

Abstract

There is no legal study course (subject) offered in Sri Lankan Advanced Level studies and its necessity is elaborated by fact that a limited number of students are selected, via a highly competitive exam, for higher studies in law in government universities have received little to no foundational knowledge about law in their Advanced Level studies. Nevertheless, law is taught as an Advanced Level or parallel level subject in international education systems, such as Cambridge, Edexcel and Queensland education systems. The research has reviewed law syllabuses of above education systems and has conducted a survey of a group of experts comprised of legal educators and academics in order to determine suitable objectives, thematic content, assessment objectives and methods of a law syllabus for Advanced Level studies in Sri Lanka. Findings of the research led to the formulation of suitable recommendations for a law for Advanced Level studies. Thus, a suitable law syllabus should have the broader objectives of providing a foundation for higher studies in law and lead to careers in law. Students should be provided a descriptive study of substantive law areas and the legal system, and theoretical, social and historical study of law and the legal system. It should facilitate legal capacity building throughout the course. All areas in the syllabus should be compulsory and examinable. The principal assessment method should be by a final written exam, without any practical component, administered by education authorities. Assessment objectives should assess levels of knowledge, understanding, evaluation, analysis and presentation of the thematic content of the law syllabus. Recommendations and findings of this research could form a stepping stone for future research on the same topic and be used as a starting point to develop general legal courses, as part of wider public legal education programs, taught either in school education system or other mechanisms.