of domestic and international legal systems
- P4 discusses the effectiveness of the legal system in addressing issues
- P5 describes the role of law in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict, as well as initiating and responding to change
- P6 explains the nature of the interrelationship between the legal system and society
- P7 evaluates the effectiveness of the law in achieving justice
- P8 locates, selects and organises legal information from a variety of sources including legislation cases, media, international instruments and documents
- P9 communicates legal information using well-structured responses
- P10 accounts for differing perspectives and interpretations of legal information and issues.