

A Level Law



Related Subjects to Law:

Criminology

Sociology

History

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Business

Politics

English

Psychology

Media

Timetable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mon								
Tue								
Wed								
Thu								
Fri								

Progression & skills

A large number of students from the college progress into HE. Law students have progressed onto a wide range of universities across England and Wales.



Students need to have good writing skills. 40% of the marks available are based on knowledge with 60% based on application & evaluation.

Key assessments

Law A Level

Students complete 3 examinations, each one being 2 hours in length, in the summer of year 2. For each examination students complete 4 x 20 mark answers or the equivalent with each paper being worth 80 marks.



Student profile

Students need to have 5 x 5 grades or better including English Language because of the importance of written skills.

Students would need to write approx. 600 words for a 30 minute question. Half of the marks in the examination require you to apply law to the scenario so problem-solving is important.

Common misconceptions

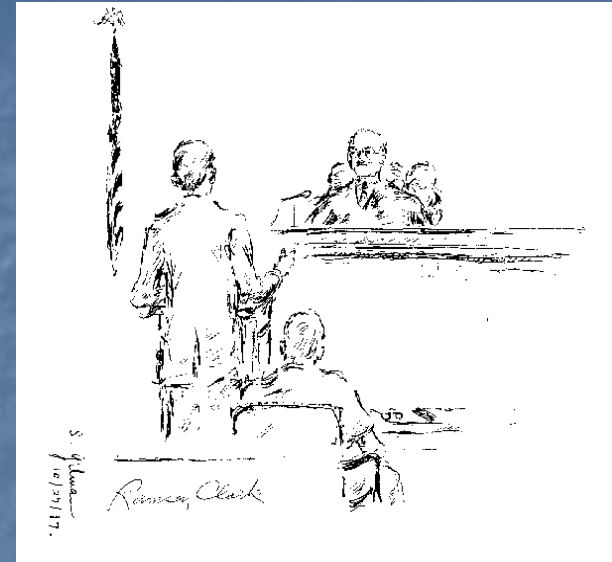


Students need to complete / not complete A Level Law to read Law at university.

Universities do not mind either way as long as you achieve the required grades.

University of Worcester, for example, requires 3 Bs. Criminal law, tort and contract are 3 mandatory units on Law degrees.

Yr 1 Law



English legal system: the legal system & law-making

Tort

Criminal law

Yr 2 Law



Criminal Law continued

Contract

The nature of law



Law: The Professional Programme

The programme is aimed at students who want to pursue a career in Law. We will look at all elements of the profession & consider how to qualify for the different roles, including examining higher education and apprenticeship opportunities & will involve a range of speakers from the legal profession.



Law: The English legal system: the legal system

Civil and criminal courts

Alternative dispute resolution

Role of Solicitors, barristers, legal executives

Juries & magistrates, legal funding & advice



The English legal system: law-making

Delegated legislation

Parliamentary law

Influences on Parliament

Statutory interpretation

Judicial precedent



Law: Crime

Actus reus, mens rea

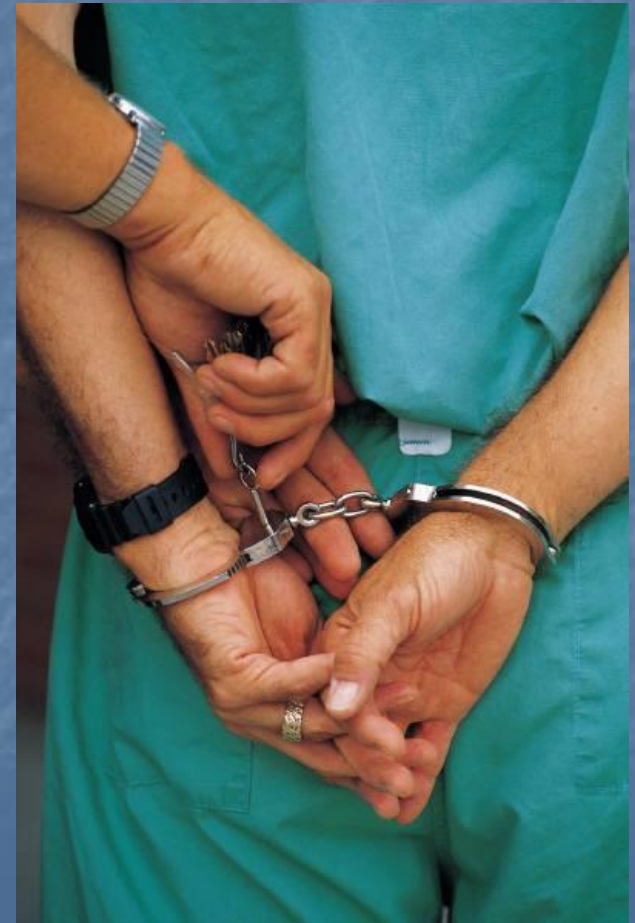
Homicide: Murder & manslaughter

Non fatal offences

Property offences: theft, burglary & robbery

Sentencing

Defences eg self-defence, intoxication



Law: Civil law

Tort

Negligence,

Nuisance & Rylands,

Occupiers liability,

Vicarious liability,

Defences and remedies



Law: Civil law

Contract

Offer & acceptance

Consideration & capacity

Mistake & misrepresentation

Intention to create legal relations

Performance, breach & frustration

Conditions, warranties & innominate terms



Law: Nature of law

This is a synoptic element of the course considering our learning across the English legal system, criminal and civil law looking at how law has developed and why it exists.

