

Unit 1: Guilt and liability

In this unit students develop an understanding of legal foundations, such as the different types and sources of law and the existence of a court hierarchy in Victoria. Students investigate key concepts of criminal law and civil law and apply these to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios to determine whether an accused may be found guilty of a crime, or liable in a civil dispute. In doing so, students develop an appreciation of the way in which legal principles and information are used in making reasoned judgments and conclusions about the culpability of an accused, and the liability of a party in a civil dispute.

For this unit students are required to demonstrate three outcomes. As a set these outcomes encompass the areas of study in the unit. Suitable tasks for assessment in this unit may be selected from the following:

- a folio of exercises
- structured questions
- a classroom presentation
- a role-play
- a debate
- a report
- a question-and-answer session.

Unit 2: Sanctions, remedies and rights

This unit focuses on the enforcement of criminal law and civil law, the methods and institutions that may be used to determine a criminal case or resolve a civil dispute, and the purposes and types of sanctions and remedies and their effectiveness. Students undertake a detailed investigation of two criminal cases and two civil cases from the past four years to form a judgment about the ability of sanctions and remedies to achieve the principles of justice. Students develop their understanding of the way rights are protected in Australia and in another country, and possible reforms to the protection of rights. They examine a significant case in relation to the protection of rights in Australia.

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- a folio of exercises
- structured questions
- a classroom presentation
- a role-play
- a debate
- a report
- a question-and-answer session.

Across Units 1 and 2, students will gain an understanding of the legal system by participating in a range of excursions and incursions. These may include, but are not exclusive to the following:

- **Visit to Correctional facilities**
- **Presentations from Victoria Police**
- **Presentations for Victorian Legal Aid and other legal representatives**
- **Presentations from sitting judges and justices from the Victorian Courts**
- **Court Visits**

Unit 3: Rights and justice

The Victorian justice system, which includes the criminal and civil justice systems, aims to protect the rights of individuals and uphold the principles of justice: fairness, equality and access. In this unit students examine the methods and institutions in the justice system and consider their appropriateness in determining criminal cases and resolving civil disputes. Students consider the Magistrates' Court, County Court and Supreme Court within the Victorian court hierarchy, as well as other Victorian legal institutions and bodies available to assist with cases. Students explore matters such as the rights available to an accused and to victims in the criminal justice system, the roles of the judge, jury, legal practitioners and the parties, and the ability of sanctions and remedies to achieve their purposes. Students investigate the extent to which the principles of justice are upheld in the justice system

School-assessed Coursework for Unit 3 will contribute 25 per cent to the study score.

Outcome 1 (50 Marks)

Explain the rights of the accused and of victims in the criminal justice system, discuss the means used to determine criminal cases and evaluate the ability of the criminal justice system to achieve the principles of justice.

The student's performance on each outcome will be assessed using one or more of the following:

- a case study
- structured questions
- an essay
- a report in written format
- a report in multimedia format
- a folio of exercises.

Outcome 2 (50 Marks)

Analyse the factors to consider when initiating a civil claim, discuss the institutions and methods used to resolve civil disputes and evaluate the ability of the civil justice system to achieve the principles of justice.

Unit 4: The people and the law

The study of Australia's laws and legal system involves an understanding of institutions that make and reform our laws, and the relationship between the Australian people, the Australian Constitution and law-making bodies. In this unit, students explore how the Australian Constitution establishes the law-making powers of the Commonwealth and state parliaments, and 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 law reform. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual scenarios.

School-assessed Coursework for Unit 4 will contribute 25 per cent to the study score.

Outcome 1 (40 Marks)

Discuss the significance of High Court cases involving the interpretation of the Australian Constitution and evaluate the ways in which the Australian Constitution acts as a check on parliament in law-making.

The student's performance on each outcome will be assessed using one or more of the following:

- a case study
- structured questions
- an essay
- a report in written format
- a report in multimedia format
- a folio of exercises.

Outcome 2 (60 Marks)

Discuss the factors that affect the ability of parliament and courts to make law, evaluate the ability of these law-makers to respond to the need for law reform, and analyse how individuals, the media and law reform bodies can influence a change in the law.

External assessment

The level of achievement for Units 3 and 4 is also assessed by an end-of-year examination. The end of year examination will contribute 50 per cent of the overall mark for units 3 and 4