Name of Subject  Legal Studies

Stage 2

General information: Legal Studies is a 20-credit (full-year) subject. Students undertaking this subject will gain an understanding of the key principles that underpin the legal system and how they apply to everyday life. Students will learn how and why Australia federated, and how the legal system is influenced by global events. Students will examine the impact of Australian laws on aboriginal people and study, in depth, the operation of civil and criminal law in South Australia.

During the course students will gain an understanding of:

- the influences that have shaped the Australian legal system
- the legal principles, processes and structures of the Australian legal system
- how the legal system responds to cultural diversity

Students will also be expected to:

- conduct research (using both primary and secondary sources of information)
- evaluate how global events influence the legal system
- evaluate how legal issues are influenced by people and how legal issues influence people
- communicate findings clearly, concisely and using appropriate legal terminology

Content

Stage 2 Legal Studies consists of 4 topics:

Topic 1: The Australian Legal System
Topic 2: Constitutional Government
Topic 3: Law-making
Topic 4: Justice Systems

Assessments: There are 10 summative assignments and 3 assessment components:

School-based assessment (marked by the teacher)
(1) Folio tasks (8 in total) – 50% of your overall mark. Tasks include:
   - Essays, Short answer questions, Extended response questions and Tests
(2) Inquiry – 20% of your overall mark. Students select a legal issue of their choice to investigate and report on (1500 words or 10 minutes oral).

External assessment (marked by the SACE Board)
(3) 3-hour exam – 30% of your overall mark

Special Information: This is a very demanding subject, and students are advised that they will be required to attend additional lessons outside of school time (eg: during holidays and before and after school). Students will also be required to submit drafts for all school-based assignments (excluding tests).

Prerequisites: Nil

Preferred prerequisites: Stage 1 Legal Studies or at least a C in any other Stage 1 SOSE subject