

HSC Legal Studies

Exam Planner

*Your guide for exam goal-setting,
preparation and success.*



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Subject: Legal Studies

EXAM DATE

GOAL

Topic: The nature of crime	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
The meaning of crime			
The elements of crime: actus reus, mens rea			
Strict liability offences			
Causation			
Categories of crime including offences against the person, offences against the sovereign, economic offences (property/white collar/computer), drug offences, driving offences, public order offences, preliminary crimes (attempts and conspiracy)			
Summary and indictable offences			
Parties to a crime including principal in the first degree, principal in the second degree, accessory before the fact, accessory after the fact			
Factors affecting criminal behaviour			
Crime prevention: situational and social			
Topic: The criminal investigation process	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Police powers			
Reporting crime			
Investigating crime: gathering evidence, use of technology, search and seizure, use of warrants			
Arrest and charge, summons, warrants			

Bail or remand			
Detention and interrogation, rights of suspects			
Assess the effectiveness of the criminal investigation process as a means of achieving justice			
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Investigating crime: gathering evidence, use of technology, search and seizure, use of warrants			
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Topic: Criminal trial purpose	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Court jurisdiction			
Describe the role of courts in the criminal justice process			
The adversary system			
Discuss the use of the adversary system as a means of achieving justice			
Legal personnel: magistrate, judge, police prosecutor, Director of Public Prosecution, Public Defenders			
Examine the role of legal representation in the criminal trial			
Pleas, charge negotiation			
Legal representation, including legal aid			

Burden and standard of proof			
Use of evidence, including witnesses			
Defences to criminal charges: – complete defences – partial defences to murder			
The role of juries, including verdicts			
Evaluate the effectiveness of the jury system in the criminal trial			
Assess the effectiveness of the criminal trial process as a means of achieving justice			
Topic: Sentencing and punishment	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Statutory and judicial guidelines			
The purposes of punishment: deterrence (specific and general), retribution, rehabilitation, incapacitation			
Factors affecting a sentencing decision: aggravating and mitigating circumstances			
The role of the victim in sentencing			
Appeals			
Types of penalties including: no conviction recorded, caution, fine, bond, suspended sentence, probation, criminal infringement notice, penalty units, community service order, home detention, periodic detention, forfeiture of assets, imprisonment, diversionary programs			
Evaluate the effectiveness of different types of penalties, including diversionary programs			
Alternative methods of sentencing including circle sentencing, restorative justice			
Post-sentencing considerations, including security classification, protective custody, parole, preventative detention, continued detention, sexual offenders registration, deportation			
Examine the implications of post-sentencing considerations in achieving justice			
Evaluate the effectiveness of sentencing and punishment as a means of achieving justice			

Alternative methods of sentencing including circle sentencing, restorative justice			
Post-sentencing considerations, including security classification, protective custody, parole, preventative detention, continued detention, sexual offenders registration, deportation			
Examine the implications of post-sentencing considerations in achieving justice			
Evaluate the effectiveness of sentencing and punishment as a means of achieving justice			
Topic: Young offenders	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Age of criminal responsibility			
Discuss the issues surrounding the age of criminal responsibility			
The rights of children when questioned or arrested			
Children's Court – procedures and operation			
Explain why young offenders are treated differently in the criminal justice system			
Penalties for children			
Alternatives to court			
Assess the effectiveness of the criminal justice system when dealing with young offenders			
Topic: International Crime	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Define international crime			
Categories of international crime, including:			
– Crimes against the international community			
– Transnational crimes			
Dealing with international crime:			
– Domestic and international measures			

– Limitations			
Evaluate the effectiveness of the domestic and international legal systems in dealing with international crime.			
Topic: The nature and development of Human Rights	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
The definition of human rights			
Developing recognition of human rights			
– The abolition of slavery			
– Trade unionism and labour rights			
– Universal suffrage			
– Universal education			
– Self-determination			
– Environmental rights			
– Peace rights			
Formal statements of human rights			
– Universal Declaration of Human Rights			
– International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights			
– International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights			
Topic: Promoting and enforcing human rights	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
State sovereignty			
The roles of:			
– The United Nations			
– Intergovernmental organisations			

– Courts, tribunals and independent			
– Statutory authorities			
– Non-government organisations			
– The media			
The incorporation of human rights into domestic law			
The roles of:			
– The Constitution, including division of powers and separation of powers			
– Statute law			
– Common law			
– Courts and tribunals			
– Non-government organisations			
– The media			
– A Charter of Rights (arguments for and against)			
Topic: Contemporary Human Rights issues and responses	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Issues could include:			
– Genocide			
– Treatment of refugees			
– Asylum seekers			
– Child soldiers			
– Abuse of children			

– Torture			
– Capital punishment			
– Arbitrary detention			
– Religious discrimination			
– Discrimination against women			
– Exploitation of workers			
– Human trafficking and slavery			
– Limitations on free speech.			

Practice Schedule

PRACTICE EXAM	DEADLINE
Practice Exam 1	
Practice Exam 2	
Practice Exam 3	
Practice Exam 4	
Practice Exam 5	
EXAM DATE:	

› Congratulations!

You're ready! Now relax and think about how good it will feel leaving the exam room knowing the hard work has paid off. Congratulations and good luck (not that you need it)!



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