

Title	Explain concepts of law		
Level	2	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to explain concepts of law.
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Classification	Social Science Studies > Legal Studies
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Available grade	Achieved, Merit, and Excellence
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Criteria for Merit	<p>The explanation of one key element for each of the two concepts of law is demonstrated by selecting actual examples and applying relevant supporting detail that may include but is not limited to any one of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • particular facts and their importance within the actual examples; • particular legislation; • case law; • news media reports.
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Criteria for Excellence	<p>The fully developed explanation of one key element for each of the two concepts of law is demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying each concept of law to an actual example; • selecting and applying a range of relevant supporting detail; • communicating clear conclusions.
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Guidance Information

- 1 Teaching and learning guidelines that inform legal studies as it is taught in New Zealand can be found at <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/Social-sciences/Legal-studies>. Assessment support material for these standards can be found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/legalstudies>.

This unit standard can be awarded with an Achieved, Merit, or Excellence grade. For the Achieved grade to be awarded, all outcomes must be achieved as specified in the outcome statement(s). For Merit or Excellence grades to be awarded, the candidate must meet the Merit or Excellence criteria specified above.

2 Definitions

Actual examples refer to actual cases from past, present, New Zealand or overseas law, or to a particular area of law or piece of legislation.

Case law refers to the collection of past legal decision written by courts and similar tribunals in the course of deciding cases, in which the law was analysed using these cases to resolve ambiguities for deciding current cases. These past decisions are called "case law", or precedent.

Concepts of law are the ideas and understandings that underpin the discipline of law. Examples include but are not limited to – tikanga Māori (customary law); human rights; freedom of the press; natural justice; negligence; contract; crime; property; privacy.

Fully developed refers to being accurate, detailed, and well researched.

News media refers to factual reporting and journalistic narratives in print media, broadcast media and the Internet.

Key elements are the generally accepted components of a concept of law; for example, the elements of the concept of crime would include actus reus, mens rea, prohibition by statute.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Explain concepts of law.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Two concepts of law are explained in terms of the key elements for each in relation to actual examples.

Range key elements for each of two concepts of law.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 8543 and unit standard 8554.
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Planned review date	31 December 2027
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	14 December 2012	31 December 2019
Review	2	23 November 2017	31 December 2024
Review	3	2 March 2023	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0226
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact NZQA National Qualifications Services nqs@nzqa.govt.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.