
LEGAL STUDIES

B. STRAND RATIONALE AND PHILOSOPHY

The law is fundamental to society. Its many functions include the settlement of disputes, regulation of private arrangements, and provision of guidelines for conduct within the community.

Legal Studies, a strand in Career and Technology Studies, presents students with basic and practical information about the law. The first goal of this strand is for students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to respond appropriately to the affect of law on their daily lives. A second goal is to equip students with the capabilities and confidence required to participate in the changing of laws. A third goal is to create an awareness of the many law-related occupational opportunities that are available.

Within the philosophy of Career and Technology Studies, *students* in Legal Studies *will*:

- develop an appreciation of the individual's ability to influence the law
 - demonstrate a tolerance for opinions held by others
 - demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with others
 - develop the ability to recognize, avoid and resolve problems with legal implications
 - develop an awareness of legal issues in other curricular areas
 - investigate career options related to the law.
- develop skills in decision making, problem solving, communicating and critical thinking
 - develop knowledge, skills and positive attitudes about the law
 - identify the rights granted and the responsibilities imposed by the law
 - engage in the critical analysis of legal issues

STRAND ORGANIZATION

THEMES

Modules in Legal Studies have been grouped into two theme areas: personal context and societal context. In the personal context are the two introductory modules, You and the Law I and You and the Law II. The other modules have been placed in the societal theme since they build on the competencies developed at the introductory level. These more complex areas of the law are not necessarily going to affect every individual, but they do have an impact on the society in which we all live.

CONCEPTS

The module learner expectations describe the competencies that students are expected to develop. The concepts were chosen based upon what the student is required to learn to meet the exit-level competencies. The sequence in which the learning should take place to achieve the assessment criteria and conditions provide the basis for the sequence of the concepts for each module.

LEVELS

Introductory level modules are developed for students who have no previous experience in Legal Studies and are designed to help students build daily living skills. At the introductory level in Legal Studies the students, where relevant “examine the foundations for these laws”, “investigate laws ...”, “explore laws ...”.

Intermediate level modules help students build on the competencies developed at the introductory level and focus on developing more complex competencies; e.g., “analyze case studies”, “propose possible solutions”. Teachers should expect students to assume more responsibility for their learning. The intermediate modules give a broader perspective, helping students recognize the wide range of related career opportunities available within the strand.

At the advanced level, students are expected to take personal responsibility for their learning, to work cooperatively in groups when appropriate, and to require less direct instruction from their teacher. At the advanced level, the students are more involved in research and decision making which require higher level thinking skills.

