MA99 EDUCATION

Practice Paper 1: HSC Practice Paper

01

NSW LEGAL STUDIES STAGE 6 SYLLABUS 2009

FOR HSC 2027

1. Instructions

A complete HSC Legal Studies examination in the shape of the paper you will sit in 2027: 20 multiple choice items on Crime and Human rights, a Human rights short answer part, a 15-mark Crime extended response, and one 25-mark question on each of the seven options, each with two alternatives. This paper is pitched at a typical HSC. Complete it under timed conditions before reading the marking guidance.

General instructions

- Reading time: 5 minutes.
- Working time: 3 hours.
- Write using black pen.
- Section I and Section II: attempt every question.
- Section III: attempt TWO questions, each on a different option. In each question, answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).
- Where a question asks for examples, any real legislation, case, report, statistic or media report earns the marks. The marking guidance uses the evidence in the MA99 Topic Notes.

Total marks: 100

Section I, 20 marks. Attempt Questions 1 to 20. Allow about half an hour. Section II, 30 marks. Attempt Questions 21 to 24. Allow about 1 hour for this section. Section III, 50 marks. Attempt TWO of Questions 25 to 31. Allow about 90 minutes for this section.

Three hours for 100 marks is 1.8 minutes a mark. The section times above follow that rate: about 27 minutes for each 15 marks of Section II and 45 minutes for each 25-mark option response. Use the five minutes of reading time to choose your two Section III alternatives, so that you start writing with the hardest decision already made.

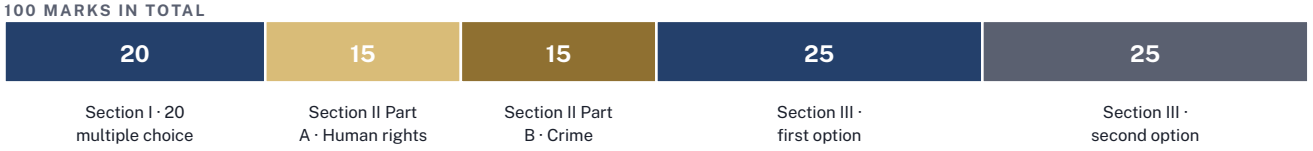


Figure 1 · How the 100 marks are split. Each option response is a quarter of the paper: give each one its full 45 minutes.

Real law in this paper

Every Act, case, report and statistic in this paper is real and current as at October 2026. Short scenarios that use first names only are hypothetical: they are labelled Hypothetical (MA99) and must never be cited as cases. Any statement in quotation marks in a question was written for MA99 to be tested; it is not a quotation from any person.

2. Section I · Multiple choice

Section I

20 marks. Attempt Questions 1 to 20. Allow about half an hour. Select the alternative A, B, C or D that best answers the question.

2.1 Section I answer grid

Circle the letter on the question, then copy it here.

Q	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Q	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**

Question 1

1 MARK

Which statement best describes a feature that distinguishes a crime from a civil wrong?

A A crime always causes physical harm to another person.

B A crime is prosecuted by the state on behalf of the community, and a conviction can lead to punishment.

C A crime is a breach of an agreement between two private parties.

D A crime is any conduct that most members of the community consider immoral.

Question 2

1 MARK

Hypothetical (MA99). During an argument outside a bar, Riley throws a glass bottle towards a group of people, aware that it might hit someone but hoping it will not. It strikes Dana and cuts her face. Which form of mens rea does Riley most clearly have?

A An intention to cause injury

B Negligence only

C Recklessness

D None, because Riley hoped the bottle would miss

Question 3

1 MARK

Hypothetical (MA99). Police arrest Kai while he is forcing open the back window of a house he plans to burgle. Nothing has been taken. Which statement is correct?

A Kai may be guilty of an attempt, which carries the same maximum penalty as the completed offence.

B Kai has committed no offence, because he never entered the house.

C Kai is an accessory before the fact.

D Kai is guilty of conspiracy, because he planned the offence.

Question 4

1 MARK

Which statement about reporting crime in NSW is correct?

A Victims are legally required to report every offence committed against them.

B Recorded crime statistics capture almost all of the crime that occurs.

C Police may not investigate an offence unless the victim has made a formal complaint.

D An adult who knows or believes that a child abuse offence has been committed can commit an offence by failing, without reasonable excuse, to tell police.

Question 5

1 MARK

Hypothetical (MA99). Lee is charged with a show cause offence under the Bail Act 2013 (NSW). At the bail hearing, Lee shows cause why his detention is not justified. What must the bail authority do next?

A Release Lee without conditions

B Decide whether there is an unacceptable risk that Lee will fail to appear, commit a serious offence, endanger the safety of victims or the community, or interfere with witnesses or evidence

C Refuse bail, because show cause offences carry a presumption against release

D Refer the decision to the Director of Public Prosecutions

Question 6

1 MARK

Police want to place a listening device inside a suspect's car to record her conversations. Which statement is correct?

A Apart from an emergency, they need a warrant issued under the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 (NSW).

B They need only the written approval of their own commanding officer.

C They must first obtain the suspect's consent.

D They may do so whenever they suspect her of any offence.

Question 7

1 MARK

In NSW, which court hears a murder trial at first instance?

A The Local Court

B The District Court

C The Supreme Court

D The Court of Criminal Appeal

Question 8

1 MARK

Who are the senior barristers employed by the State of NSW to represent legally aided accused people in serious criminal trials and appeals?

A Crown Prosecutors

B Police prosecutors

C Judges of the Local Court

D Public Defenders

Question 9

1 MARK

Hypothetical (MA99). At Sam's trial for assault, the jury is satisfied that Sam did the act charged, but finds that, because of a mental health impairment, Sam did not know that the act was wrong. What verdict does the jury return?

A Not guilty

B Act proven but not criminally responsible

C Guilty, with the impairment to be taken into account in sentencing

D Guilty of a lesser offence

Question 10

1 MARK

A court imposes a community correction order that requires the offender to attend drug and alcohol counselling and a job training course. Which purpose of punishment does the order most directly serve?

A Rehabilitation

B Incapacitation

C General deterrence

D Retribution

Question 11

1 MARK

Which statement about victim impact statements in NSW is correct?

A They are read to the jury before it decides the verdict.
B They allow the victim to set the length of the sentence.
C Only the primary victim, personally, may make one.
D Where the primary victim has died, a member of the victim's family may make one.

