



Aspley State High School

Business & Information Technology Department

Year 12 Legal Studies

Topic E: Independent Study

Instrument Number 8

Student's Name: _____

Form Class: 12____

Teacher: Mr Thistlethwaite

Assessment Type: Summative

Semester 3, 2009

Time: 8 weeks

Length: 1500-1800 words

Draft Due: Week 6

Due Date: Week 8

Task:

You are required to present an analytical extended response on a research topic of your choice. You are to select an area of the legal system, which interests you and is topical in today's society.

In accordance to the Student Work Ethic Policy, students will be required to submit their rough draft on or before Wednesday in Week 6; and their final assignment on or before Wednesday in Week 8. This final response must include this completed assignment sheet, your rough draft, your final draft and any other supporting documentation. Failure to do so will result in action under this policy.

Criteria	A	B	C	D	E
Knowledge & Understanding					
Investigation					
Evaluation					
Communication & Research					

see Criteria sheet for detail

Comment: _____

Teacher's Signature: _____

/ /2009

Guidelines for the task – All four criteria will be assessed

Knowledge and Understanding

Define the problem or issue, which you are investigating. State the relevant laws, which currently apply to this issue. Identify, summarise and explain existing state of law (if relevant, in comparison to previous laws or the laws of other jurisdictions), including its sources, function and purpose.

Investigation

Identify the main legal principles that relate to the topic and analyse whether the current applications of the legal principles to the matters in dispute provide legally justifiable responses and solutions. Analyse the results of your research and comment on the views reflected in your findings.

Evaluation

Comment on how effectively the current law deals with competing social interests in our community. Make and justify recommendations for improvements in the law that will serve the competing social interests in the fairest way in the future. What (if any) reforms do you envisage as essential? What are the legal and social consequences of these reforms? Are these reforms acceptable to our present society and our current legal system? ie. Justify these reforms (Consider justice, fairness, ethics, and limitations of our legal system).

Communication and Research Skills

Communication should be sequential and fluent. Ensure language conventions are correctly used and legal terms are stated clearly, concisely and accurately. Plan and implement an effective research process and use a variety of relevant sources from a range of different media (eg. Internet, journals, newspapers, books, television shows, documentaries, organisations etc).

Possible Topics:

The following topics and areas of study may be helpful for initial selection of your topic. Highlight the issues below that are of interest to you. Finally, choose one topic only – you may negotiate another area of study with your teacher.

- Gun laws
- Euthanasia
- Cloning/Genetic Imprinting
- Surrogacy
- Technology and the Law
- The Jury System
- Punishment/Sentencing
- Re-offenders and punishment
- Police Powers
- Bill of Rights
- Civil Liberties
- Consumer Law
- Capital Punishment
- Victims of Crimes
- *Trade Practices Act*
- Mabo and land rights
- A move to a Republic
- Constitutional Reform
- *Anti-Discrimination Act*
- Media and the Law
- Environmental Law
- Terrorism laws

Research Timeline

Here is an approximate timeline of when you should be doing what. It is not definitive, but it should be used to keep you on track.

Week One:

Student explores current knowledge to determine areas of interest and the nature of controversial issues. Student completes PMI task.

Week Two:

Teacher and student negotiate a topic. Student presents a statement in the form of a hypothesis. Student develops at least six working questions associated with the hypothesis to meet all criteria.

Weeks Three to Four:

Student investigates resources. If resources are inadequate, the topic, hypothesis or questions may have to be changed. Student gathers resources, analyses and synthesises information so that evaluative statements and recommendations may be included in the report. *Evaluation may occur throughout the essay and should not be limited to a concluding statement.*

Weeks Five to Six:

Student composes assignment, following essay conventions, using in-text referencing and a bibliography (or reference list) following proper layout according to school policy (see intranet and internet). Student presents draft in Week 6.

Weeks Seven to Eight:

Student reflects on teacher's comments and written material and makes relevant changes. Final response submitted to teacher with research notes and drafts etc in Week 8.

Assignment Pre-Planning

PMI Activity:

You are to choose three topics to research. After spending about 30 minutes researching each topic, you are to complete a Plus, Minus and Interesting table.

Topic	Plus	Minus	Interesting
One:			
Two:			
Three:			

My Topic is: _____

Assignment Planning

Identify in the space below your statement and have your teacher approve it. This statement will probably be subject to change as your research on the topic progresses. Therefore you may need to re-assess your statement and re-write it.

Topic: _____

Hypothesis: _____

Working Questions: Please outline below the working questions that you will research. The list is not limited to 6 questions.

(K&U) _____

(K&U) _____

(Inv) _____

(Inv) _____

(Ev) _____

(Ev) _____

Research Log

more pages available on Curriculum\Year 12\Business\Legal Studies

Topic	Source	Information
Example: Common Law	Gray, A. & Herlihy, G. 1998, Legal Studies in Action 1, Jacaranda, Milton.	Law made by judges (page 57).

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Legal Studies: Research Progress

Name: _____

Date	Task	Comments	Teacher's Signature
Week 1	Distribution of Task		
Week 3	PMI completed, topic chosen, hypothesis developed and working questions written	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
Week 5	Research Log completed	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
Week 6	Acceptable draft submitted	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
Week 8	Submission of Final	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

CRITERIA SHEET:

Criteria	Standard A	Standard B	Standard C	Standard D	Standard E	Overall Result
<i>Knowledge & Understanding</i>	Accurate and comprehensive information about chosen topic, identifying links to significant aspects of law Thorough explanation and recognition of chosen topic with links between knowledge and highly relevant examples.	Substantial information about chosen topic, identifying significant aspects of the law Significant explanation and recognition of chosen topic illustrated with relevant examples.	General information about chosen topic, identifying relevant aspects of the law Explanation of chosen topic with use of appropriate examples.	Information about chosen topic with tenuous links to aspects of the law Inclusion of some examples related to chosen topic	Information about chosen topic Inclusion of some examples.	
<i>Investigation</i>	Analysis of legal issues and problems in significant detail. Consistent selection and application of relevant legal principles and procedures. Identification of a wide range of relevant legal responses to problems and issues.	Analysis of legal issues and problems in considerable detail. In the main, selection and application of relevant legal principles and procedures. Identification of a range of relevant legal responses to problems and issues.	Some analysis of legal issues and problems. Selection and application of some relevant legal principles and procedures. Identification of some relevant legal responses to problems and issues.	Identification of some legal issues and problems. Selection of some legal procedures. Identification of some legal responses to problems and issues.	Occasional identification of some legal issues, problems, procedures or responses.	
<i>Evaluation</i>	Comprehensive, well-informed critique of current effectiveness of chosen topic. Detailed and convincing justification for or against proposed reforms/improvements to the chosen topic.	Informed critique of current effectiveness of chosen topic. Detailed justification for or against proposed reforms/improvements to the chosen topic.	Critique of current effectiveness of chosen topic. Some justification for or against proposed reforms/improvements to the chosen topic.	Describes some aspects of the effectiveness of chosen topic. Some stance on reforms/improvements to the chosen topic.	Occasional description of the issues.	
<i>Communication & Research</i>	Effective research and referencing, with a wide variety of sources. Clear, concise and fluent organisation of information in an essay format. Proficient use of legal terminology and definitions.	Effective research and referencing, from a range of mostly relevant sources. Clear and concise organisation of information in an essay format. Correct use of legal terminology and definitions.	Adequate research and referencing with some useful sources. Organisation of information in an essay format. Use of legal terminology and definitions with some consistencies.	Some use of research process and referencing Presentation of some information. Some use of legal terminology and definitions.	Location of some information. Presentation of some information.	