

Legal Studies Terms 1 and 2 2021 Learning Overview

Week	Topics	Content/Activity/Tasks
1	Introduction to Legal Studies Why do we need laws? What is the Rule of Law?	How much do you know about the law? What does justice mean to you? What would a world without laws look like? What is the Rule of Law?
2	Why do we need the Rule of Law? How important is the UDHR in Australian law?	Rule of Law Case Studies What role does the Magna Carta and Universal Declaration of Human Rights play in Australia's legal system? Assessment Inquiry Project Part A distributed
3, 4	How are laws made in Australia?	How are laws made in Federal versus State/Territory Parliaments? Why is the Separation of Powers important? Case studies
5	What role does the Constitution play in the Australian legal system?	Why is the Constitution important? Constitution Case study What is law reform and how does it work? Assessment: Inquiry Project Part A due
6, 7	What is the difference between criminal and civil law?	What is the Paisley Snail? What is the difference between Civil and Criminal Law? How are they both applied in Australia? Criminal and Civil Law Case studies Assessment: Inquiry Project Part B distributed
8, 9	What is justice? How does Australia's Legal System ensure a fair trial?	Is Australia's justice system fair? Australia's justice system case study Punishment or Rehabilitation? Assessment: Portfolio Task 1
10, 11	Adult versus juvenile justice: Why is there a difference?	What is the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child? How do Juvenile Detention Centres fit into the Australian legal system? Why was there a Royal Commission into Children in Detention in the NT? Case studies

		Assessment: Portfolio Task 2
12	Why are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples overrepresented in the justice system?	Why are First Nations people overrepresented in the legal system in Australia and globally? What is the current situation in Australia?
13, 14	Independent inquiry into chosen area of law reform	Assessment: Inquiry Project Part B due
15, 16	Student presentations on independent inquiry projects	Assessment: Inquiry Project Part C due
17	Australia's International Obligations	What are Australia's international legal obligations? How do international obligations shape Australian law?
18	Film Study	Are portrayals of the legal system, such as trials and advocacy, represented fairly on film?
19	The changing nature of crime	How and why do crimes and consequences change? How can you advocate for change?