Question 12

1 MARK

Circle sentencing in NSW is best described as

A a Children's Court process in which a young person and the victim agree on an outcome plan
B a form of charge negotiation between the prosecution and an Elder
C a way of sentencing Aboriginal offenders in the Local Court, in which Elders and community members help the judicial officer decide the sentence
D an appeal process for Aboriginal people who have been sentenced to imprisonment

Question 13

1 MARK

Why are criminal proceedings in the Children's Court generally closed to the public?

A To protect the young person's privacy and prospects of rehabilitation
B Because children cannot be convicted of criminal offences
C Because the Children's Court hears only summary offences
D So that the court can impose harsher penalties without public scrutiny

Question 14

1 MARK

Hypothetical (MA99). Police question a 15-year-old about a robbery. No parent, guardian or other adult except police is present, and there is no good reason for that. The young person makes an admission. Which statement is correct?

A The admission is admissible because the young person is over 14.
B The admission will generally not be admitted in evidence against the young person.
C The admission is admissible as long as the interview was recorded.
D The young person must prove that the admission was false.

Question 15

1 MARK

Which of the following is a transnational crime, rather than a crime against the international community?

A Genocide
B A war crime
C A crime against humanity
D People smuggling

Question 16

1 MARK

"Civil and political rights cannot be fully enjoyed without economic, social and cultural rights." Which feature of human rights does this statement describe?

A Universality
B Inalienability
C Indivisibility
D State sovereignty

Question 17

1 MARK

Which statement about the abolition of slavery is correct?

A The Slavery Abolition Act 1833 (UK) began the end of slavery in the British Empire, and the ICCPR now prohibits slavery without exception.

B The Universal Declaration of Human Rights abolished slavery in every country in 1948.

C International law prohibits slavery only in time of war.

D Slavery no longer exists in any form in Australia.

Question 18

1 MARK

Under article 2(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, each state party undertakes to

A make every right in the Covenant fully available immediately

B write the Covenant into its constitution

C let the International Court of Justice enforce the Covenant against it

D take steps, to the maximum of its available resources, to achieve the full realisation of the rights progressively

Question 19

1 MARK

Which of the following is an intergovernmental organisation?

A Amnesty International

B Human Rights Watch

C The International Labour Organization

D The Human Rights Law Centre

Question 20

1 MARK

In Coco v The Queen (1994) 179 CLR 427, the High Court applied the principle of legality. What does that principle require?

A Courts may strike down any law that breaches a human right.

B Courts presume that Parliament does not intend to override fundamental rights unless it uses clear and unambiguous words.

C A law that limits a right must first be approved at a referendum.

D A treaty Australia has ratified overrides any inconsistent Australian law.

3. Section II Part A · Human rights

Section II

30 marks. Attempt Questions 21 to 24. Allow about 1 hour for this section: about 27 minutes for Part A and 27 minutes for Part B, with time to check. Part A: answer Questions 21 to 23 in the spaces provided. The lines are a guide to the length expected. Part B: answer Question 24 in a separate writing booklet.

Part A is worth 15 marks. Spend about a minute and three quarters on each mark, and give every point its evidence.

Question 21

3 MARKS

Outline the development of universal suffrage as a human right.

Question 22

5 MARKS

Explain how intergovernmental organisations promote and enforce human rights. Include examples in your answer.

Question 23

7 MARKS

Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting and enforcing human rights. Refer to ONE contemporary human rights issue in your answer.

4. Section II Part B · Crime

Part B is worth 15 marks. Write about 600 words, in around 27 minutes.

Your answer is marked on four things: how well you understand the legal issues the question raises; your use of legal terms and concepts; the real evidence you bring, such as Acts, cases, statistics, media reports and treaties; and whether your argument is sustained, logical and cohesive from the first sentence to the last.

Question 24

15 MARKS

Evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in dealing with young offenders.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

5. Section III · Options

Section III

50 marks. Attempt TWO questions from Questions 25 to 31, each on a different option. In each question you attempt, answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b). Allow about 90 minutes for this section: about 45 minutes for each answer. Answer each question in a separate writing booklet. Each answer should be around 1000 words. Your answer is marked on how well you show knowledge and understanding of the legal issues in the question, use legal terms and concepts, refer to real evidence (Acts, cases, media, treaties and other documents), and present a sustained, logical and cohesive response.

Question 25

25 MARKS

Consumers

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has achieved justice for consumers.

OR

(b) Evaluate how effectively legal and non-legal responses address marketing innovations AND technology.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

Question 26

25 MARKS

Global environmental protection

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has protected the global environment.

OR

(b) Evaluate how effectively legal and non-legal responses address the barriers to an international response to environmental harm AND Australia's implementation of international environmental initiatives.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

Question 27

25 MARKS

Family

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has achieved justice for family members.

OR

(b) Evaluate how effectively legal and non-legal responses address the care and protection of children AND the recognition of same-sex relationships.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

Question 28

25 MARKS

Indigenous peoples

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has achieved justice for Indigenous peoples.

OR

(b) Evaluate how effectively legal and non-legal responses address the loss of cultural rights, including language, AND land rights.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

Question 29

25 MARKS

Shelter

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has achieved justice for people seeking shelter.

OR

(b) Evaluate how effectively legal and non-legal responses address housing affordability AND homelessness.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

Question 30

25 MARKS

Workplace

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has achieved justice in the workplace.

OR

(b) Evaluate how effectively legal and non-legal responses address workplace safety AND leave.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

Question 31

25 MARKS

World order

Answer EITHER part (a) OR part (b).

(a) Evaluate how effectively law reform has contributed to world order.

OR

(b) Evaluate how successful global cooperation has been in achieving world order. In your answer, refer to at least ONE regional or global situation that threatens peace and security.

Write your response in a separate writing booklet.

End of paper.

6. Marking guidance

Mark the paper after completing it under timed conditions. An accurate mark shows which paragraph to rewrite. Equivalent real evidence always earns the same marks as the evidence named here.

> Mark Section I first. Two minutes tells you which content area to reread before you mark the rest.

Section I · Answer key

One mark each. Every distractor is an error students really make, so a lost mark names a distinction you have not yet made.

