



Key information for the Legal Studies syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Legal Studies Stage 6 Syllabus \(2009\)](#) requires students to study 7 topics over 240 hours of course time.
- Legal Studies Stage 6 specific course requirements are outlined in the [Legal Studies Stage 6 Syllabus \(2009\)](#).
- Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Legal Studies Stage 6](#).

HSC examinations

- The [HSC Legal Studies examination](#) consists of a written paper comprised of 3 hours of writing plus 5 minutes reading time. This examination is broken down into 3 sections, 50 marks related to the core and 50 related to the options. Details on the HSC Legal Studies examination can be found at [Assessment and reporting in Legal Studies Stage 6](#).
- Past HSC papers by NESA, are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Legal Studies can be found at [Legal Studies 2024 HSC exam pack | NSW Education Standards](#).
- HSC standards materials by NESA, provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Legal Studies Stage 6 HSC standards materials](#) can be found on the NESA webpages.

Support materials

The HSIE curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Legal Studies Stage 6. Here you will find support by:

- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE webpage](#)
- engaging with the HSIE statewide staffroom ([Join the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#))
- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE SharePoint page](#).

NESA also has a range of support materials on the [Legal Studies Stage Syllabus \(2009\)](#) webpage.

Professional learning

There are a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Legal Studies syllabus including:

- [Legal Studies – How to annotate a student sample](#)
- [Statewide Staffroom recordings](#).

The HSIE curriculum team also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. Upcoming events are posted in the [professional learning channel of the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#).

General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.

Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email hsie@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#). Join the HSIE statewide staffroom if you are not already a member. You can also subscribe to our [HSIE Newsletter](#).

