

BC's SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Social Studies 12. Law Studies




To assist secondary school teachers, we evaluated where materials from this textbook align with British Columbia's Curriculum for teaching Social Studies courses. We followed BC's Curriculum Model, focussing on each of the three elements:

- Big Ideas.
What students are expected to understand
- Curricular Competencies.
What students are expected to do
- Content.
What students are expected to know

Our aim is to help teachers understand where and how the materials in this textbook can be incorporated in their courses to meet provincial learning standards. For reference, the contents of the textbook are included as an Appendix.

Using the materials available on the [Ministry's website](#), we identified Social Studies courses that we believe can incorporate parts of the textbook. We used a rating scale (shown in the table below) to indicate where and how well the textbook's Cases, Applications, and Learning Modules align with the Big Ideas, Competencies, Content, and corresponding elaborations for each course.

The detailed assessment below shows where and how well the textbook materials align with the BC Curriculum for **Social Studies 12. Law Studies**. We used the following three-point scale:

-  Strong alignment with competencies
-  Moderate alignment with competencies
-  Minor alignment with competencies

BIG IDEAS

Understanding legal rights and responsibilities allows citizens to participate more fully in society.	Laws can maintain the status quo and can also be a force for change.	A society's laws and legal framework affect many aspects of people's daily lives.	Laws are interpreted, and these interpretations may evolve over time as a society's values and worldviews change.
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Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <p>Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions</p> <p>Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems or codes (significance)</p> <p>Assess the justification for differing legal perspectives after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence)</p> <p>Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems or codes across jurisdictions (continuity and change)</p> <p>Assess the development and impact of legal systems or codes (cause and consequence)</p> <p>Explain and infer multiple perspectives on legal systems or codes (perspective)</p> <p>Make reasoned ethical judgments about legal systems or codes (ethical judgment)</p> <p>Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy (ethical judgment)</p>	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <p>the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</p> <p>structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals</p> <p>key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family, children's, and youth law</p> <p>Canadian legislation concerning First Peoples</p> <p>indigenous legal orders and traditional laws in Canada and other global jurisdictions</p> <p>Canada's correctional system and principles of rehabilitation, punishment, and restoration</p> <p>structures and roles of global dispute resolution agencies and courts</p>

Curricular Competencies – Elaborations

Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions:

- **All applications place the student in a position of an ‘expert’ in which they must analyse the situation and decide how to address the issues. The exercises can include both written and oral communication. The cases and relevant learning modules provide context that students must interpret and analyse.**
- **Learning Module. Property Rights and Land Tenure**

Sample activities:

Examine and explain how to resolve a legal issue in an area of civil law, such as rental agreements, employment, or separation.

Investigate which legal resources are available in the community to help people deal with a selected legal issue, including how to represent themselves in court or in front of a tribunal.

Research alternative methods and strategies to resolve conflicts before they become legal problems.

Assess different types of evidence and how to determine bias, reliability, and relevance in a source of evidence.

Conduct a mock trial or debate to judge a legal case or issue.

Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems or codes (significance):

- **Learning Module. Indigenous Title and Rights
Includes a summary of important Supreme Court decisions.**
- **All Case Studies.
All land use planning affects the lives of citizens. For all case studies, the Cases and Applications examine a land use situation that affect a person, First Nation, or corporation’s rights to use land.**

Sample activities:

Assess the significance of the Constitution Act, 1982, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to human rights in Canada.

Analyze the role of global dispute resolution institutions and agencies in international human rights and economic development issues.

Assess the role of the judiciary as a constitutional check on legislative power.

Analyze the role of the International Court of Justice (the World Court) at The Hague in cases involving human rights abuses.

Determine the importance of key legal principles, cases, social forces, and events in the evolution of law.

Assess the impact that a law, court decision, or legal principle has on legal structures and/or the lives of citizens.

Assess the impact of social and/or political forces on the development of law.

Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems or codes across jurisdictions (continuity and change):

Sample activities:

Compare and contrast different views on the role of the correctional system in Canada.

Analyze how and why laws, justice system structures and practices, legal precedents, and legislative agendas change over time.

Analyze forces that reinforce continuity and factors that have both short-term and long-term effects on legal systems and the administration of justice.

Curricular Competencies – Elaborations

Explain and infer multiple perspectives on legal systems or codes (perspective):

Sample activities:

Analyze whether Canadian laws regarding the rights of minority groups evolved because of, or in spite of, popular support for change.
Analyze legal principles such as fairness, justice, equality, the presumption of innocence, and the rule of law by examining a variety of legal issues, controversies, and cases.

Make reasoned ethical judgments about legal systems or codes (ethical judgment):

Sample activity:

Investigate ways the legal system has been used in the past to maintain inequalities.

Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy (ethical judgment):

➤ **All Case Studies.**

For all case studies, the relation between society and laws are reflected in the combination of the Cases, which present the societal context, and the Applications, which focus on property rights.

Sample activities:

Assess cases in which the legal system has made rulings on human rights, and evaluate the extent to which these decisions advanced or infringed on the rights of those affected.

Consider how laws affect society and how society affects laws.

Examine the roles of the different branches of government in the development of law in Canada and how laws affect or accommodate different groups.

Consider the interactions between various sides in trials and other legal disputes.

Content – Elaborations

structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals:

Sample topics:

- discriminatory laws and reform processes
- importance of independence of the judiciary and lawyers
- case and common law
- role of deterrence and denunciation in the correctional system
- victims' rights and the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights
- rights of the accused
- appeals process
- small claims

key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family, children's, and youth law:

Sample topics:

- Criminal Code
- burden of proof (reasonable doubt versus balance of probability)
- the importance of checks and balances to prevent wrongful convictions
- Young Offenders Act
- Youth Criminal Justice Act

Canadian legislation concerning First Peoples:

- **First Nations Reserve Planning**
Indian Act, First Nations Land Management Agreement, First Nations Land Code
- **Application. Haida Gwaii Joint Land Use Planning**
Addresses Government-to-Government (Joint) land use planning
- **Case. Kemess North**
Examines First Nation's involvement in Environmental Assessment of proposed mine.
- **Learning Module. Indigenous Title and Rights**
Includes a summary of important Supreme Court decisions.

Sample topics:

- treaty processes
- 1763 Royal Proclamation
- Indian Act**
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Constitution Act, 1982
- right to self-determination/self-government

Content – Elaborations

indigenous legal orders and traditional laws in Canada and other global jurisdictions:

Sample topics:

Tlicho Nation laws in place names
Gitksan oral histories and traditions
Gitksan decentralized decision making
alternative dispute resolution processes, including restorative justice

historical relationships between peoples as a basis to negotiate treaty boundaries
Cree reciprocal legal responsibilities and obligations within kinship networks
Tsimshian injury law and patriarchal resolution
matrilineal and patrilineal kinship networks

Canada’s correctional system and principles of rehabilitation, punishment, and restoration:

Sample topics:

provincial and federal correctional institutions
educational opportunities in correctional institutions
career training opportunities in correctional institutions
funding structures and financial costs of incarceration
correctional institutions for youth
levels and types of incarceration between and within correctional institutions
community responses to crime
supportive reintegration of paroled offenders into society, risk assessment, and monitoring options

structures and roles of global dispute resolution agencies and courts:

Sample topics:

International Court of Justice
World Trade Organization
United Nations
trade disputes and agreements
global initiatives on climate change