Q	ANSWER	WHY THE KEY IS RIGHT, AND THE ERROR BEHIND EACH OTHER OPTION
1	B	A crime is a wrong against the community: the state investigates and prosecutes it, and a conviction can lead to punishment. (A) Many crimes cause no physical harm (an attempt, possessing a prohibited drug). (C) describes a civil claim in contract. (D) Law and morality overlap but are not the same: much immoral conduct is lawful.
2	C	Riley foresaw the possibility of harm and went ahead: recklessness. (A) Intention means acting in order to cause the harm. (B) Negligence is falling below a standard of care without that awareness. (D) Hoping it will not happen does not remove the foresight.
3	A	Forcing the window is a step beyond preparation, with intent: an attempt, which carries the same maximum penalty as the completed offence (Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) s 344A). (B) The offence need not be completed. (C) An accessory before the fact helps another person and is absent. (D) A conspiracy needs an agreement between two or more people.
4	D	Section 316A of the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW), in force from 2018, makes it an offence for an adult who knows or believes a child abuse offence has been committed to fail, without reasonable excuse, to bring the information to police. (A) There is no general duty on victims. (B) Much crime is never reported: only 16 per cent of women sexually assaulted reported it (ABS, 2024-25). (C) Police can investigate on any information.
5	B	After cause is shown, the bail authority must make the unacceptable risk assessment (Bail Act 2013 (NSW) ss 17 to 19). (A) ignores the risk test and conditions. (C) Show cause shifts the onus; it is not a refusal. (D) Bail authorities are courts and police, not the DPP.
6	A	A listening device in a private place needs a surveillance device warrant from a judicial officer, with emergency authorisations tightly limited. (B) and (D) would leave privacy to police alone. (C) Covert surveillance by definition has no consent.
7	C	Murder is tried in the Supreme Court. (A) The Local Court deals with summary and Table offences. (B) The District Court hears most indictable offences, but not murder. (D) The Court of Criminal Appeal hears appeals, not trials.
8	D	Public Defenders are senior barristers employed by the state to defend legally aided people (Public Defenders Act 1995 (NSW)). (A) Crown Prosecutors appear for the DPP. (B) Police prosecutors run most Local Court prosecutions. (C) Judges decide cases.
9	B	The special verdict under the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 (NSW), in force from 27 March 2021. (A) is the verdict where the act is not proven. (C) and (D) treat the person as criminally responsible, which the jury has found they are not.
10	A	Treatment and training conditions aim to change the offender: rehabilitation. (B) Incapacitation removes the ability to offend, as prison does. (C) General deterrence sends a message to others. (D) Retribution is punishment in proportion to the harm.
11	D	A family victim may make a statement where the primary victim has died (Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 (NSW) Part 3 Division 2). (A) Statements are used in sentencing, after a finding of guilt. (B) The court decides the sentence; the statement describes harm. (C) ignores family victims.
12	C	Circle sentencing is an alternative sentencing process for Aboriginal offenders in the Local Court. (A) describes a youth justice conference. (B) Charge negotiation is between the prosecution and the defence. (D) It is not an appeal.
13	A	The court is closed to protect privacy and rehabilitation (Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987 (NSW), "CCPA", s 10). (B) Children aged 10 and over can be found guilty. (C) The Children's Court hears indictable offences too, except serious children's indictable offences. (D) inverts the purpose.

Q	ANSWER	WHY THE KEY IS RIGHT, AND THE ERROR BEHIND EACH OTHER OPTION
14	B	An admission by a child made without an adult (other than police) present is generally not admissible (CCPA s 13). (A) The protection covers everyone under 18. (C) Recording does not replace the support person. (D) reverses the burden of proof.
15	D	People smuggling is a domestic crime that crosses borders: transnational. (A), (B) and (C) are crimes under international law itself, tried by the ICC under the Rome Statute.
16	C	Indivisibility: rights depend on each other. (A) Universality means rights belong to everyone everywhere. (B) Inalienability means rights cannot be taken away or given up. (D) Sovereignty is a state's authority, not a feature of rights.
17	A	The 1833 Act ended slavery in most of the British Empire from 1834, and article 8 of the ICCPR prohibits it absolutely. (B) The UDHR is a declaration: it abolished nothing by itself. (C) The prohibition applies at all times. (D) Walk Free estimated 41,000 people in modern slavery in Australia (Global Slavery Index, 2023).
18	D	The ICESCR's obligation is progressive realisation, using available resources. (A) is the ICCPR's style of obligation. (B) No covenant requires constitutional change. (C) The ICJ decides disputes between consenting states; it does not enforce the Covenant.
19	C	The ILO (1919) is an organisation of states created by treaty. (A), (B) and (D) are non-government organisations.
20	B	The principle of legality is a rule of interpretation: clear words are needed to override fundamental rights. In Coco police had no clear authority to enter private premises to install a listening device. (A) Australian courts cannot strike down laws for breaching rights, except constitutional ones. (C) Referendums change the Constitution, not ordinary laws. (D) Dualism: a treaty is not law until legislated.

The key is balanced: five each of A, B, C and D.

Section II Part A · Criteria and sample answers

These marking criteria are MA99's, written in the style of NESA's published marking guidelines. Each shows how the marks are awarded, then a sample answer that earns them all.

QUESTION 21 · 3 MARKS

MARKS	CRITERIA
3	Sketches the development of universal suffrage over time, with dated stages and a legal source or case
2	Outlines some stages in the development of universal suffrage
1	Provides some relevant information about voting rights

Sample answer. Universal suffrage is the right of every adult citizen to vote, whatever their sex, race or wealth, now protected by article 21 of the UDHR and article 25 of the ICCPR. It was won in stages: South Australia gave women the vote in 1894, the Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902 gave women the federal vote but excluded most Aboriginal people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gained the federal vote only in 1962. The High Court has since protected it, holding in Roach v Electoral Commissioner (2007) that a ban on every prisoner voting was invalid.

QUESTION 22 · 5 MARKS

MARKS	CRITERIA
5	Explains clearly how intergovernmental organisations both promote and enforce human rights, showing cause and effect; integrates relevant examples
4	Explains how intergovernmental organisations promote and/or enforce human rights, with relevant examples
3	Describes the role of intergovernmental organisations, with an example
2	Makes general statements about intergovernmental organisations and human rights
1	Provides some relevant information

Sample answer. An intergovernmental organisation (IGO) is an organisation of states created by treaty, so it promotes rights by setting standards its members agree to, and enforces them only as far as its members have consented. The International Labour Organization (1919) promotes labour rights through conventions, such as Convention No 87 on freedom of association, which governments, employers and workers vote on; states that ratify must report on how they comply. Regional IGOs can go further when they have a court. The Council of Europe enforces the European Convention on Human Rights through the European Court of Human Rights, whose judgments bind member states: in KlimaSeniorinnen v Switzerland (2024) it held that weak climate policy breached the right to private and family life. Where there is no court, IGOs can only persuade: ASEAN's Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (2009) promotes rights but has no complaints power, and the Asia-Pacific, including Australia, has no regional human rights court. IGOs therefore promote rights widely but enforce them only where states have accepted binding machinery.

