

THE VICTORIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM – TERM 3, 2024

Areas of study

What is Law?

Types of Laws

What is a crime?

The Elements of Criminal Law

The Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)

Types of Offences

The Courts Hierarchy

Precedent and appeal

The principles of justice: fairness, equality and access

key concepts in the Victorian criminal justice system, including:

- the distinction between summary offences and indictable offences
- the burden of proof
- the standard of proof
- the presumption of innocence

The rights of an accused, including the right to be tried without unreasonable delay, the right to a fair hearing, and the right to trial by jury

The rights of victims, including the right to give evidence as a vulnerable witness, the right to be informed about

The proceedings, and the right to be informed of the likely release date of the accused.

Determining a criminal case

The role of institutions available to assist an accused, including Victoria Legal Aid and Victorian community legalcentres the purposes of committal proceedings

the purposes and appropriateness of plea negotiations and sentence indications in determining criminal cases.

The responsibilities of key personnel in a criminal trial, including the judge, jury, parties and legal practitioners

The purposes of sanctions: rehabilitation, punishment, deterrence, denunciation and protection

fines, community corrections orders and imprisonment, and their specific purposes

Factors considered in sentencing, including aggravating factors, mitigating factors, guilty pleas and victim impact statements.