

LEGAL THINKING

UNIFY Series: Years 7-10 Project



BIG IDEA:

At the heart of the common law system of Australia rests the concept of precedent. *Legal Thinking* students build on the analytical and evaluative skills introduced in *Critical Thinking* to examine precedent as a form of inductive reasoning. This challenges students to not only judge the applicability of precedent in particular scenarios, but also to create and connect complex ideas themselves using analogy.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- ✓ Selection criteria for the UNIFY Series is largely subjective.
- ✓ Many schools use *Legal Thinking* as an extension/enrichment opportunity for mid-to-high achieving students.
- ✓ Teacher judgement and student interest in thinking about laws and citizenship should assist selection.

CRITICAL THINKING GATEWAY:

Students may progress to *Legal Thinking* after completing [Critical Thinking](#). They can then advance to [Debating](#) in subsequent rounds. This is an outstanding opportunity for students to apply the skills they have learned in real-world scenarios.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM:

See page 2 for Australian Curriculum links and other important details.

THE COURSE:

LESSON OVERVIEW		
NO.	TITLE	CONTENT
1	Welcome to <i>Legal Thinking</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to <i>Legal Thinking</i>
2	Key Thinking Concepts Pre-Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to eLearnRules v Laws
3	What are laws? Why do we have laws? Who makes laws?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The rule of lawSources of law (common and statutory)
4	Public law v Private law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Laws and levels of governmentCitation of cases
5	Precedent and Analogy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inductive reasoningDoctrine of precedent
6	Criminal Law and Sentencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to criminal lawTheories of punishment
7	Civil Law, Torts and Precedent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Damages and negligenceCase study
8	Legal Submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Models of submissionsSubmission formatting
9	Appeals and Analogous Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How to challenge a decisionCourt hierarchy
10	Defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overview of defencesDecision making
11	Mooting a submission Post-Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting documentationSurvey
12	Thinking & Reflecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review, consolidate and extendCollaborative activities

Years 7-10
Rounds 2-3
Level 2 in the
Critical Thinking Gateway

'Our students have benefited from developing knowledge of a new form of reasoning - precedent - and from practising their skills in the application of that knowledge. This has allowed our students to not only test and improve their analysing skills by examining the applicability of precedent in a range of scenarios, but to also improve their reasoning skills when they worked to justify their own arguments.'

Supervisor 2016

'Legal Thinking has been an absolutely amazing and informative course to get involved in. It has assisted me in applying my Critical Thinking skills to everyday life and it has improved my knowledge in legal studies.'

Student 2016

[How it Works](#)

[Participation Costs](#)

[Secondary Main Page](#)

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impact.edu.au/register

Australian Curriculum

Civics and Citizenship Learning Area

Civics and Citizenship Knowledge

Laws and Citizens

The key features of Australia's court system and how courts apply and interpret the law, resolve disputes and make law through judgements (ACHCK077)

Civics and Citizenship Skills

Analysis, synthesis and interpretation

Account for different interpretations and points of view (ACHCS085)

General Capabilities

Literacy

Use language to interact with others

Use pair, group and class discussions and formal and informal debates as learning tools to explore ideas, compare solutions, evaluate information and ideas, refine opinions and arguments in preparation for creating texts

Critical and Creative Thinking

Inquiring – identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas

- Pose questions
- Identify and clarify information and ideas
- Organise and process information

Generating ideas, possibilities and actions

- Imagine possibilities and connect ideas
- Consider alternatives
- Seek solutions and put ideas into action

Reflecting on thinking and processes

- Think about thinking (metacognition)
- Reflect on processes
- Transfer knowledge into new contexts

Analysing, synthesising and evaluating reasoning and procedures

- Apply logic and reasoning

ICT Capability

Communicating with ICT

- Collaborate, share and exchange
- Understand computer mediated communications

Creating with ICT

- Generate ideas, plans and processes

Personal and Social Capability

Self-awareness

- Understand themselves as learners
- Develop reflective practice

Social Awareness

- Appreciate diverse perspectives

Social Management

- Communicate effectively
- Work collaboratively
- Make decisions

NAPLAN Online – ICT Skills Guide

NAPLAN Online requires students to confidently use a computer or device in at least seven ways. As shown below, IMPACT Centre projects develop all seven of these skills and are an excellent way to prepare your students for online testing.

1. Locate and select an answer from a list – YES
2. Type an answer – YES
3. Read the screen and navigate web pages – YES
4. Manipulate objects on screen – YES

5. Read and comprehend digital texts – YES
6. Plan and compose text using word processing – YES
7. Listen using a headset – YES

NB: See [DET's NAPLAN Online ICT Skills Guide](#) for details.

Assessment

Pre and Post Assessment:

1. Students complete a knowledge test.
2. Students plan and write a legal written submission.

Three criteria are used for assessing students' writing – Legal Knowledge, Strength of Argument, Structure and Communication.

Reporting

- Pre and post assessment data are provided to schools, along with student attendance data.
- Qualitative report card comments are provided to schools. We recommend their inclusion as an OLA on semester report cards.

[How it Works](#)

[Participation Costs](#)

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Contact Details: Phone (07) 3727 2888 or email admin@impact.eg.edu.au