

LW103 Principles of Business Law

Legal Problem Set #1 Topic Sheet

Submission Instructions

Answers must be submitted electronically through Turnitin by **23:55 on Friday, 11 April 2025** (week 6). Submit a single document that includes Sheridan's cover sheet. Submit in **.docx or .pdf format only** to ensure successful submission.

Late submission will incur the standard late penalty described at page six of Sheridan's BBus Course Outline, i.e. 'a penalty of 5% deduction per day of the maximum mark possible. Students may receive a score of 0 if work is submitted more than one week late.'

The word limit is **1500 words**. (The cover sheet does not count toward the word limit.) A penalty of 10% of the total mark will be imposed on essays that exceed the word limit by more than 10%. Essays shorter than the word limit will not be subject to a penalty.

Assignment Instructions

Reminder: Generative AI software should **not** be used to generate ideas or text, or to check grammar for this item of assessment.

Answers will be marked as a percentage (i.e. out of 100). It is worth **25%** of your total grade.

Be sure to analyse BOTH parts of the problem scenario.

Your answers do not have to conform to a particular structure, provided that you i) identify all relevant issues in the fact patterns and ii) explain how the rules of business law apply to each issue. The use of headings to identify issues and sub-issues is recommended (but not required). The law to be applied is Australian business law, as described in the textbook. No outside research is required to analyse this problem. **In the interests of fairness to all students, the lecturer cannot respond to student questions about the content of the problem scenario.**

Citation of legal authorities: When citing rules derived from a case or legislation, you may adopt the format used in the textbook - for example, 'Varley v Whipp' (for case law) or 's 3 of the Australian Consumer law' (for a rule derived from legislation).

Problem scenario

While having coffee with a group of friends at a trendy café, university student Denny Doolittle is complaining about his classes this semester, which he finds uninspiring. “Has anyone taken Rudimentary Film Studies with Dr Tuttle,” Denny asks. “The unit content sounded interesting, but my goodness, what an awful lecturer – I simply could not stay awake in class. Because the lectures are recorded, I decided to skip class and view the lectures at home, but ‘Tedious Tuttle’s’ muffled monotone put me to sleep in less than 5 minutes. I will gladly give a pair of pineapples to anyone who can stay awake through an entire lecture by Tuttle.” (A pineapple is, of course, a tropical fruit, but in the local slang known to Denny and his friends, the word pineapple can also mean a yellow \$50 banknote.)

One of Denny’s university friends, Maya Mute, listens to Denny’s remarks but says nothing. At home later that evening, Maya logs into the learning materials of Rudimentary Film Studies and records herself watching an entire 45-minute lecture by Dr Tuttle. Maya then sends this recording to Denny, demanding a pair of pineapples (i.e. \$100).

A. Suppose that Denny’s offer of ‘a pair of pineapples’ was meant to be understood as a joke. In this case, could there be an enforceable contract between Denny and Maya? Explain your answer. (Limit your analysis to issues discussed in chapter 3 of the textbook.) [70 marks]

B. Suppose instead that Denny’s offer of ‘a pair of pineapples’ was intended to mean pineapple fruit, the market price of which is 2 for \$10. In this case, could there be an enforceable contract between Denny and Maya? Explain your answer. (Limit your analysis to issues discussed in chapter 3 of the textbook.) [30 marks]