

# VCE Legal Studies

## *Exam Planner*

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



© 2020 Connect Education  
Not for external distribution or posting on extranets.

# Subject: Legal Studies

EXAM DATE .....

GOAL .....

Topic: The Victorian criminal justice system	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
The principles of justice: fairness, equality and access			
Key concepts in the Victorian criminal justice system, including:			
- The distinction between summary offences and indictable offences			
- The burden of proof			
- The standard of proof			
- The presumption of innocence			
The rights of an accused, including the right to be tried without unreasonable delay, the right to a fair hearing, and the right to trial by jury			
The rights of victims, including the right to give evidence as a vulnerable witness, the right to be informed about the proceedings, and the right to be informed of the likely release date of the accused			
The role of institutions available to assist an accused, including Victoria Legal Aid and Victorian community legal centres			
The purposes of committal proceedings			
The purposes and appropriateness of plea negotiations and sentence indications in determining criminal cases			
The reasons for a Victorian court hierarchy in determining criminal cases, including specialisation and appeals			
The responsibilities of key personnel in a criminal trial, including the judge, jury, parties and legal practitioners			
The purposes of sanctions: rehabilitation, punishment, deterrence, denunciation and protection			
Fines, community corrections orders and imprisonment, and their specific purposes			

Factors considered in sentencing, including aggravating factors, mitigating factors, guilty pleas and victim impact statements			
Factors that affect the ability of the criminal justice system to achieve the principles of justice including in relation to costs, time and cultural differences			
Recent reforms and recommended reforms to enhance the ability of the criminal justice system to achieve the principles of justice.			
<b>Topic: The Victorian civil justice system</b>	<b>Do I have it in my notes?</b>	<b>Note-making deadline</b>	<b>Memorising deadline</b>
The principles of justice: fairness, equality and access			
Key concepts in the Victorian civil justice system, including:			
– The burden of proof			
– The standard of proof			
– Representative proceedings			
Factors to consider when initiating a civil claim, including negotiation options, costs, limitation of actions, the scope of liability and enforcement issues			
The purposes and appropriateness of Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in resolving civil disputes			
The purposes of civil pre-trial procedures			
The reasons for a Victorian court hierarchy in determining civil cases, including administrative convenience and appeals			
The responsibilities of key personnel in a civil trial, including the judge, jury, the parties and legal practitioners			
Judicial powers of case management, including the power to order mediation and give directions			
The methods used to resolve civil disputes, including mediation, conciliation and arbitration, and their appropriateness			

The purposes of remedies			
Damages and injunctions, and their specific purposes			
Factors that affect the ability of the civil justice system to achieve the principles of justice, including in relation to costs, time and accessibility			
Recent and recommended reforms to enhance the ability of the civil justice system to achieve the principles of justice			
<b>Topic: The people and the Australian Constitution</b>	<b>Do I have it in my notes?</b>	<b>Note-making deadline</b>	<b>Memorising deadline</b>
The roles of the Crown and the Houses of Parliament (Victorian and Commonwealth) in law-making			
The division of constitutional law-making powers of the state and Commonwealth parliaments, including exclusive, concurrent and residual powers			
The significance of section 109 of the Australian Constitution			
The means by which the Australian Constitution acts as a check on parliament in law-making, including:			
– The bicameral structure of the Commonwealth parliament			
– The separation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers			
– The express protection of rights			
– The role of the High Court in interpreting the Australian Constitution			
– The requirement for a double majority in a referendum			
The significance of one High Court case interpreting sections 7 and 24 of the Australian Constitution			
The significance of one referendum in which the Australian people have protected or changed the Australian Constitution			
The significance of one High Court case which has had an impact on the division of constitutional law-making powers			
The impact of international declarations and treaties on the interpretation of the external affairs power.			

Topic: The people, parliament, and the courts	Do I have it in my notes?	Note-making deadline	Memorising deadline
Factors that affect the ability of parliament to make law, including:			
– The roles of the houses of parliament			
– The representative nature of parliament			
– The roles of political pressure			
- The restrictions on the law making powers of parliament			
The roles of the Victorian courts and the High Court in law-making			
The reasons for, and effects of, statutory interpretation			
Factors that affect the ability of courts to make law, including:			
– The doctrine of precedent			
– Judicial conservatism			
- Judicial activism			
– Costs and time in bringing a case to court			
– The requirement for standing			
Features of the relationship between courts and parliament in law-making, including:			
– The supremacy of parliament			
– The ability of courts to influence parliament			
– The interpretation of statutes by courts			
– The codification of common law			
– The abrogation of common law			

Reasons for law reform			
The ability and means by which individuals can influence law reform including through petitions, demonstrations and the use of the courts			
The role of the media, including social media, in law reform			
The role of the Victorian Law Reform Commission and its ability to influence law reform			
One recent example of the Victorian Law Reform Commission recommending law reform			
The role of one parliamentary committee or one Royal Commission, and its ability to influence law reform			
One recent example of a recommendation for law reform by one parliamentary committee or one Royal Commission			
The ability of parliament and the courts to respond to the need for law reform.			

## Practice Schedule

PRACTICE EXAM	DEADLINE
Practice Exam 1	
Practice Exam 2	
Practice Exam 3	
Practice Exam 4	
Practice Exam 5	
<b>EXAM DATE:</b>	

### › 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)!*



---

[www.connectededucation.education](http://www.connectededucation.education)

[hello@connectededucation.com.au](mailto:hello@connectededucation.com.au)

1300 667 945