

Legal Studies 2019 v1.1

General Senior Syllabus

MERIDAN STATE COLLEGE - LEG (possible 4 QCE credits)

Disclaimer: excerpt only - refer to QCAA website for further details
www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/senior-subjects

1 Course overview

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Rationale

Legal Studies focuses on the interaction between society and the discipline of law. Students study the legal system and how it regulates activities and aims to protect the rights of individuals, while balancing these with obligations and responsibilities. An understanding of legal processes and concepts enables citizens to be better informed and able to constructively question and contribute to the improvement of laws and legal processes. This is important as the law is dynamic and evolving, based on values, customs and norms that are challenged by technology, society and global influences.

Legal Studies explores the role and development of law in response to current issues. The subject starts with the foundations of law and explores the criminal justice process through to punishment and sentencing. Students then study the civil justice system, focusing on contract law and negligence. With increasing complexity, students critically examine issues of governance that are the foundation of the Australian and Queensland legal systems, before they explore contemporary issues of law reform and change. The study finishes with considering Australian and international human rights issues. Throughout the course, students analyse issues and evaluate how the rule of law, justice and equity can be achieved in contemporary contexts.

The primary skills of inquiry, critical thinking, problem-solving and reasoning empower Legal Studies students to make informed and ethical decisions and recommendations. Learning is based on an inquiry approach that develops reflection skills and metacognitive awareness. Through inquiry, students identify and describe legal issues, explore information and data, analyse, evaluate to make decisions or propose recommendations, and create responses that convey legal meaning. They improve their research skills by using information and communication technology (ICT) and databases to access case law and legislation. Students analyse legal information to determine the nature and scope of the legal issue, examine different or opposing views, which are evaluated against legal criteria. These are critical skills that allow students to think strategically in the 21st century.

Knowledge of the law enables students to have confidence in approaching and accessing the legal system, and provides them with an appreciation of the influences that shape the system. Legal knowledge empowers students to make constructive judgments on, and knowledgeable commentaries about, the law and its processes. Students examine and justify viewpoints involved in legal issues, while also developing respect for diversity. Legal Studies satisfies interest and curiosity as students question, explore and discuss tensions between changing social values, justice and equitable outcomes.

Legal Studies enables students to appreciate how the legal system is relevant to them and their communities. The subject enhances students' abilities to contribute in an informed and considered way to legal challenges and change, both in Australia and globally.

