***Stage 2 Legal Studies***

***Assessment Type 2: Inquiry (30%)***

***Task Description:***

In this assessment you pose and respond to a question. The question arises from your investigation into a legal issue of your choice.

The issue must:

* Be recent. It should have been in the media or in public awareness in the last 12 months
* Linked to the Stage 2 Legal Studies Curriculum (a Focus or Qption Area)
* Reflect at least one set of competing tensions from the SACE subject outline
	+ *NB – your question doesn’t need to include the names of the tensions, but a discussion and analysis of the tensions should be evident throughout your task.*

Your presentation is a critical response to the question that you have posed.

***Presentation:***

Your Inquiry may be presented in one of the following ways:

1. A written report, with a maximum word count of 2,000 words
2. An oral/multimodal presentation. This can be up to a maximum of 12 minutes
3. A combination of each of these elements

**Suggested Structure:**

**Introduction**

Introduce the question that you are addressing

Include a brief overview of your legal issue and its current legal status.

Define all key terms (as appropriate)

**Body**

**Arguments For/Against**

Consider arguments on both sides of your legal issue to ensure depth/perspective taking in your analysis.

This section should include the following (where possible/relevant):

* References to relevant legislation/bills
* Personal interviews
* Academic articles / University studies
* News articles

How is the competing tension evident in the analysis?

**Conclusion/Recommendations**

Summarise your findings and key points and make recommendations based on them.

Have you resolved/addressed the question?

***Assessment***

You are being assessed against each of the performance standards. Please see overleaf.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| U | Understandingand Application | Analysis and Evaluation | Communication |
| A | Perceptive understanding of the ways that the legal system balances competing tensions Astute application of legal principles and processes to specific contextsThorough and focused research to select and appropriately acknowledge a range of relevant sources | Thorough and astute analysis and evaluation of legal concepts, principles, processes or problemsInsightful development of arguments or issues to reach a convincing conclusion and/or make informed recommendations | Very clear and effective communication of legal concepts, opinions and arguments |
| B | Substantial understanding of the ways that the legal system balances competing tensions Proficient application of legal principles and processes to specific contextsWell-informed research to select and appropriately acknowledge a range of relevant sources | Well-considered analysis and application of legal principles, processes or problemsWell-considered evaluation of legal arguments or issues to reach a mostly convincing conclusion and/or make mostly informed recommendations | Clear and effective communication of legal concepts, opinions and arguments |
| C | Sound understanding of the ways that the legal system balances competing tensions Generally informed application of legal principles and processes to specific contextsAdequate research to select and appropriately acknowledge a range of relevant sources | Adequate analysis and application of legal principles, processes or problemsSound evaluation of legal arguments or issues to reach a conclusion and/or make recommendations | Generally effective communication of legal concepts, opinions and arguments |
| D | Some understanding of the ways that the legal system balances competing tensions Partial application of legal principles and processes to specific contextsSome research to select and appropriately acknowledge a range of relevant sources | Some analysis and application of legal principles, processes or problemsPartial evaluation of legal arguments or issues to reach a conclusion and/or make recommendations  | Some effective communication of legal concepts, opinions and arguments |
| E | Limited understanding of the ways that the legal system balances competing tensions Limited application of legal principles and processes to specific contextsRudimentary research, selection and acknowledgement of a range of sources | Limited analysis of legal principles, processes or problemsLimited consideration of legal arguments or issues to reach a vague or unsubstantiated conclusion and/or recommendation. | Limited communication of legal concepts, opinions and arguments |