> "Promote" and "enforce" are two different jobs. A 5-mark answer shows both, and says which IGOs can do which.

QUESTION 23 · 7 MARKS

MARKS	CRITERIA
6 to 7	Makes a clear judgement about the effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting and enforcing human rights, using criteria; integrates a relevant contemporary issue with detailed evidence
4 to 5	Makes a judgement with some reasoning; uses a relevant contemporary issue with evidence
2 to 3	Describes the role of the UN, with some reference to an issue
1	Provides some relevant information about the UN or human rights

Indicative content. Promotion: the UN sets standards (UDHR, the covenants); the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review makes every state answer in public; treaty bodies hear complaints (Billy v Australia, UN Human Rights Committee, 2022). Enforcement: the Security Council can bind states but the veto blocks action; treaty body views are not binding; the ICJ needs consent. Contemporary issue, for example arbitrary immigration detention: at Australia's fourth UPR (26 January 2026) more than 120 states made 332 recommendations; in its response in June 2026 Australia accepted 128 (about 39 per cent) and did not accept calls to end offshore processing on Nauru (Human Rights Watch, 28 June 2026); 1,100 people were in held immigration detention for an average of 458 days (Home Affairs, 31 July 2026). Change came from a domestic court, not the UN: NZYQ v Minister for Immigration [2023] HCA 37.

Sample answer. The United Nations is effective in promoting human rights but largely ineffective in enforcing them, because enforcement depends on the consent of sovereign states. Its strength is scrutiny that no state can avoid: at Australia's fourth Universal Periodic Review on 26 January 2026, more than 120 states made 332 recommendations, many on the detention of refugees and asylum seekers. Treaty bodies add individual complaints, and the Human Rights Committee has found Australia in breach of the ICCPR more than once. But these are recommendations and views, not orders. Australia accepted only 128 of the 332 recommendations (about 39 per cent) and refused to end offshore processing on Nauru (Human Rights Watch, 28 June 2026), and in July 2026 1,100 people were still in held immigration detention, for an average of 458 days. The change that did occur came from Australia's own High Court, which held indefinite detention without a real prospect of removal unlawful in NZYQ (2023). Judged by enforceability, the UN shapes the debate but cannot compel a sovereign state to act; its effectiveness depends on domestic institutions taking up its standards.

Common error

Describing the UN's bodies in turn. The marks are for the judgement, so every body you name needs a sentence saying what it achieved or failed to achieve on your issue.

Section II Part B · Question 24

MARKS	MA99 MARKING CRITERIA, WRITTEN IN THE NESA STYLE
13 to 15	Comprehensive understanding of how the criminal justice system deals with young offenders. A sustained, well-reasoned evaluation against clear criteria. Integrates relevant, accurate examples: legislation, cases, statistics, media. Sustained, logical and cohesive, with precise legal terms.

MARKS	MA99 MARKING CRITERIA, WRITTEN IN THE NESA STYLE
10 to 12	Sound understanding. A clear evaluation supported by relevant examples, though one stage or criterion may be thinner. Logical, with appropriate terms.
7 to 9	Describes how young offenders are treated, with some reference to examples. Evaluation implied or general.
4 to 6	Describes features of the law on young offenders with limited examples.
1 to 3	General statements about young people and crime.

Indicative content.

- **Criteria.** Rehabilitation and reduced reoffending; protection of the rights of children (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, detention as a last resort); community safety; equality of outcomes.
- **Age of criminal responsibility.** Under 10, never criminally responsible; 10 to 13, presumed doli incapax unless the prosecution proves the child knew the act was seriously wrong (RP v The Queen (2016) 259 CLR 641). Proven outcomes fell from 76 per cent (2015-16) to 16 per cent (2022-23) (BOCSAR). The presumption was put into statute from 1 March 2026 (CCPA s 5), and a court may now find it rebutted on the conduct and circumstances alone. Comparison: ACT age 14 (1 July 2025), Victoria 12 (30 September 2025), Northern Territory back to 10 (October 2024); the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends at least 14.
- **Rights when questioned.** Support person (CCPA s 13); privacy (s 15A); arrest a last resort.
- **Diversion.** The Young Offenders Act 1997 (NSW) ladder of warnings, cautions and youth justice conferences; from 1 July 2026 a non-denial statement is enough for eligibility.
- **The Children's Court.** Closed (s 10), principles of rehabilitation and detention as a last resort (s 6); the Youth Koori Court, whose participants were about 40 per cent less likely to receive a custodial sentence (BOCSAR, 2022).
- **Penalties.** CCPA s 33(1) ladder from dismissal to a control order of up to 2 years. 208 young people in detention in June 2026, down from 236, but 51.4 per cent Aboriginal (BOCSAR, June 2026).
- **Toughening since 2024.** The s 22C bail test for 14 to 17-year-olds, with a bill to extend it again, pending as of October 2026; the "post and boast" offence (Crimes Act s 154K), where 62 of 84 charges involved a young Aboriginal male; four offences to be added to serious children's indictable offences (announced 7 September 2026; pending as of October 2026).
- **Judgement.** For example: effective for most young people, who are diverted and not reoffending; less effective for a small group of repeat and Aboriginal young offenders, for whom recent reforms have increased remand and detention.

Sample opening paragraph

The NSW criminal justice system deals effectively with most young offenders, because it diverts them from court and treats detention as a last resort, but it is far less effective for the small group of repeat offenders, a majority of them Aboriginal, at whom the reforms of 2024 to 2026 are aimed. Judged by rehabilitation and by equality of outcomes, the Young Offenders Act 1997 (NSW) and the Children's Court succeed: from 1 July 2026 a young person need only not deny an offence to be offered a caution or conference, and youth detention fell to 208 in June 2026. Yet 51.4 per cent of those detained were Aboriginal (BOCSAR, June 2026), and the s 22C bail test and the codification of doli incapax from 1 March 2026 push the system towards punishment for exactly the children whose offending it most needs to prevent.

