

External Assessment 2025

LEGAL STUDIES

LST315117

Pages: 12

Questions: 9

Answer Booklets: 4

Preparation time for this exam: 15 minutes

Suggested working time: 3 hours

Instructions:

- There are **three (3)** sections to this exam paper.
- You must answer **four (4)** questions in total:
 - Section A – answer **one (1)** question in **analytical essay form**
 - Section B – answer **Question 5** in **analytical essay form**
 - Section C – answer **one (1)** question from **each part**
 - Part 1 – answer **one (1)** question in **short answer form**
 - Part 2 – answer **one (1)** question in **short answer form**.
- Write your answers for each question in a **separate answer booklet** and write the question number you are answering on the front cover of each answer booklet.
- The exam is **three (3) hours** in length. The suggested working time for each section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
- All answers must be written in **English**.
- You **must** make sure your answers address the listed criteria.

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Guide to Exam Structure

		Parts	Questions available	Questions to answer	Suggested working time	Marks available
Section	A		4	1	60 minutes	All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+ to z
Section	B		1	1	60 minutes	
Section	C	Part 1	2	1	30 minutes	
		Part 2	2	1	30 minutes	
Totals			9	4	180 minutes (3 hours)	

Criteria

You **must** make sure your answers address:

- Criterion 1 describe and analyse structures and processes of Australia's Westminster parliamentary system of government
- Criterion 2 describe and analyse aspects of Australian and International law
- Criterion 3 describe and analyse Australian dispute resolution systems and processes
- Criterion 4 describe and analyse Australia's criminal justice system
- Criterion 5 describe and analyse a topical legal issue
- Criterion 7 communicate legal and political information.

Section A

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section using **analytical essay form**.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1 and 7**.
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Principles and Practices of Australia's Westminster Parliamentary System of Government

Question 1

Explain the main features of the Westminster system of government at the federal level in Australia.

Evaluate **three (3)** of these features in acting as checks and balances on power in Australia's Westminster system of government.

OR

Question 2

Explain the most important features of separation of powers and rule of law in Australia's Westminster system of government.

Evaluate their effectiveness in upholding legal rights and preventing abuse of power in Australia.

OR

Australian Federal Constitutional Government

Question 3

Explain the main features of the federal system of government in 1901 in Australia.

Evaluate the significance of different sections of the Constitution in making changes to some lawmaking powers available to states and the Commonwealth. Evaluate the importance of these changes over time.

OR

Question 4

Explain and evaluate how the Constitution, since 1967, has changed the status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Section B – Australian and International Law and Work Requirement (Topical Legal Issue)

- Answer **one (1) Topical Legal Issue (TLI)** and write your answer to Question 5 using **analytical essay** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet** and write the TLI you have chosen on the front cover.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 2, 5 and 7**.
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Question 5

Select **one (1)** of the following 2025 Topical Legal Issues (TLI). Explain and evaluate the effectiveness of the **relevant** processes and **relevant** institutions in Australian law and (if **relevant**) international law in reforming and/or implementing the law in your chosen TLI.

- Reid's Law: legal responses to knife crime in Tasmania

OR

- Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Reform) Bill 2024

OR

- YBFZ v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs & Anor

OR

- International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu and the future of the ICC

OR

- International Court of Justice (ICJ) climate change advisory opinion.

Question 5 continues

Question 5 continued

Your response should include:

- a brief introduction to your topic, highlighting the political and legal issues
- an evaluation of different legal and political views
- **relevant** processes and **relevant** institutions in reforming and/or implementing your chosen TLI
- an evaluation of the **relevant** processes and **relevant** institutions in reforming and/or implementing your chosen TLI.

Ensure your response identifies and includes **relevant** processes and **relevant** institutions from at least **two (2)** sections of **Part 3** of the course document:

- customary law
- Australian statute law
- Australian common law
- Australian law reform
- international law*
 - differences between international and Australian law
 - international law enforcement.

* Please note that international law has **two (2) parts** and may be counted as **two (2)**.

Section C – Dispute Resolution: Civil and Criminal

Part 1

- Answer **one (1)** question in this part using **short answer** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for Section C: Part 1 is **approximately 30 minutes**.
 - This part assesses **Criterion 3**.
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Question 6

Choose **two (2)** features of the adversary system from the following list:

- impartial adjudicator
- party control
- strict rules of evidence and procedure
- role of the jury.

Explain these **two (2)** features of the adversary system.

Evaluate their advantages and limitations in achieving the purpose of the adversary system.

OR

Question 7

Explain **one (1)** Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) method and the types of disputes suitable for this method.

Evaluate the advantages and limitations of your chosen ADR in reaching a fair outcome and in addressing the limitations of the adversary system.

Section C – Dispute Resolution: Civil and Criminal

Part 2

- Answer **one (1)** question in this part using **short answer** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for Section C: Part 2 is **approximately 30 minutes**.
 - This part assesses **Criterion 4**.
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Question 8

Explain the rights of the accused to jury challenges and presumption of innocence. Explain **one (1)** right available to the victim.

Evaluate the advantages and limitations of these rights for the accused and the victim.

OR

Question 9

Explain the different considerations judges take into account when choosing an appropriate sentence.

Evaluate **community service orders** and **one (1)** other sentencing option available to Tasmanian Courts in addressing the purposes of sentencing.

End of Exam

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