

A Level Bridging Work Law

Introduction

This pack contains a set of tasks and resources to prepare you to start an A Level in Law. It should be used throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

The course we follow is AQA A Level Law. There is a link to the specification at the bottom of this page. There is also included in this booklet some recommended reading and viewing to give you a basic understanding.

Law at A level is an exciting and interesting course which covers the English Legal System and the Nature of Law, Criminal Law and the Law of Tort (Negligence) with an option to study either Contract or Human Rights. The course will give you an understanding of the law; how laws are made and enforced through the Courts as well as peoples' civil and criminal rights and responsibilities.

Please complete the activities in this booklet. Feel free to use the internet to assist you and in particular the link in the **useful websites** page to support you with these activities. Bring your answers to the activities to your first law lesson in September.

"In a world divided by differences of nationality, race, colour, religion and wealth [the rule of law] is one of the greatest unifying factors, perhaps the greatest, the nearest we are likely to approach to a universal secular religion," Tom Bingham, The Rule of Law.

AQA LAW SPECIFICATION

This is a two-year linear course that comprises four topics that will be formally assessed at the end of the two-year course. Students will also be assessed throughout the course by way of formal and informal testing.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/as-and-a-level/law-7162/specification-at-a-glance>

Please fill in the table at the back of the booklet and get it signed off by someone at home who has seen you do the following. Note down the date and amount of time.



Task One - Criminal or Civil Law?

There are different types of law and understanding the difference between Civil and Criminal law is key to understanding the workings of the English Legal System. Watch 'What is the distinction between Civil and Criminal Law?' with Professor Jo Delahunty QC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbLPiwo10bM>

a) A number of words and phrases are listed below but do they relate to civil or criminal law. Can you put them in the right column?

Criminal

Civil

- jury
- prosecutes
- defendant
- punishment
- claimant
- compensation
- beyond reasonable doubt
- damages
- convicts
- R
- small claims court
- CPS
- Balance of probabilities
- County court
- Crown Court

Differences between Civil & Criminal law

	Civil Case	Criminal Case
<i>Purpose of the law</i>	Uphold <u>individual</u> rights	Maintain law & order; protect society
<i>Person Starting the case</i>	Individual whose rights have been affected	State
<i>Legal name for parties</i>	Claimant & Defendant	Prosecution and Defendant
<i>Courts hearing the case</i>	County or High court	Magistrates or Crown Court
<i>Standard of proof</i>	Balance of probability	Beyond reasonable doubt
<i>Burden of Proof</i>	On the Claimant	On the Prosecution
<i>Person/s making decision</i>	Judge/s	Magistrates or Jury
<i>Decision</i>	Liable or not liable	Guilty or Not Guilty
<i>Powers of court</i>	Damages, injunction, Specific performance	Prison, fine, Community order

b) Familiarise yourself with the different hierarchy structures of both the Civil and Criminal courts. Read through the jumbled Civil and Criminal court structures and then create an annotated diagram for each hierarchical structure that should include:

- The purpose of each of the courts
- The limitations of each of the courts
- Which type of cases would be heard at each type of court

County courts

Crown Court

Supreme Court

Employment Tribunal

High Court

House of Lords

Magistrates' Court

Court of Appeal (civic division)

Court of Appeal (criminal division)

You could use the following links to help you with your research activity.

- https://england.shelter.org.uk/legal/courts_and_legal_action/court_structure/the_court_structure_and_hierarchy
- <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/courts-structure-0715.pdf>
- <https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/law-level-revision/court-system>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QF46W6LvHY4> – The Magistrates' Court
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZYvv_s5R-s – The Crown Court

Task Two: Beth's Problems

For each of the scenarios below, outline whether you think that Beth's possible legal problem is civil or criminal. Also, decide whether you think that Beth will win or lose if the case ends up in a court or Tribunal and explain your reasoning.



1. Beth is sacked on the spot for allegedly telling a customer to 'F@*k off'. Her boss refuses to listen to Beth's side of the story. In fact, the customer was lying to get Beth into trouble.
 - a. Criminal or Civil

- b. Win or Lose
 - c. Why?
2. Beth is sacked from her job for persistently arriving late for work smelling of alcohol. She has been given a series of written and verbal warnings.
 - a. Criminal or Civil?
 - b. Win or Lose?
 - c. Why?
 3. Beth's colleague is drunk at work and accidentally runs over Beth's foot in the yard. It causes a clot and Beth becomes paralyzed from the waist down.
 - a. Criminal or Civil.
 - b. Win or Lose?
 - c. Why?
 4. Beth's moped is damaged by a driver who made a small error of judgement.
 - a. Criminal or Civil?
 - b. Win or Lose?
 - c. Why?
 5. Beth's moped is damaged by a driver who made a small error of judgment but has left the scene without leaving a note?
 - a. Criminal or Civil?
 - b. Win or Lose?
 - c. Why?
 6. Beth's moped is damaged by a drunk driver who was on his phone at the time.
 - a. Criminal or Civil?
 - b. Win or Lose?
 - c. Why?
 7. Beth buys a pair of shoes that she gets home, wears for an hour and then decides she doesn't like.
 - a. Criminal or Civil?
 - b. Win or Lose?
 - c. Why?

Task Three: Parliamentary Research Activity

1. Do some research on both The House of Commons and the House of Lords.
 - How many people sit in each chamber?
 - How do people become members?
 - What are the roles of each House?



