

The legal framework

- 1 Match the following definitions to the words underneath the grid.

1.	The party that commences a civil action
2.	A process to determine whether someone committed a criminal act or caused another person a loss
3.	An application for a legal decision to be reviewed in a higher court
4.	To bring a civil action against another person for causing damage or injury
5.	Disorder or confusion due to the absence of government or laws
6.	The standard of proof required in a criminal trial
7.	A court official who hears cases in the lowest court of law
8.	To release an accused person who is awaiting trial. Another person usually guarantees to pay a large sum of money if the accused does not later appear in court on a certain date.
9.	A court official who has the power to make decisions on matters brought before a court of law
10.	A hearing in a Local Court to decide whether there is enough evidence to put a person on trial for an indictable (serious) offence

bail	appeal
plaintiff	committal hearing
beyond reasonable doubt	trial
judge	anarchy
sue	magistrate

- 2 Which sort of society would you prefer to live in – one with too many laws, or one with too few? Explain.
- 3 List the basic rules that apply within your home. How are these rules different to laws?

- 4 What is the role of the court?
- 5 Write a brief report of a criminal court case using the following words:

beyond reasonable doubt	prosecution
judge	jury
guilty	appeal
counsel for the defence	murder

- 6 (a) Draw a diagram to show the structure of the court hierarchy.
 (b) Explain why a hierarchy is necessary for the system of appeals to operate.
- 7 In a court, who wears a wig and is addressed as 'Your Honour'?

Areas of law

- 8 What is the difference between:
 (a) *criminal* and *civil* law
 (b) *indictable offences* and *summary offences*
 (c) *common law* and *statute law*?
- 9 Provide examples of two laws that reflect the values of our society.
- 10 Explain how laws can be changed.
- 11 Should decisions made by judges 50 years ago set a precedent for what happens today?

Using the legal system

- 12 What is meant by the term 'access'?
- 13 What factors create barriers to accessing the law?
- 14 Identify those groups in society that may have trouble in achieving equal access to the law.
- 15 You can be found guilty of breaking a law even if you did not know about it. Is this fair? Why?
- 16 List three government websites that provide information about legal issues.
- 17 What is meant by the statement, 'justice delayed is justice denied'?
- 18 Draw the figure used to represent justice. Highlight and explain the three symbols of justice.
- 19 What is the role of the Legal Aid Commission?