

INTUITION EDUCATION

HSC 2026 · PREDICTED PRACTICE PAPER

2026 HSC Legal Studies

*Original practice material — not a NESA paper***Total marks: 100**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Reading time — 5 minutes
- Working time — 3 hours
- Write using black pen
- Section I — 20 marks. Attempt Questions 1–20. Allow about 30 minutes for this section
- Section II — 30 marks. Attempt Questions 21–24. Allow about 1 hour for this section
- Section III — 50 marks. Attempt TWO questions from Questions 25–31, each from a different Option. Allow about 1 hour and 30 minutes for this section

HOW THIS PAPER WAS BUILT

This full-length practice paper was built from the consensus of a six-model AI panel (fable, opus, gpt-5.6-sol, gemini-3.1-pro, grok, deepseek), each of which independently predicted the 2026 examination from the 2019–2025 papers, marking guidelines and NESA marking-centre feedback. The panel's question-level predictions were clustered; every cluster with consensus probability ≥ 0.55 is realised here, the compulsory structure realises the leading cluster in each remaining slot, and the panel's watch list is drawn on for the option-specific alternatives. The paper matches the verified 2025 structure: Section I (20 marks, multiple choice), Section II Part A (Human Rights, 15 marks) and Part B (Crime, 15 marks), Section III (Options, 2×25 marks) — 100 marks total. Every question is original — none is copied from a past paper. Questions are tagged with the consensus cluster they realise (see `synthesis/legal-consensus-questions.yaml`).

Answers and marking notes are published as a separate PDF — sit the paper first, then download the solutions from intuitioneducation.com.au/hsc-2026/legal-studies.

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Section I

20 marks — Attempt Questions 1–20 — Allow about 30 minutes for this section

Use the multiple-choice answer sheet for Questions 1–20.

Question 1

A man standing on a railway overpass drops a shopping trolley onto the tracks as a train approaches, later telling police he "knew it might derail the train but didn't care either way".

Which element of a crime does this statement most directly establish?

- A. Causation
- B. Actus reus
- C. Mens rea in the form of recklessness
- D. Mens rea in the form of criminal negligence

Question 2

Kim plans a warehouse robbery and supplies the getaway car, but stays home on the night. Lee waits outside the warehouse as a lookout while Morgan carries out the robbery.

Which row of the table correctly classifies Kim and Lee?

	Kim	Lee
A.	Accessory before the fact	Principal in the second degree
B.	Principal in the second degree	Accessory before the fact
C.	Accessory after the fact	Principal in the first degree
D.	Principal in the first degree	Accessory after the fact

Question 3

An offender is convicted of assault. The assault was committed in company with others, and the offender pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.

Which row of the table correctly classifies these two factors for sentencing purposes?

	Committed in company	Early guilty plea
A.	Aggravating	Mitigating
B.	Mitigating	Aggravating
C.	Aggravating	Aggravating
D.	Mitigating	Mitigating

Question 4

A 12-year-old is charged with a serious indictable offence.

For the prosecution to succeed, what must it prove in addition to the elements of the offence?

- A. That the child's parents consented to the prosecution proceeding
- B. That the child knew at the time that the conduct was seriously wrong
- C. That the child had previously been cautioned under a diversionary scheme
- D. Nothing further — a child aged 12 cannot be charged with an indictable offence

Question 5

Police reasonably suspect that evidence of a drug supply offence is stored inside a suspect's home. The occupier refuses entry.

What do police generally require before they can lawfully search the home?

- A. A search warrant issued by an authorised judicial officer
- B. Written authorisation from a senior police officer
- C. The consent of any other person who lives at the premises
- D. Nothing further — reasonable suspicion alone authorises entry to a dwelling

Question 6

An adult charged with a serious indictable offence applies for bail.

Which factor is most likely to result in bail being refused?

