Revision – Legal studies

**Teacher note –** inthe following activity, students will choose 4-5 ‘big ideas’ that they would write about in response to certain HSC or trial essay questions. Questions have been provided for the core topic of crime and the options that are assessed via essays. Alternate revision activities should be provided for the core topic of human rights.

# Aim

Legal studies develops student knowledge, understanding and critical thinking skills in relation to the legal system and its effectiveness in promoting a just and fair society, with a view to empowering students to participate effectively as responsible citizens at the local, national and international level.

## Principal focus

Through the use of a range of contemporary examples, students investigate criminal law, processes and institutions and the tension between community interests and individual rights and freedoms.

## Themes and challenges

* the role of discretion in the criminal justice system
* issues of compliance and non-compliance in regard to criminal law
* the extent to which law reflects moral and ethical standards
* the role of law reform in the criminal justice system
* the extent to which the law balances the rights of victims, offenders and society
* the effectiveness of legal and non-legal measures in achieving justice.

## Outcomes

A student:

* **H1** identifies and applies legal concepts and terminology
* **H2** describes and explains key features of and the relationship between Australian and international law
* **H3** analyses the operation of domestic and international legal systems
* **H4** evaluates the effectiveness of the legal system in addressing issues
* **H5** explains the role of law in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict, as well as initiating and responding to change
* **H6** assesses the nature of the interrelationship between the legal system and society
* **H7** evaluates the effectiveness of the law in achieving justice
* **H8** locates, selects, organises, synthesises and analyses legal information from a variety of sources including legislation, cases, media, international instruments and documents
* **H9** communicates legal information using well-structured and logical arguments
* **H10** analyses differing perspectives and interpretations of legal information and issues.

Outcomes referred to in this document are from [Legal Studies Stage 6 Syllabus](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/hsie/legal-studies) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2009.

# Crime – core topic 1

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Assess the effectiveness of the criminal investigation process as a means of achieving justice. |  |
| Assess the use of defences to criminal charges in achieving justice. |  |
| Assess the effectiveness of the jury system in the criminal trial. |  |
| Assess the effectiveness of the criminal trial process as a means of achieving justice. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of different types of penalties, including diversionary programs. |  |
| Assess the roles of alternative methods of sentencing. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of sentencing and punishment as a means of achieving justice. |  |
| Assess the effectiveness of the criminal justice system when dealing with young offenders |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of the domestic and international legal systems in dealing with international crime. |  |
| Evaluate the role of discretion in the criminal justice system. |  |
| To what extent does the management of young offenders in the criminal justice system reflect the moral and ethical standards of society? |  |
| To what extent does the law reflect moral and ethical standards of society? |  |
| Evaluate the role of law reform in the criminal justice system. |  |
| To what extent does the law balance the rights of victims, offenders and society? |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal measures in achieving justice. |  |
| Assess the impact of non-compliance on the effectiveness of criminal law. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 1 – consumers

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question. Please note, only 2 options are studied for HSC Legal Studies, so only 2 of the ‘options’ sections should be completed.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of the regulation of marketing, advertising and product certification in achieving consumer protection. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of non-legal and legal measures in achieving justice for consumers. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to credit. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to product certification. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to marketing innovations. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to technology. |  |
| Assess the role of the law in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict in regard to consumers. |  |
| To what extent do issues of compliance impact on the effectiveness of legal responses to issues affecting consumers? |  |
| How well do laws relating to consumers reflect changing values and ethical standards? |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving justice for consumers. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving justice for consumers.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 2 – global environmental protection

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question. Please note, only 2 options are studied for HSC Legal Studies, so only 2 of the ‘options’ sections should be completed.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Evaluate the role of sovereignty in assisting and impeding the resolution of global environmental protection issues. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and nonlegal measures in protecting the global environment. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal responses to threats to the global environment. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal responses to the conflict between the demand for resources and global environmental protection. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to the barriers to achieving an international response to global environmental protection. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of Australia’s responses to international initiatives for global environmental protection. |  |
| Assess the impact of state sovereignty on international cooperation and the resolution of conflict in regard to environmental protection |  |
| To what extent are issues on non-compliance the only barrier to achieving global environmental protection |  |
| Evaluate the impact of changing values and ethical standards on environmental protection |  |
| Assess the role of the role of law reform in protecting the global environment |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in protecting the environment. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to protecting the environment.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 3 – family law

