

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

LEGAL STUDIES (LST315117)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The external assessment consists of a 3 hour written examination.

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

- Criterion 1: describe and analyse structures and processes of Australia's Westminster parliamentary system of government
- Criterion 2: describe and analyse aspects of Australian and International law
- Criterion 3: describe and analyse Australian dispute resolution systems and processes
- Criterion 4: describe and analyse Australia's criminal justice system
- Criterion 5: describe and analyse a topical legal issue
- Criterion 7: communicate legal and political information

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Section	A – Principles and Practices of Australia's Federal Westminster Parliamentary System of Government	B – Australian and International Law and Work Requirement (Topical Legal Issue)	C – Dispute Resolution: Civil and Criminal
Criteria	1 and 7	2, 5 and 7	3 and 4

Section	A – Principles and Practices of Australia’s Federal Westminster Parliamentary System of Government	B – Australian and International Law and Work Requirement (Topical Legal Issue)	C – Dispute Resolution: Civil and Criminal
Elements that MAY be assessed (refer to Course Document)	Criterion 1 Elements, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Criterion 7 Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4	Criterion 2 Elements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Criterion 5 Elements 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Criterion 7 Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4	Criterion 3 Elements 1, 2 and 3 Criterion 4 Elements 2, 3 and 4
Course coverage	Parts 1 and 2	Part 3 and Work Requirement	Part 4
Number and nature of items	<p>FOUR, of which candidates will answer ONE question</p> <p>There will be FOUR questions. Two questions will be derived from Part One of the course and two questions will be derived from Part Two of the course.</p> <p>Note: There will not be a specific question on the Principles of Liberal Democracy.</p>	<p>ONE question to be answered in analytical essay format</p> <p>The essay will address relevant elements of Australian and International law through the lens of a topical legal issue.</p> <p>Topical legal issues will be selected from a set of topics published by TASC each year.</p> <p>Elements of Australian and International law may derive from any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customary law • Statute law • Common Law • Law Reform • International Law <p>In addition to responding to a Topical Legal Issue, candidates essay response must address relevant aspects of Part 3 topics: customary, statute, common,</p>	<p>FOUR, of which candidates will answer ONE question from either part 4.1 or 4.2 of the course and ONE question from either parts 4.4 or 4.5 of the course.</p>

Section	A – Principles and Practices of Australia’s Federal Westminster Parliamentary System of Government	B – Australian and International Law and Work Requirement (Topical Legal Issue)	C – Dispute Resolution: Civil and Criminal
		international law and/or law reform, so as to meet the requirements of Criterion 2.	
Compulsory or optional	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Item type(s) / format	Analytical essay response format	Analytical essay response format	Short answer response format
Response time	Essay – 60 minutes	Essay - 60 minutes	Short answers – 60 minutes (2 X 30 minutes)
Mark / rating allocation (weighting must be specified)	<p>All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.</p>	<p>All Criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.</p>	<p>All Criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z.</p> <p>Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t)</p> <p>Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.</p>

ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above Criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1 and 7
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
 - for both Criteria 1 and 7 provides a list of all elements from C to A that have been included
- includes a representative sample of course content from Part 1 and Part 2
- requires an analytical essay answer response
- in total, Section A comprises four questions. Each question will be derived from either Part One or Part Two of the course.

SECTION B:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 2, 5 and 7
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
 - for Criteria 2, 5 and 7 provides a list of all elements from C to A that have been included
- includes a representative sample of course content from Part 3 and the Work Requirements
- an analytical essay response assessing Criteria 2, 5 and 7
- in total, Section B comprises **one** question:
The essay will address relevant elements of Australian and International law through the lens of a topical legal issue.

Topical legal issues will be selected from a set of topics published by TASC each year.

Elements of Australian and International law may derive from any of the below:

- Customary law
 - Statute law
 - Common Law
 - Law Reform
 - International Law
- Candidates essay response must, in addition to responding to a Topical Legal Issue, address **relevant** aspects of Part 3 topics: customary, statute, common, international law and/or law reform.

SECTION C:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 3 and 4
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A
 - for Criteria 3 and 4 provides a list of all elements from C to A that have been included
- includes a representative sample of course content from Part 4
- requires TWO short answer responses. One from either of part 4.1 or 4.2 of the course, **and** ONE from either parts 4.4 or 4.5 of the course
- In total Section C comprises four questions. (One for each of part 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5 of the course.)