What separates 13 from 9. A judgement of effectiveness in the first sentence, with criteria. Evidence from 2024 to 2026 in every paragraph. Both sides: what diversion achieves and what the toughening costs. A conclusion that says for whom the system works.

Section III · Extended responses

Every question uses the same criteria. Each alternative then has its own indicative content, and each option has one sample paragraph that shows the standard.

MARKS	MA99 MARKING CRITERIA FOR QUESTIONS 25 TO 31, WRITTEN IN THE NESA STYLE
21 to 25	Extensive knowledge and understanding of the option, directed at the question. An informed, sustained judgement against named criteria. Integrates detailed, accurate evidence: legislation, cases, treaties, reports, statistics and media, dated. Covers each part of the question, including both named issues where two are named. Presents a sustained, logical and cohesive response with precise legal terms.
16 to 20	Thorough knowledge and understanding. A clear judgement supported by relevant evidence, though one part of the question may be thinner. Logical and cohesive, with appropriate legal terms.
11 to 15	Sound knowledge. Some judgement, or a judgement that is only implied. Some relevant evidence. An organised response using some legal terms.
6 to 10	Limited knowledge. Describes rather than evaluates. General or limited evidence.
1 to 5	General statements about the option.

What "law reform" means in the (a) questions

Law reform is any change to the law: a new Act or amendment, a change to the common law by a court, a new treaty or protocol, or a change to how the law is enforced. Evaluate it against criteria (did it reach the people it was for, is it enforceable, did it come in time) and include at least one reform from 2024 to 2026. Reforms announced but not yet in force count, as long as you say so.

QUESTION 25 (A) · CONSUMERS: LAW REFORM

- **The framework reform.** The Australian Consumer Law (2011) replaced the consumer provisions of the Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) and the consumer laws of eight states and territories with one national law: consumer guarantees that cannot be excluded (ACL ss 54 to 64).
- **Reform that strengthened enforcement.** Unfair terms in standard form contracts made unlawful, with penalties, from 9 November 2023 (ACL ss 23 to 28); maximum penalties for a company doubled to $100 million per contravention from 28 March 2026. Enforcement since: Qantas ($100 million, 2024), Optus ($100 million, 2025), CashnGo ($3.5 million, 2026).
- **Reform that caught up with new markets.** Buy now pay later regulated as credit from 10 June 2025; the statutory privacy tort from 10 June 2025; the Scams Prevention Framework Act 2025 (Cth), with banks, telcos and digital platforms designated on 28 May 2026; the Food and Grocery Code mandatory from 1 April 2025.
- **Reform still to come.** The Competition and Consumer Amendment (Unfair Trading Practices) Act 2026 (Cth), passed 2 July 2026, starts on 1 July 2027.
- **Limits.** Reform follows harm: scam losses were $2.18 billion in 2025, up 7.8 per cent (National Anti-Scam Centre); BNPL grew for a decade outside credit law. Enforcement depends on regulators' resources.
- **Judgement.** For example: reform has made consumer law more enforceable and more current, but it reacts to harm rather than preventing it, so justice arrives late for the consumers who were harmed first.

QUESTION 25 (B) · CONSUMERS: MARKETING INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Marketing innovations.** Misleading conduct (ACL s 18), false price claims (s 29) and drip pricing (s 48) apply online. Coles "Down Down" (2026): 13 of 14 tickets found misleading; ACCC v Microsoft (filed 27 October 2025) over 2.7 million Microsoft 365 subscribers; dark patterns often fall outside "misleading" until the unfair trading practices ban starts on 1 July 2027. Card surcharges removed from 1 October 2026 (RBA).
- **Technology.** Scam losses of $2.18 billion in 2025; Scams Prevention Framework Act 2025 with sector codes from 2027; the privacy tort from 10 June 2025; unsafe imports sold online.
- **Non-legal responses.** CHOICE campaigns (it pushed for the unfair trading practices ban), Scamwatch, media exposure (the Microsoft apology, 2025), consumer self-help.
- **Judgement.** For example: legal responses are catching up with both issues in 2025 to 2027, but the gap between new practices and new law leaves consumers to rely on awareness and self-help in the meantime.

Sample paragraph, Question 25 (a). Judged by enforceability, the most effective consumer law reform of the decade has been the change in penalties, because a law that costs less to break than to obey protects no one. Until 2023 an unfair term in a standard form contract was merely void; from 9 November 2023 it became unlawful, with penalties (ACL ss 23 to 28), and from 28 March 2026 the maximum penalty for a company doubled to $100 million per contravention. The courts have

used the new scale: Qantas paid $100 million in 2024 for selling tickets on flights it had already cancelled, and Optus $100 million in 2025 for pressure selling to more than 400 vulnerable consumers. Yet both penalties punished harm already done to thousands of consumers. Reform has made the law more enforceable, but it has not made it preventive.

QUESTION 26 (A) · GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: LAW REFORM

- **Treaty reform.** Stockholm (1972) to Rio (1992) to Paris (2015); the Montreal Protocol (1987), which has phased out about 99 per cent of ozone depleting substances, and its Kigali Amendment (2016); the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ) in force 17 January 2026, ratified by Australia in September 2026.
- **Reform through courts and opinions.** ITLOS advisory opinion (21 May 2024); ICJ advisory opinion, unanimous (23 July 2025); KlimaSeniorinnen v Switzerland (2024).
- **Australian reform.** Climate Change Act 2022 (Cth); target of 62 to 70 per cent below 2005 by 2035 (September 2025); EPBC reforms passed 28 November 2025 and the National Environmental Protection Agency from 1 July 2026.
- **Limits.** Sovereignty: the US left Paris (effective 27 January 2026) and gave notice of withdrawal from the UNFCCC (27 February 2026, effective 27 February 2027); consensus at COPs (COP30, no fossil fuel roadmap); pledges and current policies imply 2.3 to 2.8°C (UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2025); the plastics talks collapsed (August 2025); the ISA mining code still unfinished (July 2026).
- **Judgement.** For example: reform is most effective where a narrow threat has a cheap substitute (ozone) and least where it touches whole economies (climate), and recent reform has added authority (the ICJ) faster than enforcement.