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question. Please note, only 2 options are studied for HSC Legal Studies, so only 2 of the ‘options’ sections should be completed.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of the law in protecting victims of domestic violence. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of the law in achieving justice for parties involved in relationship breakdowns. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to the recognition of same sex relationships. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to the changing nature of parental responsibility. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to surrogacy and birth technologies. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to care and protection of children. |  |
| Evaluate the role of the law in encouraging co-operation and reducing conflict in regard to family. |  |
| To what extent is compliance achieved in family law? |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of changes to family law as a response to changing values in the community. |  |
| Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes for family members and society. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving just outcomes for family members. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving just outcomes for family members.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 5 – Indigenous peoples

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Evaluate the role of sovereignty in assisting and impeding the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal measures in achieving justice for indigenous peoples. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to loss of cultural rights including language. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to land rights. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to legal rights to natural resources. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to intellectual property rights. |  |
| Evaluate the impact of state sovereignty in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict in regard to indigenous peoples. |  |
| Assess the role of compliance in achieving justice for indigenous people globally. |  |
| Assess how well laws relating to indigenous peoples reflect changing values and ethical standards. |  |
| Evaluate the role of law reform in recognising the rights of indigenous peoples. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving justice for indigenous peoples. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving justice for indigenous peoples.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 5 – shelter

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question. Please note, only 2 options are studied for HSC Legal Studies, so only 2 of the ‘options’ sections should be completed.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Assess the role of the legal system in protecting those securing and providing shelter. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and nonlegal measures in achieving justice for people seeking shelter. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to affordability of shelter. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to discrimination in seeking and providing shelter. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to homelessness. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to social housing. |  |
| Assess the role of the law in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict in regard to shelter. |  |
| To what extent is compliance with the law achieved in relation to shelter? |  |
| Assess the extent to which laws relating to shelter reflect the changing values and ethical standards in society. |  |
| Evaluate the role of law reform in protecting the rights of those seeking shelter. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of the legal and non-legal responses in achieving just outcomes in regard to the provision of shelter. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in in regard to the provision of shelter.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 6 – workplace

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Evaluate the evaluate the effectiveness of dispute resolution processes. |  |
| Assess the role of the legal system in regulating the workplace. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal measures in protecting and recognising workplace rights. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to discrimination. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to safety. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to termination of employment. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to leave. |  |
| Assess the role of the law in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict in the workplace. |  |
| To what extent do issues of compliance impact on the effectiveness of workplace law? |  |
| To what extent do laws relating to the workplace reflect changing values and ethical standards? |  |
| Assess the role of law reform in recognising rights and enforcing responsibilities in the workplace. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving justice in the workplace. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in achieving justice in the workplace.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).

# Option 7 – world order

* Complete a summary of 4-5 ‘big ideas’ or paragraphs that you would write about in an essay for this question.

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| Question | 4-5 ‘big ideas’ to write about |
| Evaluate the role of sovereignty in assisting and impeding the resolution of world order issues. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and nonlegal measures in resolving conflict and working towards world order. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to the principle of ‘responsibility to protect.’ |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to regional and global situations that threaten peace and security. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to the success of global cooperation in achieving world order. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to rules regarding the conduct of hostilities. |  |
| Evaluate the role of law in encouraging cooperation and resolving conflict in regard to world order. |  |
| Assess how issues of compliance and non-compliance impact on the resolution of conflict between nation states. |  |
| Evaluate the impact of changing values and ethical standards on world order. |  |
| Assess the role of law reform in promoting and maintaining world order. |  |
| Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in promoting and maintaining world order. |  |

* Complete an essay for the following question: ‘Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in promoting and maintaining world order.’
* Use a [C-3-B4-Me](https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/549#.YOe6XNzPYaU.link) feedback strategy to gain advice on how to improve the essay from 3 of your peers before emailing to your teacher. Feedback should be based on whether the essay:
  + presents a logical, cohesive and sustained argument
  + integrates relevant legislation, cases and media
  + demonstrates extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system
  + makes clear judgement(s).