Pathways

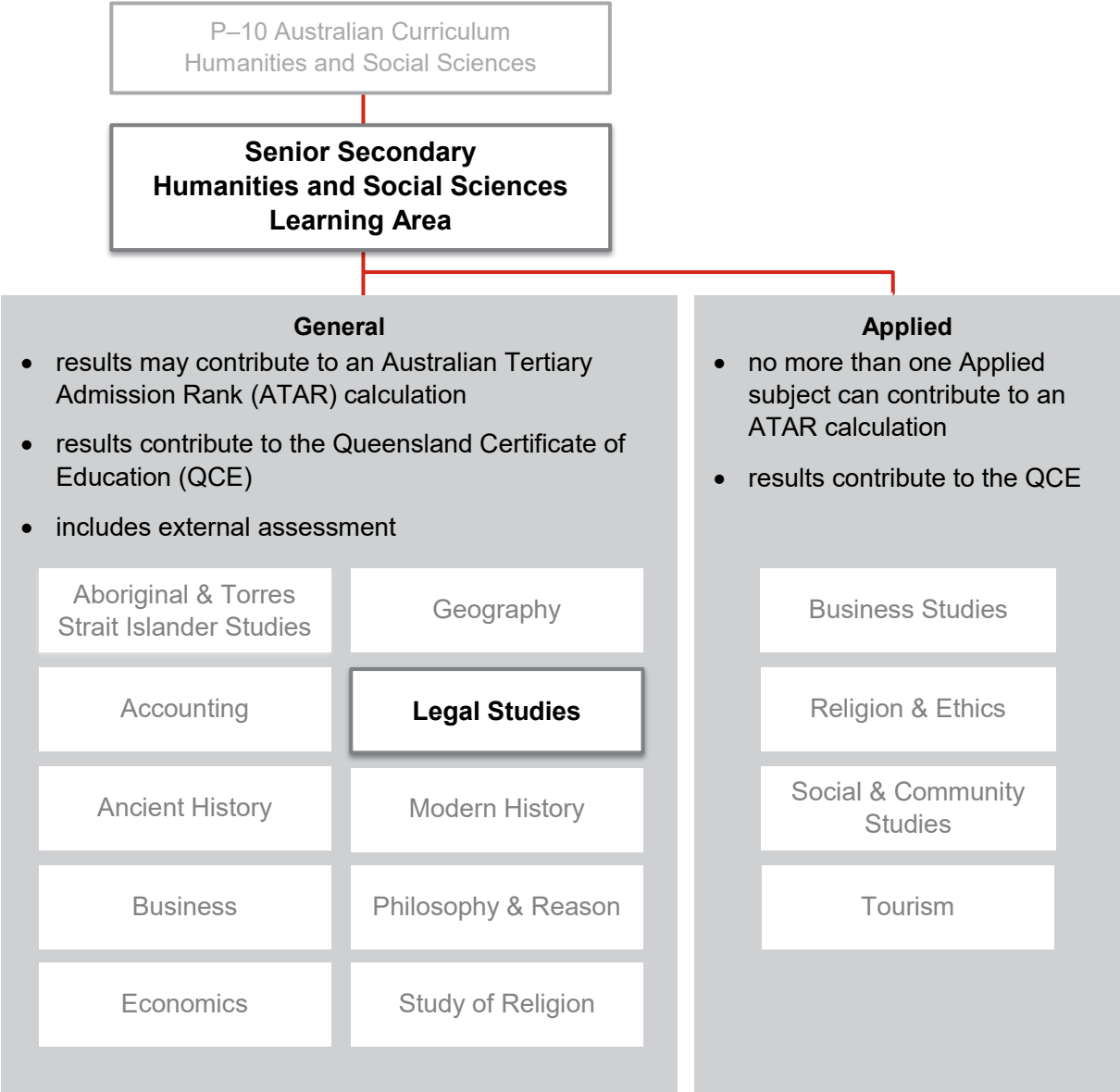
Legal Studies is a General subject suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead to tertiary studies, vocational education or work. A course of study in Legal Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of law, law enforcement, criminology, justice studies and politics. The knowledge, skills and attitudes Legal Studies students gain are transferable to all discipline areas and post-schooling tertiary pathways.

The research and analytical skills this course develops are universally valued in business, health, science and engineering industries.

1.1.2 Learning area structure

All learning areas build on the P–10 Australian Curriculum.

Figure 1: Learning area structure



1.1.3 Course structure

Legal Studies is a course of study consisting of four units. Subject matter, learning experiences and assessment increase in complexity from Units 1 and 2 to Units 3 and 4 as students develop greater independence as learners.

