

2026 HSC LEGAL STUDIES

Suggested Assessment Task Schedule



Component	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Weighting
Topic	TV news report and in class stimulus essay Crime	Topic Test Human Rights	Research investigation and in class essay Options	Trial HSC Exam Crime, Human Rights, Options (emailed July 2026)	
Outcomes assessed	H4, H6, H7, H8, H9, H10	H1, H2, H3, H4, H8, H9	H2, H3, H4, H5, H8, H9	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H9, H10	
Knowledge and understanding of course content	5	10	5	20	40
Analysis and evaluation	5	5	5	5	20
Inquiry and research	5		15		20
Communication of legal information, issues and ideas in appropriate forms	5	5	5	5	20
Weighting	20	20	30	30	100

The Year 12 formal school-based assessment program is to reflect the following requirements:

- a maximum of four assessment tasks
- the minimum weighting for an individual task is 10%
- the maximum weighting for an individual task is 40%
- only one task may be a formal written examination with a maximum weighting of 30%

Rationale –

Assessment Task One: TV News report and in-class stimulus based essay – Crime (20%)

- The task will involve students “deep diving” into a criminal law case of their choice and presenting a 10-minute TV news report about the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
- The structure of the task will be designed to help students prepare for the 15-mark extended response question for the HSC exam crime section.
- Students are assessed on the quality of their presentation and written script.
- Students to then complete a supervised in-class component of writing a 15-mark crime essay based on an unseen stimulus, where students can use their script to guide their response.

Assessment Task Two: Topic test – Human Rights (20%)

- Students will complete a topic test of limited scope on syllabus dot points from the Human Rights topic with multiple choice and short answer questions.

Assessment Task Three: In class Research Essay – Options (30%)

- The task will be the production of an extended response about a contemporary issue relevant to that option (from a list specified in the notification). Students must incorporate evidence ascertained through their own research.

Assessment Task Four: Trial HSC Examination - Crime, Human Rights, Options (30%)

- The Trial HSC Examination weighting is set at 30%, which is the maximum permitted for a formal HSC examination assessment task.
- All outcomes are usually assessed in the HSC Trial Examination. All outcomes have been assessed in the previous tasks, so the Trial HSC Examination gives students an opportunity to demonstrate improvement in outcomes.