



RULE OF LAW

EDUCATION CENTRE

NSW Court Experience Programs

HSC Legal Studies

Booklet 1: Suggested Pre-Learning Activities



1. Think, Pair, Share

The justice process is

Court protocols are important to the rule of law because they

What I am expecting to see at the courts is

Judges make decisions based on

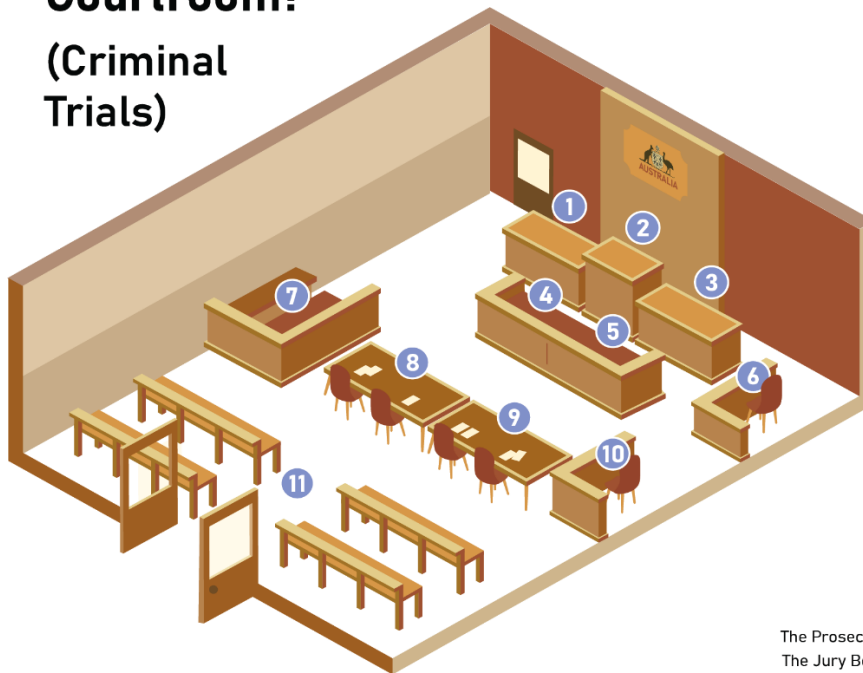


2. Court personnel review.

Activity 1: Can You Match the Person to Their Role? (Criminal Trials)

 Judge, Magistrate or Justice	Interpret the law to make a judgement on the outcome of the case.	The person who is accused of breaking the law. They may be asked to testify.	 Media
 Tipstaff	Interpret the facts of the case and determine which facts are likely to be true.	Report on cases of interest and concern to the public.	 Defendant
 Defence	Present information or evidence to the court regarding the case.	Direct people to maintain the safety, security and order of the court.	 Judge's Associate
 Juror	Provide legal research, in-court duties and other support for the Judge.	Acts as a personal assistant or administrative secretary to the Judge.	 Court Reporter
 Witness	Represent and protect the rights of the Defendant in court.	Observes the proceedings in court.	 Court Officer
 Prosecution	Presents a case in support of the Defendant's conviction.	Responsible for transcribing and recording the proceedings in court.	 Member of the Public

Activity 2: Who's Who in the Courtroom? (Criminal Trials)



Fill in the blanks:

- W___s_ B_x ①
- ___d__ ②
- ___ps___f ③
- J___'___ss___ ④
- ___t R___ ⑤
- Co___ff___ ⑥
- ___ur_ B___ ⑦
- ___r___c___n ⑧
- D_f___e ⑨
- ___oc_ ⑩
- P___al___y ⑪
- + ⑪
- ___ed___ ⑪

Hints:

- The Prosecution sits close to the Jury Box.
- The Jury Box is directly opposite the Dock.
- The Dock is where the Defendant sits.
- The Tipstaff sits on the Judge's left.



3. Key terms you may hear in court.

Here are some key terms you may hear used in court. Find and write definitions for the blank terms below.

Bail

AVO

Suspended Sentence

CCO (Community Corrections Order)

Adjourn

Breach

Where conditions of an order made by the courts are broken by an accused or offender, such as a Bail order, Community Corrections Order etc.

Sentence

Custodial Sentence



Sentencing Guidelines

Guidelines that have been written to assist judicial officers in making their sentencing decisions. These help to provide consistency in the way accused persons committing similar offences are sentenced, however, you will notice that judicial officers will take into account a number of factors relating specifically to the accused before them and use their discretion to decide on the most appropriate punishment.

Penalty units

Penalty units refer to a monetary penalty (fine) and they define the amount payable for committing different offences. Different offences attract different quantities of penalty units. Currently, the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* of NSW states that one penalty unit is equal to \$110. The *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) sets out the penalties for different offences, for example, stealing plants, vegetables, fruit etc from a garden carries a fine of 5 penalty units (\$550). Fines can also be paired with other types of sentence, for example, spiking another person's drinks or food with an intoxicating substance attracts 100 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.

Fine

Legal Aid

Self-represented

Police prosecutor

Police officers that are making the case for the Crown in the Local Court. They do not dress in uniform and are not lawyers, and you may hear Magistrates refer to them by their rank (for example, Sergeant).

Mister, Miss or Madame crown

The prosecutor representing the Crown in a criminal case.

Sequence

The charges that have been laid against the accused. You will not hear what the charge is, rather court personnel will refer to sequence 1, sequence 2 etc.