QUESTION 26 (B) · GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: BARRIERS AND AUSTRALIA'S IMPLEMENTATION

- **Barriers.** State sovereignty and consent (US withdrawal; Japan's exit from the IWC in 2019 after Whaling in the Antarctic (2014)); consensus decision-making (COP30; the failed 39 to 18 vote for a South Atlantic whale sanctuary at IWC70, Hobart, 2026); economic interests; equity between developed and developing states (the COP29 goal of US$300 billion a year by 2035); weak enforcement.
- **Australia's implementation.** The external affairs power (Commonwealth v Tasmania (1983)); EPBC Act (1999) and the 2025 reforms; the Climate Change Act 2022 (Cth); BBNJ ratification (2026); hosting IWC70 and leading COP31 negotiations. Limits: the North West Shelf extended to 2070 (12 September 2025); Pabai Pabai v Commonwealth (No 2) [2025] FCA 796 found no duty of care (under appeal).
- **Non-legal responses.** NGOs (Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change began the ICJ campaign in 2019; EDO litigation); media coverage of the ICJ opinion.
- **Judgement.** For example: the barriers are greater than Australia's implementation can overcome; Australia has implemented treaties more fully since 2022, but its resource exports show the same barrier at home.

Sample paragraph, Question 26 (b). State sovereignty is the decisive barrier, because international environmental law binds only the states that choose to be bound, and they can leave. The United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement took effect on 27 January 2026, and on 27 February 2026 it gave notice of withdrawal from the UNFCCC itself, to take effect a year later, which will remove the second largest emitter from the system that is meant to coordinate action. Courts have tried to fill the gap: the International Court of Justice advised unanimously on 23 July 2025 that states have binding obligations to protect the climate system. But an advisory opinion cannot compel a state that has walked away, so the opinion strengthens the law's authority without increasing its enforceability. Judged by enforceability, the barrier is not the absence of law but the absence of any way to hold a sovereign state to it.

QUESTION 27 (A) · FAMILY: LAW REFORM

- **Marriage and relationships.** Recognition of de facto relationships (Family Law Act Part VIIIAB, 1 March 2009); marriage equality (9 December 2017).
- **Children after separation.** The cycle: 1995 (parental responsibility), 2006 (presumption of equal shared parental responsibility), 2012 (greater weight to safety), the Family Law Amendment Act 2023 (Cth) from 6 May 2024 (presumption removed, safety first).
- **Property.** The Family Law Amendment Act 2024 (Cth) from 10 June 2025: the steps codified, economic and financial abuse, pets.
- **Domestic violence.** Coercive control (Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) s 54D, from 1 July 2024): 682 incidents, 42 charges and 4 proven by June 2026 (BOCSAR); show cause bail for serious intimate partner violence (2024); serious domestic abuse prevention orders from 29 September 2025; a 25-year standard non-parole period for intimate partner murder (passed 18 November 2025).
- **Children in care and surrogacy.** NSW out-of-home care overhaul (1 March 2026); the ALRC surrogacy review (report not yet clarified as of October 2026).

- **Limits.** Reform often overcorrects (2006 then 2024); enforcement lags (coercive control); Aboriginal children in care rose from 47.3 to 52.2 per 1,000 (Target 12, worsening).
- **Judgement.** For example: reform has achieved formal equality and put safety first, but its effect depends on enforcement and services that have not kept pace.

QUESTION 27 (B) · FAMILY: CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

- **Care and protection.** Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW): safety paramount and least intrusive intervention (s 9), placement principles (s 10A), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (s 13), mandatory reporting (ss 23, 27). More than 13,500 NSW children in care (DCJ, March 2026); Target 12 worsening; Family is Culture (2019), 125 recommendations; the 2026 NSW overhaul; the National Commissioner's independent powers (March 2026); SNAICC: only 16 cents in each dollar goes to family support.
- **Same-sex relationships.** De facto recognition (1999 NSW; 85 Commonwealth laws amended in 2008); co-mother parentage (Status of Children Act 1996 (NSW) s 14); Commonwealth v ACT [2013] HCA 55; postal survey 61.6 per cent Yes; marriage from 9 December 2017; 4,636 marriages of same or non-binary gender couples in 2025; Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Act 2024 (NSW); religious exemptions remain (Marriage Act ss 47, 47A).
- **Non-legal responses.** SNAICC, AbSec, the Equality Campaign and Equality Australia, media coverage.
- **Judgement.** For example: highly effective for formal equality of same-sex couples; sound in principle but failing in outcome for Aboriginal children in care.

Sample paragraph, Question 27 (b). The law on the care and protection of children is effective in principle but failing in outcome for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW) makes a child's safety paramount, requires the least intrusive intervention (s 9) and, for an Aboriginal child, placement with kin or community first (s 13). Yet the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care rose from 47.3 to 52.2 per 1,000 between 2019 and 2025, and Closing the Gap Target 12 is assessed as worsening (Productivity Commission, July 2026). SNAICC's Family Matters Report 2025 found that only 16 cents in each dollar spent on child protection goes to family support. The 2026 reforms, an overhaul of NSW foster care and independent powers for the National Commissioner, are a response, but judged by protection of rights, the law's own principles are not yet being complied with.

QUESTION 28 (A) · INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: LAW REFORM

- **Common law and statute.** Mabo (No 2) (1992) and the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth); the Native Title Amendment Act 1998 narrowing rights after Wik; compensation in Northern Territory v Griffiths [2019] HCA 7 ($2.53 million, $1.3 million for cultural loss) and Commonwealth v Yunupingu [2025] HCA 6.
- **Language and culture.** Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 (NSW); Western Australia's 2021 heritage law repealed in 2023 after Juukan Gorge (2020); Commonwealth heritage reform unfinished in 2026.
- **Recognition and self-determination.** The 2023 Voice referendum defeated (60.06 per cent No); Victoria's Statewide Treaty Act 2025; Queensland's retreat from treaty after 2024; NSW Treaty Commissioners (2024).
- **Global.** UNDRIP (2007, endorsed by Australia 2009); Canada's UNDRIP Act (2021); New Zealand's Treaty Principles Bill defeated 112 to 11 (10 April 2025); Norway's Constitution art 108.
- **Judgement.** For example: reform has achieved durable justice where courts and parliaments created enforceable rights, but much of it depends on the government of the day and can be reversed.

