

## Legal Studies at a glance:

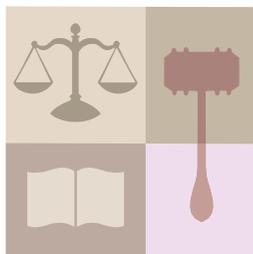
Status:		Board Subject
Field Positions (FP)		Weighting (for Senior 2004: The most recent QSA)
A	Extended written communication	5
B	Short written communication	5
C	Simple basic calculations	2
E	Practical performance	2

**For further information regarding FPs, you might like to visit the following Queensland Studies Authority site:**

**What are Field Positions (FPs)? available at:**

<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/TertiaryEntrance/sep/tes.html>

Assessment tasks are developed in such a way as to help prepare students as much as possible for the **Queensland Core Skills Test**



## The Ferny Grove HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT Vision

*The Humanities Department strives to act consistently with the Ferny Grove State High School Mission Statement and to contribute to the social and academic growth of all students by delivering relevant education experiences.*

*Staff in the Humanities Department actively seek to deliver a high quality education in their teaching subjects for all students through approaches that are:*

*Student centred*

- **Supportive and caring**
- **Informed by current best educational practices**
- **Unlock student potential**

**For further information regarding Legal Studies you might like to visit the following Queensland Studies Authority site:**

**The Legal Studies Subject Guide available at:**

[www.qsa.qld.edu.au/yrs11\\_12/syllabuses/legal/guide.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/yrs11_12/syllabuses/legal/guide.html)

**Head of Department, Mr D McCauley**  
Phone: 3550 5777



**So you're interested in studying LEGAL STUDIES in Years 11 and 12 .....**



**Information for YEAR 10 students and their families courtesy of the HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT**

## Why study Legal Studies?

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, significant challenges face the youth of Australian society. It is through studying Legal Studies that the students will expand and develop their "life skills".

As members of society, young people should be encouraged to take an active role in embracing the destination of their own lives. It is through Legal Studies that they will be better informed of their legal positions, rights and responsibilities.

Students of Legal Studies will investigate and understand the reasons for, and be able to contribute to constructive criticism and reform of, a legal system that regulates their daily lives. Citizens who are informed of their basic rights, obligations and duties will be more likely to question constructively and help improve those laws, institutions and legal processes, than those who remain unconcerned or ill-informed. Legal Studies aims to assist students to develop knowledge, the thinking and practical skills, and the attitudes and values which will enhance their awareness and ability to participate actively as more informed, proactive and critical members of our democratic society.

## The Course

The course is conducted over four semester units:

<b>Semester 1</b> (Year 11)	<b>The Legal System</b> – How does the organisation of the legal system meet society's requirements? (Including: what is law, sources of law, Parliament, how disputes are resolved) <b>Civil Obligations</b> – How does civil law impact on citizens in a society? (Including: Agreements and Civil wrongs – Torts)
<b>Semester 2</b> (Year 11)	<b>Crime and Society</b> – What is crime? How should society and the criminal justice system respond to it? (Including: criminal conduct, nature of criminal law, proceedings, offences against property and persons, defences, conviction)
<b>Semester 3</b> (Year 12)	<b>Family Law</b> – How is the family unit changing in Australia and how is the law attempting to regulate this? <b>Technology and the Law</b> – How does the legal system respond to changing technology in society?
<b>Semester 4</b> (Year 12)	<b>Independent Study and Human Rights</b> – How does the law protect human rights in Australia?

## Skill Development in Legal Studies

Legal Studies is studied in a variety of innovative and challenging learning experiences. The course is active and practical in nature, incorporating legal case studies, mock trials, visits to court, role play, specialist speakers and more. Through student investigation of the law, problem-solving strategies, constructing informed explanations and evaluation skills are developed. Studying Legal Studies promotes:

**A knowledge of the legal system**

**Advanced research skills**

**Critical inquiry, investigation and evaluation skills**

**Confidence in academic writing**

**Understanding of complex social issues**



## Tertiary Pathways

Tertiary studies for which Legal Studies is a valuable preparation include studies in arts, law, commerce, economics, education, social sciences, Asian studies, languages/cultural studies, communications, journalism, government and politics, and even divinity! The skills in research, interpretation/analysis/evaluation, and communication developed during the course will be very useful in many tertiary studies.

## Career Pathways from Legal Studies

Legal Studies is of benefit in **many areas of employment**. The skills and perspectives developed in Legal Studies are valued in many fields and careers including:

- **Legal professions** (*ranging from law enforcement as police through to solicitors and barristers, law clerk or legal secretary*)
- **Psychology or counselling**
- **Environmental Studies**
- **Town Planning**
- **Teaching**
- **Public Administration/Government** (*especially in fields such as Foreign Affairs and Trade*)
- **Advertising and Public Relations**
- **Publishing or Journalism**

In an age of increased specialisation or many people changing careers 2-3 times in their lifetime, those with **generalist people and problem solving skills** developed in a course such as Legal Studies are becoming highly valued by many employers.



**Legal Studies is a subject that allows students to keep their career options and tertiary education pathway options open!**