



**GLADSTONE PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE**

**LEGAL STUDIES COURSE OUTLINE**

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# **UNIT 1: CRIMINAL LAW IN ACTION**



**UNIT 1: Criminal law in action**

Students examine the need for laws in society. They will investigate the key features of criminal law, how it is enforced and adjudicated and possible outcomes and impacts of crime. Through a consideration of contemporary cases and issues, students will learn about different types of crimes and explore rights and responsibilities under criminal law. Students also consider the role of parliament and subordinate authorities in law making, as well as the impact of the Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities on law enforcement and adjudication in Victoria.

**Outcomes**

For a pass in this unit, students must complete satisfactorily the Outcomes listed below. The unsatisfactory completion of one or more of the Outcomes will result in an N grade being awarded. There will be four SACs to complete for this Unit. **\*SAC4 will have marks allocated evenly to the three different Outcomes**

For each Outcome, a SAC will determine whether or not the student has met the requirements of the Outcome. A grade below 30% for an Outcome will result in an N grade; a UG will also be awarded as assessment for that Outcome. Students who are awarded an N grade will have the opportunity to convert that grade to an S by satisfactorily completing the exam.

**OUTCOME 1:** On completion of this unit students should be able to explain the need for effective laws and describe the main sources and types of laws in society.

Outcome 1 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>SAC</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
<b>SAC1</b>	<b>TEST</b>	<b>WEEK 4-5</b>
<b>SAC4</b> 1/3 grade allocation	<b>CASE STUDY</b> (folio of cases collected from newspapers and a written report )	<b>WEEK 10-11</b>

**OUTCOME 2:** On completion of this unit students should be able to explain the principles of criminal law and apply them relevant cases, and discuss the impact of criminal activity on the individual and society.

Outcome 2 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>TASK NUMBER</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
<b>SAC2</b>	<b>TEST</b>	<b>WEEK 9-10</b>
<b>SAC4</b> 1/3 grade allocation	<b>CASE STUDY</b> (folio of cases collected from newspapers and a written report )	<b>WEEK 10-11</b>

**OUTCOME 3:** On completion of this unit students should be able to describe the processes for the resolution of criminal disputes and discuss the capacity of these processes to achieve justice.

Outcome 3 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>TASK NUMBER</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
<b>SAC3</b>	<b>TEST</b>	<b>WEEK 14-15</b>
<b>SAC4</b> 1/3 grade allocation	<b>CASE STUDY</b> (folio of cases collected from newspapers and a written report )	<b>WEEK 10-11</b>

**EXAM**

All students will be completing an end of Unit exam. The exam does not count for the Outcomes unless you have failed them. The exam will be an independent assessment which will appear on your report as a separate grade.



AREAS OF STUDY	WEEKS	ASSESSMENT TASKS
<p><b>1. LAW IN SOCIETY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for law</li> <li>• The differences between legal and non legal rules</li> <li>• Characteristics of effective law</li> <li>• Distinction between criminal and civil law</li> <li>• OVERVIEW Law making through parliament</li> <li>• Law making by delegated bodies</li> </ul>	<p>Weeks 1- 3</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 1: SAC 1: TEST</b></p>
<p><b>2. CRIMINAL LAW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of crime &amp; principles of criminal liability</li> <li>• Types of crime (person, property) and related defences</li> <li>• Criminal investigation, police powers, individual rights and responsibilities dealing with police</li> <li>• Criminal sanctions</li> <li>• Trends in crimes, sentencing and recidivism</li> <li>• Comparison of one aspect of sentencing in Victoria with that of an international jurisdiction</li> <li>• Impact of crime on individuals and society</li> <li>• Alternative avenues for seeking compensation for victims of crime</li> </ul>	<p>Weeks 4-9</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 2: SAC 2: TEST</b></p>
<p><b>3. THE CRIMINAL COURTROOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinction between summary and indictable offences</li> <li>• The court hierarchy and jurisdiction of the courts</li> <li>• Bail, remand, and committal hearings</li> <li>• Procedures for criminal trials</li> <li>• The adversary system</li> <li>• Roles of court personnel</li> <li>• The jury system</li> <li>• Legal aid</li> <li>• Features of a fair trial and rights in criminal proceedings guaranteed by the Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibility</li> </ul>	<p>Weeks 10-14</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 3: SAC 3: TEST</b></p>
<p><b>1. LAW IN SOCIETY</b> <b>2. CRIMINAL LAW</b> <b>3. THE CRIMINAL COURTROOM</b></p>	<p>HANDED OUT WEEK 4</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 1, 2, 3: SAC 4: CASE STUDIES</b></p>



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# **UNIT 2: ISSUES IN CIVIL LAW**



**UNIT 2: Criminal law in action**

The civil law regulates the rights and responsibilities that exist between individuals, groups and organisations. If legal rights have been infringed, the aggrieved party may pursue legal action through the court system, through a tribunal, or by using one of the methods of dispute resolution.