- A. The accused has already spent one month on remand
- B. The accused intends to plead not guilty at trial
- C. The court finds an unacceptable risk that the accused will endanger the community
- D. The prosecution's case relies substantially on circumstantial evidence

Question 7

An accused charged with murder agrees to plead guilty to manslaughter, and the murder charge is withdrawn.

What is the main benefit of this charge negotiation for society?

- A. It guarantees a longer custodial sentence for the offender
- B. It allows the victim's family to determine the final charge
- C. It ensures a jury will still determine the facts of the offence
- D. It secures a certain conviction while saving the time and cost of a trial

Question 8

An accused's application for a judge-alone trial is granted.

What is required of the judge in this trial that would NOT be required of a jury?

- A. Providing written reasons for the verdict
- B. Reaching a verdict beyond reasonable doubt
- C. Remaining separate from the parties during the trial
- D. Determining the admissibility of the evidence presented

Question 9

In a criminal trial for larceny, which row of the table is correct?

	Burden of proof rests on	Standard of proof
A.	The prosecution	Beyond reasonable doubt
B.	The accused	Beyond reasonable doubt
C.	The prosecution	Balance of probabilities
D.	The accused	Balance of probabilities

Question 10

After an offender is found guilty, the victim reads a victim impact statement to the court.

Which statement about the victim impact statement is correct?

- A. It is considered by the jury when determining guilt
- B. It may be considered by the judge when determining the sentence
- C. It determines the maximum penalty available for the offence
- D. It replaces the prosecution's submissions on sentencing

Question 11

An offender is sentenced to an intensive correction order with a condition requiring participation in a drug and alcohol treatment program.

Which purpose of punishment is being given priority?

- A. Retribution
- B. Rehabilitation
- C. Incapacitation
- D. General deterrence

Question 12

A State authority applies to a court for an order that an offender serving a sentence for a serious violent offence remain in custody after the sentence expires, on the basis that the offender still poses a high risk to the community.

What is this an example of?

- A. Parole
- B. Remand
- C. Continued detention
- D. Preventative detention

Question 13

Which row of the table correctly matches the legal personnel with their role?

	Prosecutes serious indictable offences	Represents accused people in serious matters who have been granted legal aid
A.	Director of Public Prosecutions	Public Defender
B.	Police prosecutor	Public Defender
C.	Director of Public Prosecutions	Police prosecutor
D.	Public Defender	Director of Public Prosecutions

Question 14

A person commits a serious fraud in New Zealand and then travels to New South Wales. New Zealand formally requests that Australia return the person to face trial.

What is this process called?

- A. Deportation
- B. Extradition
- C. Rendition
- D. Repatriation

Question 15

A military commander from State X is accused of war crimes. State X has a functioning and independent court system that is willing and able to prosecute the commander.

Why would the International Criminal Court be unlikely to hear this matter?

- A. The ICC has no jurisdiction over individuals
- B. War crimes can only be heard by the International Court of Justice
- C. The principle of complementarity gives priority to a willing and able national court
- D. The ICC may act only where the UN Security Council orders a prosecution

Question 16

The right of workers to form and join trade unions is most directly recognised in which of the following?

- A. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights alone
- B. Conventions of the International Labour Organization and the ICESCR
- C. The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- D. The Statute of the International Court of Justice

Question 17

Which statement best describes the protection of human rights in Australia?

- A. Rights are comprehensively protected by a constitutional bill of rights
- B. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights operates directly as binding domestic law
- C. Rights are protected through a combination of limited constitutional rights, statutes and the common law
- D. The High Court has no capacity to recognise rights that are not expressly stated in the Constitution

Question 18

Which row of the table correctly classifies the organisations?

	Intergovernmental organisation	Non-government organisation
A.	United Nations Human Rights Council	Amnesty International
B.	Amnesty International	United Nations Human Rights Council
C.	Australian Human Rights Commission	United Nations Human Rights Council
D.	Amnesty International	Australian Human Rights Commission

Question 19

Which of the following is an example of the enforcement of human rights, rather than their promotion?

