


LEGAL STUDIES

Frequently Asked Questions

Unit #	Title	L	Cr
27835*	Demonstrate understanding of concepts of democracy and government	1	4
27838*	Demonstrate understanding of foundational concepts of justice	1	4
27841*	Demonstrate understanding of concepts of law	1	4
27844*	Demonstrate understanding of litigation and dispute resolution processes in New Zealand	1	4
27847*	Demonstrate understanding of law making processes	1	4
27850*	Demonstrate understanding of New Zealand's system of government and its formation and operation	1	4
10337	Describe the legal rights and personal responsibilities of secondary school students	2	3
27836*	Explain concepts of democracy and government in a New Zealand context	2	4
27839*	Explain concepts of justice	2	4
27842*	Explain concepts of law	2	4
27845*	Explain litigation and dispute resolution processes	2	4
27848*	Explain a law making process	2	4
27851*	Explain systems of government and their formation and operation in a New Zealand context	2	4
8545	Describe factors contributing to, and consequences of, crime	2	3
8551	Describe the application of New Zealand law to marriage, civil union, and de-facto relationships	2	3
8552	Describe legal consequences and protections relating to domestic violence and child abuse	2	2
8555	Describe the objectives and application of consumer law	2	3
10347	Demonstrate knowledge of the development of the New Zealand legal system	3	5
27837*	Evaluate a concept of democracy and government in relation to restraint on state power	3	4
27840*	Evaluate a concept of justice in relation to a specific situation	3	4
27843*	Evaluate a concept of law in relation to a specific situation	3	4
27846*	Evaluate litigation and dispute resolution processes in relation to challenging state power	3	4
27849*	Evaluate a law making process in relation to a significant legal issue	3	4
27852*	Evaluate systems of government and their formation	3	4

*  Units added to Legal Studies range, allow for A/M/E grading, and qualify for NCEA Endorsement.

1. Why should my learners study Legal Studies?

Legal Studies is a great subject for all high school students. The Legal Studies units cover a range of different topics such as crime, government and democracy, the MMP voting system, and concepts of justice. These topics are not only interesting for learners, they also provide a good foundation for learner's other academic studies.

2. The Legal Studies units seem more difficult than they did in the past. Why?

Legal Studies units now have an Achieved, Merit and Excellence criteria for assessments. This means that assessments and learning material needs to be written in a way that enables learners to be awarded Excellence.

3. Is Legal Studies suitable for gateway students?

Although the assessments may seem more 'daunting' than in the past, gateway students should still be able to complete these, provided that they are given appropriate direction. The Learner's Guide will need to be worked through at a slower pace and with more direction than for students who are more academically inclined.

4. I have a student who wants to study law at university. Should they complete Legal Studies?

Legal Studies will give learners who intend to study law at university a head start in their university studies. Most of the topics covered in the Legal Studies unit standards will be covered at law school in greater detail. Completing Legal Studies unit standards may also help learners in their application to study law at university.

5. Is there any certificate in Legal Studies?

Unfortunately, NZQA has not created a Legal Studies certificate. However, the credits achieved in Legal Studies may still count towards the learner's overall credit count.

6. Do my learners have to study level 1 Legal Studies standards before they complete level 2 standards?

Although it is useful for learners to complete level 1 standards first, it is not required. Learners who have not completed level 1 Legal Studies standards, may need additional assistance with key terms and concepts covered in level 1.

7. My learners are starting level 1 Legal Studies. Which unit should they start with?

Learners are able to start with any standard. However, it is recommended that learners start with a topic that is of high interest and builds a strong basis for the rest of the course.

Good units to start with include:

- 27835: Demonstrate understanding of concepts of democracy and government
- 27844: Demonstrate understanding of litigation and dispute resolution processes in New Zealand

If starting in Level 2, recommended units include:

- 27842: Explain concepts of law
- 27845: Explain litigation and dispute resolution processes

8. Why do all the legal studies units require learners to complete essays?

Learners are able to complete the assessments in a number of different ways, including presentation, report, discussion, and so on. Teachers may stipulate how they want learners to complete the assessment, making sure that all relevant parts of the assessment are covered.

The default layout for the assessments is essay format. Essay format is the easiest way for learners to include all the required information to successfully complete the assessment.

9. Why has my Legal Studies assessment failed moderation?

In rare circumstances, the assessment materials produced by Instant do not pass NZQA moderation, especially when a new unit standard is created. Instant takes all moderation reports from NZQA very seriously. In situations where we disagree with the moderation feedback, we will explain clearly why we have come to that conclusion. In situations where we do agree with the moderation feedback, we will alter our assessments and learning material. We will provide free upgrades for schools according to our moderation guarantee policy.

10. The learner's guide contains a lot of detailed information. It is too much for my learners.

Do we need to cover it all?

NZQA has decided the topics that should be covered in one assessment in the unit standard they created. Instant follows this unit standard in the material that we create. Our aim is to give learners the best chance at completing the assessment. To do this, we sometimes need to cover a large range of topics in one learner's guide.

Also, the learner's guides have been developed so learners can get Excellence in the assessment. In order to do this, all necessary information has been included. If a learner is struggling with the depth of the topic, areas that relate to Achieved or Merit can be focussed on and the Excellence areas can be left out.

For more information...

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