Students examine the rights that are protected by civil law, as well as obligations that laws impose. They investigate types of civil laws and related cases and issues and develop an appreciation of the role of civil law in society and how it affects them as individuals.

The unit also focuses on the resolution of civil disputes through judicial determination and alternative methods in courts, tribunals and independent bodies. Students examine these methods of dispute resolution and evaluate their effectiveness.

Individuals can influence a change in the law by taking a case to court. Students focus on cases that have had a broader impact on the legal system and on the rights of individuals. Students develop an appreciation of the role played by such cases and undertake an analysis of relevant legal issues.

**Outcomes**

For a pass in this unit, students must complete satisfactorily the Outcomes listed below. The unsatisfactory completion of one or more of the Outcomes will result in an N grade being awarded. There will be four SACs to complete for this Unit. For each Outcome, a SAC will determine whether or not the student has met the requirements of the Outcome. A grade below 30% for an Outcome will result in an N grade; a UG will also be awarded as assessment for that Outcome. Students who are awarded an N grade will have the opportunity to convert that grade to an S by satisfactorily completing the exam.

**OUTCOME 1:** On completion of this unit the student should be able to explain the principles of civil law, law-making by courts, and elements of torts, and apply these to relevant cases.

Outcome 1 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>SAC</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
1	TEST	WEEK 3-4

**OUTCOME 2:** On completion of this unit the student should be able to explain and evaluate the processes for the resolution of civil disputes.

Outcome 2 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>SAC</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
2	TEST	WEEK 9-10

**OUTCOME 3:** On completion of this unit the student should be able to explain one or more area/s of civil law, and discuss the legal system's capacity to respond to issues and disputes related to the selected area/s of law.

Outcome 3 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>SAC</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
3	TEST	WEEK 12-13

**OUTCOME 4:** On completion of this unit the student should be able to describe an Australian case illustrating rights issues, and discuss the impact of the case on the legal system and the rights of individuals.

Outcome 3 will be assessed in the following way:

<b>SAC</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT TASK</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
4	TEST	WEEK 14-15

**EXAM**

All students will be completing an end of Unit exam. The exam does not count for the Outcomes unless you have failed them. The exam will be an independent assessment which will appear on your report as a separate grade.



AREAS OF STUDY	WEEKS	ASSESSMENT TASKS
<p><b>1. CIVIL LAW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for civil law</li> <li>• Key principles of civil law</li> <li>• Distinctions between civil &amp; criminal</li> <li>• Overview of law making through courts</li> <li>• Definition of civil law</li> <li>• Tort Law including negligence, defamation and related defences</li> </ul>	<p>Weeks 1 – 4</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 1: TEST</b></p>
<p><b>2. CIVIL LAW IN ACTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the court hierarchy in civil disputes</li> <li>• Civil jurisdiction of courts in Victoria</li> <li>• Pre trial &amp; trial procedures in civil trials</li> <li>• Methods of dispute resolution, including mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial determination</li> <li>• Overview of the adversarial nature of a civil trial</li> <li>• Civil remedies and their purpose</li> <li>• Difficulties faced by parties when attempting to resolve disputes</li> </ul>	<p>Weeks 5 – 9</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 2: TEST</b></p>
<p><b>3. THE CIVIL LAW IN FOCUS</b>  <b>To develop knowledge and understanding about contemporary issues in law and their resolution you will study at LEAST one of the following:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families and the Law</li> <li>• Contract</li> <li>• Wills and Inheritance</li> <li>• Motorist and the Law</li> <li>• Consumer protection laws</li> <li>• Sports and the law</li> </ul>	<p>Weeks 10 - 13</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 3: TEST</b></p>
<p><b>4. A QUESTION OF RIGHTS: MABO CASE</b></p>	<p>Week 14 – 16</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 4: TEST</b></p>