- A. A school program educating students about discrimination
- B. A media campaign raising awareness of modern slavery
- C. A United Nations committee publishing recommendations following a periodic review
- D. A court ordering a remedy for a breach of anti-discrimination legislation

Question 20

A nation state ratifies a human rights treaty but later ignores the findings of the treaty's monitoring body.

What is the main reason the international community has limited capacity to compel the state to comply?

- A. State sovereignty
- B. The doctrine of precedent
- C. The separation of powers
- D. The principle of complementarity

Section II

30 marks — Attempt Questions 21–24 — Allow about 1 hour for this section

PART A — HUMAN RIGHTS (15 MARKS) — ATTEMPT QUESTIONS 21–23

Question 21

(3 marks)

How has the recognition of trade unionism and labour rights changed over time?

Question 22

(5 marks)

Discuss arguments for and against a Charter of Rights for Australia.

Question 23

(7 marks)

Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses in protecting human rights. In your answer, refer to at least ONE contemporary human rights issue.

PART B — CRIME (15 MARKS) — ATTEMPT QUESTION 24

Your answer will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal issues relevant to the question
- communicate using relevant legal terminology and concepts
- refer to relevant examples such as legislation, cases, media, international instruments and documents
- present a sustained, logical and cohesive response

Question 24*(15 marks)*

To what extent does the criminal investigation process balance the rights of suspects with the interests of the community? In your answer, refer to police powers and the exercise of discretion.

Section III — Options

50 marks — Attempt TWO questions from Questions 25–31, each from a different Option — Allow about 1 hour and 30 minutes for this section

Your answers will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal issues relevant to the question
- communicate using relevant legal terminology and concepts
- refer to relevant examples such as legislation, cases, media, international instruments and documents
- present a sustained, logical and cohesive response

In each question, answer either (a) OR (b). The (b) alternative in every option realises cluster legal-q3-options-law-reform-stem, $p = 0.55$ — the panel's strongest Section III call: a uniform role-of-law-reform stem, unused as an options frame since 2019.

Question 25 — Consumers*(25 marks)*

(a) To what extent are legal responses effective in achieving redress and remedies for consumers? In your answer, refer to the roles of courts, tribunals and government organisations.

OR

(b) Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes for consumers. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Question 26 — Global Environmental Protection*(25 marks)*

(a) Evaluate the effectiveness of Australia's responses to international initiatives for global environmental protection. — cluster legal-q10, $p = 0.36$

OR

(b) Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes for the global environment. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Question 27 — Family*(25 marks)*

- (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and non-legal responses to domestic and family violence in achieving justice for family members. — cluster legal-q9, $p = 0.50$

OR

- (b) Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes for family members. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Question 28 — Indigenous Peoples*(25 marks)*

- (a) To what extent have legal responses achieved justice for Indigenous peoples? In your answer, refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

OR

- (b) Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes for Indigenous peoples. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Question 29 — Shelter*(25 marks)*

- (a) To what extent do legal responses protect people in shelter arrangements other than mainstream tenancy, such as boarding houses, residential parks and aged-care accommodation? — watch list: marginal tenures

OR

- (b) Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes for those seeking shelter. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Question 30 — Workplace*(25 marks)*

- (a) To what extent are legal responses effective in addressing the issue of safety in the workplace? — cluster legal-q8, $p = 0.39$

OR

- (b) Assess the role of law reform in achieving just outcomes in the workplace. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Question 31 — World Order*(25 marks)*

- (a) Evaluate the success of global cooperation in achieving world order. — cluster legal-q10, $p = 0.36$

OR

- (b) Assess the role of law reform in promoting and maintaining world order. In your answer, you must refer to at least ONE contemporary issue.

Built by a six-model AI panel and backtested against the hidden 2025 papers before publication — method at intuitioneducation.com.au/hsc-2026/how-we-did-it. Scored publicly in November 2026. Independent Intuition Education material from publicly available NESA documents; not affiliated with or endorsed by NESA.