

Subject: VCE Legal Studies**Unit 3**

Week	Area of Study	Learning Focus
1	AOS 1: The Victorian Criminal Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the distinction between summary offences and indictable offences• key principles of the criminal justice system, including the burden of proof, the standard of proof, and the presumption of innocence
2	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the rights of an accused, including the right to be tried without unreasonable delay, the right to silence, and the right to trial by jury• the rights of victims, including the right to give evidence using alternative arrangements, the right to be informed about the proceedings, and the right to be informed of the likely release date of the offender
3	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the principles of justice: fairness, equality and access• the role of Victoria Legal Aid and Victorian community legal centres in assisting an accused and victims of crime
4	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the purposes and appropriateness of plea negotiations• the reasons for the Victorian court hierarchy in determining criminal cases, including specialisation and appeals
5	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the roles of key personnel in a criminal case, including the judge or magistrate, the jury, and the parties• the need for legal practitioners in a criminal case
6	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the impact of costs, time and cultural differences on the achievement of the principles of justice• the purposes of sanctions: rehabilitation, punishment, deterrence (general and specific), denunciation and protection
7	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fines, community correction orders and imprisonment, and their specific purposes• factors considered in sentencing, including aggravating factors, mitigating factors, guilty pleas and victim impact statements.
8	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision and assessment
9	AOS 2: The Civil Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• key principles in the Victorian civil justice system, including the burden of proof and the standard of proof

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors to consider before initiating a civil claim, including costs, limitation of actions and enforcement issues
10	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the principles of justice: fairness, equality and access • the purposes and appropriateness of methods used to resolve civil disputes, including mediation, conciliation and arbitration
11	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reasons for the Victorian court hierarchy in determining civil disputes, including administrative convenience and appeals • the roles of key personnel in a civil dispute, including the judge or magistrate (including the role of case management), the jury, and the parties
12	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for legal practitioners in a civil dispute • the use of class actions to resolve civil disputes
13	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purposes and appropriateness of institutions used to resolve disputes, including Consumer Affairs Victoria, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the courts • the impact of costs and time on the ability of the civil justice system to achieve the principles of justice during a civil dispute
14	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damages and injunctions, and their specific purposes.
15	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision and Assessment
Subject: VCE Legal Studies Unit 4		
Week	Area of Study	Learning Focus
16	AOS 1: The People and the Law-makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the roles of the Crown and the Houses of Parliament (Victorian and Commonwealth) in law-making • the law-making powers of the state and Commonwealth parliaments, including exclusive, concurrent and residual powers
17	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the significance of section 109 of the Australian Constitution • one High Court case which has had an impact on state and Commonwealth law-making powers

18	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that affect the ability of parliament to make law, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the bicameral structure of parliament – international pressures – the representative nature of parliament • the means by which the Australian Constitution acts as a check on parliament in law-making, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the role of the High Court in protecting the principle of representative government – the separation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers – the express protection of rights
19	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reasons for, and effects of, statutory interpretation • features of the doctrine of precedent including binding precedent, persuasive precedent, and the reversing, overruling, distinguishing, and disapproving of precedent
20	AOS 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors that affect the ability of courts to make law, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the doctrine of precedent – judicial conservatism and judicial activism – costs and time in bringing a case to court – the requirement for standing.
21		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • features of the relationship between courts and parliament in law-making, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the supremacy of parliament – the ability of courts to influence parliament – the codification of common law – the abrogation of common law. • Assessment
21	AOS 2: The People and Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasons for law reform • the means by which individuals or groups 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
23	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of the Victorian Law Reform Commission and its ability to influence law reform

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one recent Victorian Law Reform Commission inquiry relating to law reform in the civil or criminal justice system • the role of Royal Commissions or parliamentary committees in law reform and their ability to influence law reform • one recent Royal Commission inquiry or one recent parliamentary committee inquiry
24	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasons for constitutional reform • the requirement for the approval of the Commonwealth Houses of Parliament and a double majority in a referendum
25	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factors affecting the success of a referendum • the significance of the 1967 referendum about First Nations people and the 2023 referendum about an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. •
26	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch Up Week
27	AOS 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision and Assessment.
28	Exam Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam prep and practise exams.
29	Exam Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam prep and practise exams.
30	Exam Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam prep and practise exams.
31	Exam Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam prep and practise exams.
32	Final Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam prep and practise exams.