2. Do you think that the 1999 review of the membership of the House of Lords is democratic enough? Write a few paragraphs stating your opinion, with evidence. Consider both the membership of the House of Lords before 1999 and the democratic state of the House of Lords now.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2010/12/elect-select-or-reject-the-future-of-the-house-of-lords/reform-options-pros-and-cons/> (Use this website to help you).

3. There are many steps that need to be taken before a bill (a proposed parliamentary act) passes through government. Both houses (House of Commons and the House of Lords) must be consulted.
- Write a few sentences about what happens during the Parliamentary law-making process.
 - Explain what potential difficulties an MP may face in passing their bill.

Use the following resources to help you:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KFGt9M-j28>
- <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/passage-bill/>

Task Four: Some Big Questions

When studying Law it is important to be aware of the 'big questions' that impact upon our world today – no decision is made in a vacuum. Below is a set of 'big questions' for you to consider.

For each question, briefly outline your opinion is on the statement.

Then choose one of the big questions, expand upon your opinion and write your key arguments. Try to imagine you have to persuade your teacher of your opinion when you come back in September.

Question 1. Society is just a series of contracts between people, and the law must step in when someone breaks their contract to another. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question 2. John Locke said, 'Where there is no law, there is no freedom.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question 3. 'If you have ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law.' Winston Churchill. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Subject Specific Vocabulary Grid

There is a lot of vocabulary specific to the law which you will need to have an understanding of. Look at the glossary and fill in the boxes with their definitions. Try learning the terms and test yourself. There will be a quiz on the first day – with PRIZES!



Appeal	
Civil law	
Common law	
Damages	
Compensation	
Doctrine	
Green papers	
Guilty	
Juror	
Jury	
Lay people	
Magistrate	
Offence	
Omission	
Parliamentary supremacy	

Precedent	
Remedy	
Statute	
Statutory interpretation	
Tort law	
White papers	

Preparing to study law

In order to really understand the legal system in England and Wales it is a good idea to do some research of your own so that you can start to build a picture of what the law is all about. Students who wish to prepare further for their studies may find the following suggestions useful: -



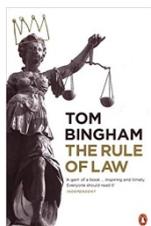
The Media:

A good Law student will have a broad awareness of current affairs (in particular relating to legal issues). For this reason, we recommend that one of the best ways to prepare for your Law A Level is to read a good quality British newspaper or news website every day. Many newspapers have specific sections for legal news.

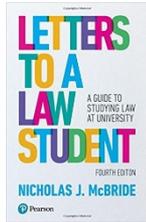
- The Independent
- The Telegraph
- The Guardian and Twitter @GdnLaw



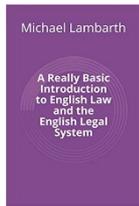
Books:



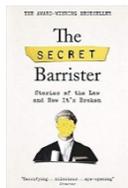
The Rule of Law, Tom Bingham (Lord Bingham, the senior Law Lord). This is viewed as the best book for anyone to read if they are interested in the profession.



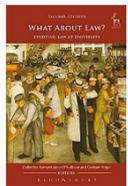
Letters to a Law Student, N.J.McBride.



Michael Lambarth, A Really Basic Introduction to English Law and the English Legal System.



The Secret Barrister.



Catherine Barnard, What about Law?

Students who enjoy fiction may enjoy reading works with legal themes such as:

- Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*
- Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*
- Franz Kafka, *The Trial*



Suggested Viewing:

Briefs A documentary series which follows the work of the UK's largest criminal legal aid firm.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+briefs+criminal+law+d+ocumentary

Acts of Parliament:

A look at how laws are made by Parliament. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhYpkVclXbA>

Common Law:

A look at how the common law is made by Judges:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb9JjncNq3k>



Useful Websites:

These websites are so useful in helping you create notes as well as providing essential case law, revision tools, games and practice papers.

- The Student room offers great law resources to view and create as well as support from real life students. The content includes notes, flashcards and mind maps.
<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/a-level/subjects/law/>
- This website gives a good overview of the main areas of law we will be covering together with case summaries and revision games.
<http://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/A-Level-Law-books.php>
- The Student Lawyer is a free online resource that brings together legal news and articles in an accessible format for future lawyers. The site is written by law students or practising professionals and is intended for law students of all levels: <http://thestudentlawyer.com/>
- The Twitter feed of the New Weekly Law Journal: @newlawjournal

There are a number of legal blogs that you may find interesting, including:

- Blogs written by two current University of Leicester students <http://studentblogs.le.ac.uk/law/>
- The blog of Leicester law graduate Philip Henson, who is now a partner and Head of Employment Law at an award winning London Law firm. He is regularly quoted as an expert in employment law in the national, international and HR media; including several appearances on BBC News 24, BBC Radio, ITN News and Sky News:
<http://employmentlawupdate.wordpress.com/>
- Two blogs focusing on legal issues in the UK
<http://obiterj.blogspot.co.uk/> and <http://charonqc.wordpress.com/>
- The blog of an in-house lawyer from the telecoms industry <http://lawactually.blogspot.co.uk/>
- The blog of a Leeds-based barrister who writes about the realities of entering the profession: <http://pupillageandhowtogetit.wordpress.com/>

Materials required for September:

- Folders – you will need a large level arch file to be kept at home for filing notes upon completion of topics/units in lessons. You will need a smaller folder to bring to each lesson with current work.
- Stationery – pens, pencil, highlighters, ruler, stapler, hole punch, lined notepaper, dividers.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time/date</u>	<u>Signed</u>
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