

Legal studies extended response

What is an extended response?

Extended responses are an important part of the VCE Legal course and appear on the end of year exam. These responses require students to engage in an extended discussion of an idea where important points in the topic are explored and evaluated, to show an understanding of the implications and relationships.

In these questions students should:

- demonstrate an understanding of relevant legal information and issues
- illustrate answers with examples and evidence (as dictated by the question) including: legislation documents; treaties; cases; media reports
- communicate using legal terminology and concepts relevant to domestic or international law
- present a sustained, logical and well-structured answer to the question

Here are some things to consider when composing an extended response:

- Think about the language used in the question and the task words used (eg to what extent, explain, compare)
- Determine your stance on the topic and give three reasons for it (this will help to form the basis for your body paragraphs)
- Using key words and phrases from the prompt and additional information to show that you are answering the question (this is particularly useful in your linking sentences)
- Using contemporary examples to demonstrate my point
- Including relevant factual information required of the response

Voice

Formal language and third person (it, its, he, she, him, her, his, they, them, their) is used throughout the response.

Language & Grammar

- Formal, impersonal language.
- Specialised and technical language relating to the topic (eg legal terminology).
- Use of complex and compound sentences.
- Integrates evidence and examples into sentences as evidence in TEEL or TEAL paragraphs.
- Contractions, slang and abbreviations are not used.
- Brackets are used to add information and detail.

- Past tense action verbs to retell events or summarise (eg. explored, rejected, experienced, displayed).
- Present tense may sometimes be used when explaining examples or scenarios.
- Transition words are used to signal relationship between two things (eg cause and effect and consequence).
- Italics is used to denote the title for something (this may also be shown through the use of underlining).
- Paragraphs are logically developed.
- Sequencing words may be used at the start of the paragraph to create coherence in the response (eg first, secondly, finally, in conclusion).
- Be concise and clear.

Structure and Organisation

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the topic • Using key words, terms and process verbs in the topic outline how the topic will be approached and answered • If required, offer a position or contention on the topic
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logically developed arguments • Use TEEL or TEAL structure in your paragraphs • Topic sentences: introduce the focus for the paragraph (one idea explored per paragraph) • Evidence: use relevant factual information, case studies, legislation, quotes and examples to demonstrate and support the idea stated in the topic sentence • Explanation: explore the evidence, it's implications, what this shows about a relationship between the evidence and topic and if required make a judgement • Link: connect the points made in your paragraph back to the topic sentence and the overall position taken on the extended response question. Also lead forward into the next paragraph
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the points made in the response • Re-state position or contention • Overall evaluation of points • Do not introduce any new information