# 12 Steps

The suggested order of steps is set out below. This is not a definitive answer plan, but an answer method that sets out logically the steps you should be taking when solving a legal problem. Being clear and methodical is important in Land law, as much of the module requires you to accurately identify issues and rights, before considering how or why they are applied. The order is not rigid, for example after step 7 you may need to go back to step 5. If you placed the steps in a different order, consider carefully why you think the order is different in the preferred answer.

1. Identify the area of law.
2. Identify the actual problem. What is the point in dispute?
3. Identify the main principles of law involved, stating their source.
4. Identify the relevant facts.
5. Apply the principles to the facts considering carefully every part of each principle.
6. If any part of a principle is difficult to apply, consider additional authorities.
7. If the principle is in doubt, for example, because there are conflicting judicial decisions state the alternatives and try to reconcile them. If that is not possible, argue what the principle should be.
8. If there is no settled principle on the problem, consider close and analogous principles.
9. If several principles are involved, consider carefully the order in which they are applied.
10. If there is doubt as to the principles to apply or difficulty in the application of the principle consider secondary sources, giving citation for all sources used.
11. Read your answer critically. Always try to come to a reasoned conclusion.
12. Consider if further comment is required.