

VCE Legal Studies investigates the ways in which the law and the legal system relate to and serve individuals and the community. This knowledge is central to understanding the workings of contemporary Australian society. Legal Studies examines the processes of law-making, dispute resolution and the administration of justice in Australia. Students develop an understanding of the impact of the legal system on the lives of citizens, and the implications of legal decisions and outcomes on Australian society. The study provides students with an appreciation of how individuals can be involved in decision-making within the legal system, encouraging civic engagement and helping them to become more informed and active citizens.

## **UNIT 1**

### **Criminal law in action**

This unit provides a study of criminal law and how it affects us. Students study types of crime, the role of police, punishment and how the legal system works. Students will also look at the process used by Parliament to make laws.

### **LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

Learning from different criminal cases, essay writing and class discussions. Students will also hear guest speakers; participate in court visits and an excursion.

### **KEY SKILLS REQUIRED**

Students should have an interest in and awareness of current legal issues and a willingness to discuss issues during classroom discussion. Students will learn to analyse and apply the law to legal cases. Essay writing skills will also be developed.

### **ASSESSED TASKS**

Tests, essay, case studies and an end of semester written examination.

## **UNIT 2**

### **Issues in civil law**

This unit focuses on the effective resolution of disputes. Students study the area of civil law and alternative ways of settling disputes. Students will complete a detailed investigation of an area of civil law which may include Family Law, Workplace Laws or Tenancy Law. Students will also look at legal case studies to examine rights and the role people can play in our legal system.

### **LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

Research report, case studies and a visit to the Geelong Law Courts.

### **KEY SKILLS REQUIRED**

Students should have an interest in and awareness of current legal issues and a willingness to discuss issues during classroom discussion. Students will learn to analyse and apply the law to legal cases, research topics and write essays.

### **ASSESSED TASKS**

Case studies, individual and group assignments and an end of semester written examination.