4. Step two in the IRAC method: the rule

This chapter presents techniques and tips for identifying and discussing the rules, the second step in the IRAC method of legal essay writing. Many students worry that they will not know enough ‘law’ to do well on their exams and essays, but this chapter provides key tips on how to maximise the effectiveness of each student’s knowledge. The discussion identifies the steps involved in writing a first-class essay in law: the purpose of supporting authority (‘rules’) in legal writing; what constitutes supporting authority in legal writing; how to compile the relevant supporting legal authority; and how to communicate the relevant supporting authority in the essay. Writing tips are provided throughout the chapter. A worked example is also given.
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