QUESTION 28 (B) · INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: CULTURAL RIGHTS AND LAND RIGHTS

- **Cultural rights and language.** More than 250 languages at colonisation; NILS4 (28 July 2026): 177 still spoken or used, at least 113 being revived; Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 (NSW) and the Aboriginal Languages Trust; Māori Language Act 2016 (NZ); ICCPR art 27 and UNDRIP art 13; Juukan Gorge destroyed lawfully under a s 18 consent; Billy v Australia (2022).
- **Land rights.** Land rights statutes (Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW); the NT Act 1976) against native title (Mabo, Wik, Yorta Yorta (2002), Griffiths, Yunupingu); Target 15: about 57 per cent of Australia's land mass subject to Indigenous rights or interests (June 2025); Tsilhqot'in (Canada, 2014); Ogiek (African Court, 2017).
- **Non-legal responses.** First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance; NSWALC; the Koori Mail and NITV; media coverage of Juukan.
- **Judgement.** For example: land rights law is effective in scale but limited in strength; cultural rights law is improving for language but failing for heritage.

Sample paragraph, Question 28 (b). Land rights law has been effective in scale but limited in strength. Since Mabo (No 2) (1992) rejected terra nullius, native title and land rights statutes together have brought about 57 per cent of Australia's land mass under some form of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander right or interest, and Closing the Gap Target 15 is on track (Productivity Commission, July 2026). Compensation is now possible: Northern Territory v Griffiths (2019) awarded $1.3 million for cultural loss alone, and Commonwealth v Yunupingu (2025) applied the just terms guarantee to the territories. But much of that land is held as non-exclusive native title, a bundle of rights shared with pastoralists rather than ownership, and Yorta Yorta (2002) shows that the peoples most dispossessed find connection hardest to prove. Judged by justice for Indigenous peoples, the law returns the most to those who lost the least.

QUESTION 29 (A) · SHELTER: LAW REFORM

- **Renting.** Rent increases once a year and no application fees (31 October 2024); no grounds evictions ended and pets easier (19 May 2025); Smart Rental Bonds (August 2026); domestic violence tenancy reforms (21 September 2026); personal information protections (passed; expected to start in early 2027, with no start date set as at November 2026).
- **Buying.** The Property and Stock Agents Amendment (Underquoting and Other Agent Conduct) Act 2026 (NSW): penalties up to $110,000 or three times the commission once stage two starts (start date not yet clarified as of October 2026); Pafburn [2024] HCA 49 on builders' duty; the Building (Approvals and Practitioners) Act 2026.
- **Other forms of shelter.** Aged Care Act 2024 (Cth) from 1 November 2025.
- **Federal reform.** Treasury Laws Amendment (Tax Reform No. 1) Act 2026 (Cth): from 1 July 2027, net rental losses on established homes bought after Budget night offset only against property income.
- **Limits.** Enforcement relies on tenants using NCAT (28,193 tenancy applications in 2024-25); affordability is outside what tenancy law can fix: 7 of 12,155 rentals affordable on a single minimum wage (Anglicare, March 2026); 71,317 households waiting for social housing (August 2026).
- **Judgement.** For example: reform since 2024 has rebalanced renting towards tenants, but it protects people who already have a home more than people trying to secure one.

QUESTION 29 (B) · SHELTER: AFFORDABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS

- **Affordability.** Sydney median dwelling value $1,198,596 (September 2026); median rent for new leases $780 a week (June quarter 2026, up 5.4 per cent); cash rate 4.85 per cent from 4 November 2026; the 5% Deposit Scheme (102,594 first home buyers in its first year); Help to Buy; the 2026 tax reform Act.
- **Homelessness.** 122,494 Australians homeless on Census night 2021; 2,308 people sleeping rough in the 2026 NSW Street Count, up 5 per cent; the NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025 to 2035; the end of no grounds evictions as prevention; ICESCR art 11 and the CESCR's 2026 finding of a "persistent shortage of affordable housing".
- **Non-legal responses.** Homelessness NSW, Shelter NSW, the Tenants' Union, Anglicare's Rental Affordability Snapshot, media.
- **Judgement.** For example: legal responses to both issues are mostly indirect and slow; prevention law helps at the margins, but supply and price are beyond the reach of tenancy law.

Sample paragraph, Question 29 (b). The law responds to homelessness mainly by trying to prevent it, and prevention law has improved. Since 19 May 2025 a NSW landlord can no longer end a periodic lease without a reason, which removes one of the commonest routes from renting into homelessness, and from 21 September 2026 victims of domestic violence have stronger rights to leave a lease safely. Yet the 2026 NSW Street Count found 2,308 people sleeping rough, up 5 per cent, and 71,317 households were waiting for social housing at 31 August 2026. Australia has ratified the ICESCR, whose article 11 recognises a right to housing, but no Australian law makes that right enforceable, and in February 2026 the UN committee found a persistent shortage of affordable housing. Judged by accessibility, the law protects people inside the housing system far better than it helps people who have already fallen out of it.

QUESTION 30 (A) · WORKPLACE: LAW REFORM

- **Bargaining and pay.** Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022 (Cth): multi-employer bargaining, pay secrecy banned; wage theft a crime from 1 January 2025 (s 327A); national minimum wage $1,004.90 a week from 1 July 2026.
- **Security of work.** The employee and casual definitions (26 August 2024), reversing Personnel Contracting [2022] HCA 1 in part; the right to disconnect (26 August 2024).
- **Safety and harassment.** The positive duty to prevent sexual harassment (13 December 2022); NSW industrial manslaughter (16 September 2024: 25 years, $20 million).
- **Leave.** Paid family and domestic violence leave (10 days); government paid parental leave 26 weeks from 1 July 2026.

- **Limits.** Enforcement and compliance: Qantas Airways Ltd v TWU [2023] HCA 27 and the $90 million penalty (18 August 2025) came years after 1,820 jobs were lost; underpayment persists (FWO v Woolworths [2025] FCA 1092); the full-time gender pay gap is 11.3 per cent (ABS, May 2026).
- **Judgement.** For example: reform since 2022 has shifted the balance back towards employees and made the worst breaches criminal, but it works only as fast as enforcement does.

QUESTION 30 (B) · WORKPLACE: SAFETY AND LEAVE

- **Safety.** Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW): the PCBU's primary duty (s 19), officers' due diligence (s 27), industrial manslaughter (s 34C, from 16 September 2024); psychosocial hazards regulation (2022); SafeWork NSW; workers compensation reforms (1 July 2026).
- **Leave.** The National Employment Standards: annual, personal, compassionate and long service leave; paid family and domestic violence leave; parental leave and 26 weeks' government pay from 1 July 2026; Mondelez Australia v AMWU [2020] HCA 29 (a "day" is a notional day of ordinary hours, so full-time employees on any shift pattern get the same 76 hours); flexible work requests (s 65).
- **Non-legal responses.** Unions campaign and inspect; media exposure; employer associations shape the debate.
- **Judgement.** For example: the law now sets strong standards for both, but safety depends on enforcement and leave on whether workers, especially casuals, can use it.