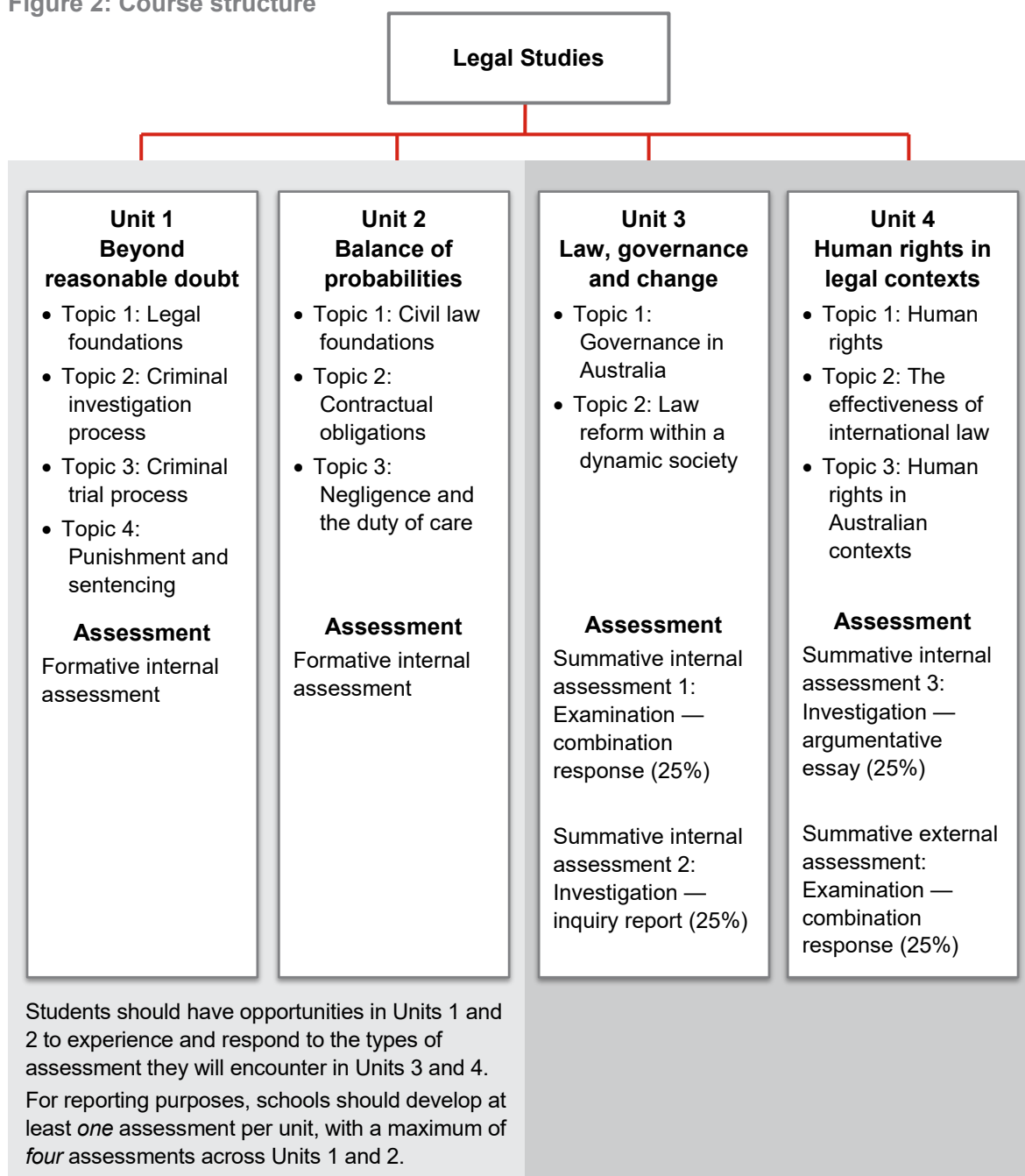
Units 1 and 2 provide foundational learning, which allows students to experience all syllabus objectives and begin engaging with the course subject matter. Students should complete Units 1 and 2 before beginning Unit 3. It is recommended that Unit 3 be completed before Unit 4.

Units 3 and 4 consolidate student learning. Only the results from Units 3 and 4 will contribute to ATAR calculations.

Figure 2 outlines the structure of this course of study.

Each unit has been developed with a notional time of 55 hours of teaching and learning, including assessment.

Figure 2: Course structure



Additional Requirements

Study Requirements	Special Requirements
<p>This is a General subject and as such requires a significant commitment of time and energy to complete the course successfully. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three lessons per week face to face teaching• Individual/study group/tutorial sessions 2-3 hours per week• Students will be required to complete assignment work in their own time. Some inclass time will be given to teach structures, genres, researching methods and analytical processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must have access to the internet at home or at a local library.• Students must also be able to borrow resources from the school library at all times.• Due to the large amount of technologically based assessment and classwork it is recommended that students are participants in the College's BYOx program.• Students must also be prepared to participate in weekly handwritten extended response tasks.