

Year
12

Law - A Level

Following the OCR specification, the A level curriculum is intended to introduce students to six areas of study: The Legal System, Criminal Law, Tort Law, Law Making, Human Rights Law and The Nature of Law.



Criminal Law

Rules and theory

To begin Year 12, students will gain an overview of the theory of criminal law and will be able to outline its rules.

General elements of criminal liability:

- Actus reus - conduct and consequence crimes; voluntary acts and omissions; involuntariness; causation
- Mens rea - fault; intention and subjective recklessness; negligence and strict liability; transferred malice; coincidence of actus reus and mens rea

Fatal offences against the person:

Voluntary manslaughter - defences of loss of control and diminished responsibility under Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Murder - actus reus and mens rea

Involuntary manslaughter - unlawful act manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter



Non-fatal offences against the person:

- Common assault - assault and battery under s39 Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding and grievous bodily harm under s47, s20, s18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861



Complex and multi-step problem solving

The ability to break down a task, decide on a suitable approach, and then act



Mental capacity defences:

Insanity, automatism and intoxication

Offences against property:
Theft, robbery and burglary



General defences:

- Self-defense, duress by threats, duress of circumstances and necessity
- Consent

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Preliminary offences:

Attempts - the actus reus and mens rea; impossibility



Intellectual confidence

The ability to articulate personal views based on evidence

Critical evaluation of:

Non-fatal offences against the person

Ideas for reform

Defences - intoxication, self-defense and consent



EMPATHETIC

Collaborative

Students will complete a group project on evaluation



The Legal System

Civil courts and other forms of dispute resolution:

- County Court and High Court
- Appeals and appellate courts
- Employment tribunals and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Advantages and disadvantages of using the civil courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution to resolve disputes

Criminal courts and lay people:

- Criminal process
- Appeals and appellate courts
- Sentencing and court powers
- Lay magistrates and juries
- The advantages and disadvantages of using juries in criminal cases

Legal personnel

Barristers, solicitors, legal executives.

The judiciary:

- Types and role in civil and criminal courts
- The separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary

Precision

The ability to work effectively within the rules of a domain



LINKING



Connection finding

The ability to extrapolate understanding to other situations



Access to justice:

- Government funding for civil and criminal cases
- Private funding, conditional fees, other advice agencies
- Evaluation of access to justice

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Intellectual confidence

The ability to articulate personal views based on evidence, in particular when using an advanced range of legal terminology.



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Law Making

Delegated legislation

Studying the types, reasons for use, advantages and disadvantages, as well as the controls of delegated legislation by Parliament and the courts, and their effectiveness.



Parliamentary law making

Learning about the legislative process and its advantages and disadvantages.

LINKING



Connection finding

The ability to extrapolate understanding to other situations

Statutory interpretation:

- Rules of statutory interpretation
 - The purposive approach
- Intrinsic and extrinsic aids to interpretation
- Impact of European Union Law and the Human Rights Act 1998
- Advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches

Judicial precedent

- The Doctrine of Precedent including stare decisis, ratio decidendi and obiter dicta
 - The hierarchy of the courts
- Binding, persuasive and original precedent; overruling; reversing; distinguishing
- Advantages and disadvantages of precedent



European Union law:

- Institutions of the European Union
- Sources of European Union law
- Impact of European Union law on the law of England and Wales

LINKING



Abstraction

The ability to move from concrete to abstract very quickly

Students will understand how the system of law and law making involves a compromise between the need for balancing conflicting interests alongside an awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and how this applies to their lives.



Law reform

Studying the influences of Parliament and law reform by the Law Commission.

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Law - A Level

The Law of Tort

Rules and theory

As part of this topic, students will gain an overview of the theory of the law of tort and be able to outline the rules in relation to liability in negligence, occupiers' liability, torts connected to land and vicarious liability.



Liability in negligence:

- Injury to people and damage to property
 - The duty of care
- Damage - factual and legal causation

Intellectual confidence

The ability to articulate personal views based on evidence



Occupiers' liability

Students will study liability in respect of lawful visitors (Occupiers' Liability Act 1957) and liability in respect of trespassers (Occupiers' Liability Act 1984).

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Vicarious liability:

- Nature and purpose of vicarious liability
 - Liability for employees
 - Liability for torts



Torts connected to land

Private nuisance and Rylands v Fletcher



Critical or logical thinking

The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason and seek supporting evidence

Defences:

- Contributory negligence
- Volenti non fit injuria
- Defences specific to claims connected to nuisance and Rylands v Fletcher



Remedies:

- Compensatory damages
- Mitigation of loss
- Injunctions

Evaluation

As part of this topic, students will complete a critical evaluation of liability in negligence, occupiers' liability and vicarious liability.



Law - A Level

Human Rights Law



Protection of the individual's human rights and freedoms in the UK Human Rights

Rules and theory

As students now move on to topic 5, they will learn about the theory of Human Rights Law and be able to outline its rules.

LINKING



Big picture thinking

Students will be able to see the connections between various areas of the law and the contending legal theories

Key provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights

Studying the restrictions permitted by the European Convention on Human Rights.



ANALYSING



Critical and logical thinking

The ability to deduct, hypothesise, reason, seek supporting evidence

Human rights and English law:

- Public order offences
- Police powers
- Interception of communications
- Harassment
- Duty of confidentiality
- Obscenity
- Torts of defamation and trespass



Enforcement of human rights law

Learning about the roles of domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the process of judicial review.



Self-regulating own legal studies

To conclude topic 5, students will undertake a critical evaluation on ideas for reform, and human rights protection in the UK in relation to articles 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Precision

The ability to work effectively within the rules of a domain

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Law - A Level

The Nature of Law

An introduction to the Nature of Law:

- The connections between law, morality and justice
- The differences between civil and criminal law
- The rule of law: definition and importance

LINKING



Seeing alternative perspectives

Evaluating and observing alternative moral and legal/perspectives while attempting original legal thought



Open-minded and enquiring

Enforcement of human rights law

Learning about the roles of domestic courts and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the process of judicial review.

RIGHT →

← WRONG

Law and Morality:

- The distinction between law and morals
 - The diversity of moral views in a pluralist society
- The relationship between law and morals and its importance
- The legal enforcement of moral values



Law and justice:

- The meaning of justice
 - Theories of justice
- The extent to which the law achieves justice

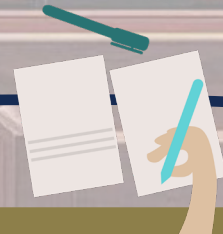
Intellectual confidence

The ability to articulate personal views with challenging ideas, advanced terminology and critical perspectives



Law and society

For the final unit of Year 13, students will look at the role law plays in society and the realist approach to law making.



Exams

At the end of Year 13, students are assessed with three written exams, covering the six topics taught throughout their two years on the course:

1. The Legal System and Criminal Law
2. Law Making and the Law of Tort
3. The Nature of Law and Human Rights Law