Sample paragraph, Question 30 (a). Judged by enforceability, the most important workplace reform of recent years is the criminalisation of the worst breaches. From 1 January 2025 intentionally underpaying an employee became a Commonwealth crime (Fair Work Act s 327A), and from 16 September 2024 NSW made industrial manslaughter an offence carrying up to 25 years' imprisonment and a $20 million fine for a company. Both reforms reflect changing values: underpayment and deaths at work are now treated as wrongs against the community, not merely breaches of contract. Yet the same period shows how slowly enforcement works. Qantas unlawfully outsourced 1,820 ground handling jobs in 2020; the High Court confirmed the breach in 2023, and the $90 million penalty came only on 18 August 2025. Reform has raised the cost of breaking the law, but for workers who lost their jobs, justice arrived five years late.

QUESTION 31 (A) · WORLD ORDER: LAW REFORM

- **Charter and treaties.** The UN Charter (1945): arts 2(4), 51; the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols; the Rome Statute (crime of aggression activated 2018); the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (in force 2021).
- **Reform of practice.** Uniting for Peace 377(V) (1950); the veto initiative 76/262 (2022): a General Assembly debate after every veto; the responsibility to protect (2005); the aggression tribunal agreement for Ukraine (25 June 2025).
- **Reform that has gone backwards.** New START expired (5 February 2026); the NPT Review Conference failed (May 2026); withdrawals from the Ottawa landmine convention (2025, 2026); a 25 per cent cut to peacekeeping personnel (2025 to 2026).
- **Australia.** Recognition of Palestine (21 September 2025); autonomous sanctions (more than 1,800 Russia-related targets by February 2026); Div 268 war crime prosecutions.
- **Judgement.** For example: law reform has built institutions, but the most important reform, limiting the veto, has never happened, so reform improves world order only where the permanent members are not involved.

QUESTION 31 (B) · WORLD ORDER: GLOBAL COOPERATION

- **Where cooperation succeeds.** Security Council resolution 2803 on Gaza (17 November 2025, 13 to 0 with 2 abstentions) and the October 2025 ceasefire; ASEAN observers (2025); Pakistan's mediation between the US and Iran (April 2026); the ICC conviction of Kushayb (6 October 2025) and the confirmation of charges against Duterte (April 2026; trial pending as of October 2026); General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 (141 to 5).
- **Where it fails.** Vetoes (7 April and 17 September 2026); Sudan (11.8 million displaced by September 2025, UNHCR; El Fasher, October 2025); New START and the NPT; 350 aid workers killed in 2025 (OCHA).
- **Situation.** For example, Ukraine (16,431 civilians verified killed, OHCHR, July 2026), Sudan, or Gaza.
- **Judgement.** For example: global cooperation succeeds when the great powers' interests align and fails when they are parties to the conflict.

Sample paragraph, Question 31 (b). Global cooperation has achieved least where a permanent member of the Security Council is a party to the conflict. Russia's invasion of Ukraine shows the pattern: the General Assembly demanded Russia's withdrawal by 141 votes to 5 on 2 March 2022, and the International Court of Justice ordered it to suspend military operations on 16 March 2022, yet the war continued, and by July 2026 OHCHR had verified 16,431 civilian deaths. Because article 27(3) of the Charter gives Russia a veto, the Council, the one body that can bind every state, could not act.

Cooperation succeeded in a different form: by February 2026 Australia alone had imposed sanctions on more than 1,800 Russia-related targets, and an agreement to create a special tribunal for the crime of aggression was signed on 25 June 2025. Judged by the criterion of resolving conflict, cooperation has punished the aggression without ending it.

What separates 21 from 15, in any option.

- A judgement in the first paragraph, against a named criterion, that the whole answer argues.
- Both named issues developed, where the question names two, with evidence for each.
- Evidence with a date and source in every paragraph, including at least one development from 2024 to 2026.
- A limitation that the conclusion weighs, rather than a list of strengths followed by "however".

What this paper covers

PART OF THE COURSE	SEC I	SEC II	SEC III	TOTAL
Crime	15	15	0	30
Human rights	5	15	0	20
Two options (your choice of seven)	0	0	50	50
Whole paper	20	30	50	100

Section I covers every Crime content area: the nature of crime (Questions 1 to 3), the investigation process (4 to 6), the trial process (7 to 9), sentencing and punishment (10 to 12), young offenders (13 and 14) and international crime (15). Human rights items cover the nature and development of rights (16 to 18) and promoting and enforcing them (19 and 20). Practice Paper 2 is a little harder: more of its multiple choice items apply the law to facts, its Part B is a theme question built on a quotation, and its Section III asks you to weigh competing interests.

Sources behind the marking guidance

Legislation from the NSW Legislation and Federal Register of Legislation websites; judgments from AustLII and the courts' own sites; BOCSAR Custody Statistics and Crime and Justice Bulletins (2020 to 2026); ABS, Crime Victimisation 2024-25; Productivity Commission, Closing the Gap dashboard (July 2026); Home Affairs detention statistics (31 July 2026); Human Rights Watch (28 June 2026); National Anti-Scam Centre (March 2026); AIATSIS, NILS4 (28 July 2026); DCJ social housing waiting list (31 August 2026); Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot (2026); WGEA; OHCHR and UN press releases (2025 and 2026). All as cited in the MA99 Topic Notes and current as at October 2026.

Attempt record

Come back every few weeks and date it. Improvement in a written subject is invisible from the inside, which is why students who are getting better so often believe they are not.

DATE	SECTION I /20	PART A /15	PART B /15	OPTION 1 /25	OPTION 2 /25	THE ONE THING TO FIX NEXT TIME

About this resource

MA99 EDUCATION

Scope

NSW Legal Studies, Year 12. Written to the NSW Legal Studies Stage 6 Syllabus 2009, the whole HSC course: Crime, Human rights and all seven options, for students sitting the HSC in 2027. A new Legal Studies syllabus is first examined in HSC 2028. Written to the 2009 syllabus, examined for the last time in the 2027 HSC. Cases, legislation and reports are real and cited as at October 2026; check for later changes before relying on them.

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