

Introduction to Australian Law and Justice

Legal Studies · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the primary function of the judiciary in Australia?

- A) To create new laws
- B) To enforce existing laws
- C) To interpret and apply the law**
- D) To manage the national budget

2. Which document acts as the supreme law of Australia?

- A) The Criminal Code
- B) The Australian Constitution**
- C) The Magna Carta
- D) The Common Law

3. What is the role of the Governor-General in the federal legislative process?

- A) To draft legislation
- B) To grant Royal Assent to bills**
- C) To preside over the High Court
- D) To arrest criminals

4. In the Australian court hierarchy, which court sits at the top?

- A) Federal Court
- B) Supreme Court
- C) High Court**
- D) District Court

5. Which branch of government is responsible for creating legislation?

- A) The Legislature**
- B) The Judiciary
- C) The Executive
- D) The Police

6. What does the term 'statute law' refer to?

- A) Laws made by judges
- B) Laws made by parliament**
- C) Customary laws
- D) International treaties

7. Which principle ensures that no individual or government is above the law?

- A) Separation of Powers
- B) Rule of Law**
- C) Bicameralism
- D) Presumption of innocence

8. What is the main role of the Executive branch?

- A) To interpret legislation
- B) To administer and implement the law**
- C) To resolve disputes between citizens
- D) To act as the final court of appeal

9. Who is the formal head of state in Australia?

- A) The Prime Minister
- B) The Chief Justice
- C) The Monarch**
- D) The Governor

10. What is a 'precedent' in common law?

- A) A law passed by parliament
- B) A previous court decision that guides future cases**
- C) A written document of rights
- D) A legal argument from a lawyer

11. What is the standard of proof in a criminal trial?

- A) Balance of probabilities
- B) Beyond reasonable doubt**
- C) Preponderance of evidence
- D) Substantial evidence

12. Which of these is a function of the Australian police force?

- A) Passing new laws
- B) Adjudicating trials
- C) Investigating suspected crimes**
- D) Drafting constitutional amendments

13. What does 'bicameral' mean in the context of the Australian Parliament?

- A) Having one house
- B) Having two houses**
- C) Having a supreme court
- D) Having a head of state

14. Which court is generally responsible for hearing the most serious criminal offences?

- A) Local Court
- B) Magistrates Court
- C) Supreme Court**
- D) Tribunal

15. What is the primary role of a jury in a criminal trial?

- A) To sentence the offender
- B) To determine the facts of the case**
- C) To draft the verdict legislation
- D) To interpret the Constitution

16. Who is responsible for representing the Crown in a criminal prosecution?

- A) The defendant
- B) The prosecutor**
- C) The magistrate
- D) The defence barrister

17. What is the 'Separation of Powers' designed to do?

- A) Combine all power in one person
- B) Prevent the abuse of power**
- C) Ensure only the wealthy govern
- D) Remove the need for courts

18. Which document outlines the division of powers between the Commonwealth and the States?

- A) The Evidence Act
- B) The Australian Constitution**
- C) The Crimes Act
- D) The Human Rights Charter

19. What is the 'burden of proof' in a criminal case?

- A) The defendant's responsibility
- B) The prosecution's responsibility**
- C) The judge's responsibility
- D) The jury's responsibility

20. What is an act of parliament also known as?

A) A regulation

B) A piece of legislation

C) A legal precedent

D) A common law rule