It focuses on:

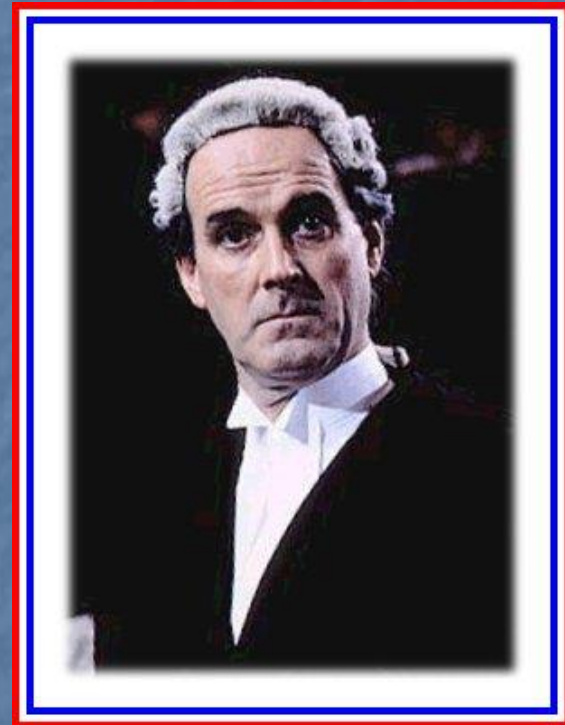
Law & morality

Law & society

Law & justice

Bridging task: The Legal Profession

Legal executives
Solicitors
Barristers



What would you do at the start of the course: law - making



Examination questions

Describe the stages of the parliamentary law making process. [8]

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of creating law using Acts of Parliament.
[12]

Tort: negligence

Bolton v Stone [1951] HL

Facts: Miss S was injured when struck by a cricket ball outside her home. The cricket field was surrounded by a 7 foot fence. A witness said that 5/6 times during the last 30 years he had known balls hit his house or come into the yard. Has the cricket club acted reasonably or could it be sued for negligence?

Tort: negligence

Held: No breach of duty. The likelihood of harm was low the defendant had taken all practical precautions in the circumstances.

Tort: occupiers liability

Roles v Nathan [1963] CA

Facts: 2 chimney sweeps were killed by carbon monoxide gas while working on the chimney of a coke-fired boiler, which was alight at the time. Can the widows sue the occupier who employed them?



Tort: occupiers liability

**Held: no liability as the sweeps should have been aware of the risk and had actually been warned anyway.
However only a risk relevant to a trade can allow an occupier to escape liability (Denning).**

Tort Examination question: Application

Bilal decides to aid his recovery by paying for an overnight stay at the Lush Breakz Hotel. He awakes in the middle of the night unable to sleep and decides to go to the hotel swimming pool for a swim. A sign on the door reads: 'Pool Closed Overnight – No Entry To Guests During These Hours'. Bilal reads the sign but ignores it and goes in.

Tort Examination question: Application & Evaluation

The swimming pool is in darkness and Bilal cannot find the light so he dives in.

Unfortunately the swimming pool has been emptied for maintenance and Bilal is badly injured.

Advise whether Bilal will be successful in a claim of negligence against Ahmed. [20]

Discuss the extent to which vicarious liability is fair on employers. (20)

Law: Criminal law

- Actus reus – guilty act
 - Was the act voluntary?
- Did the defendant cause the harm?



Cases: R v White

- Facts: White wanted to kill his mother so he poisoned her tea. The woman took a sip of the tea but before it could take effect, she died of a heart attack. He was charged with her murder. Did he cause her death?



R v White

- Held: not guilty of murder because he had not committed an act which killed her, instead he was found guilty of attempted murder.



R v Smith



R v Smith

- Facts: Smith was a soldier who got into a fight in his staff quarters with another soldier with the result that he stabbed the man. Friends took the man to the medical office but dropped him twice on the way. There was a long delay before he received treatment and when provided it was poor. The man died and Smith was charged with murder. Did he cause it?

R v Smith

- Held: he did cause the death as the chain of causation between the stabbing and the death had not been broken.



Mens rea – guilty mind

Intention – direct & indirect

Recklessness

Gross negligence

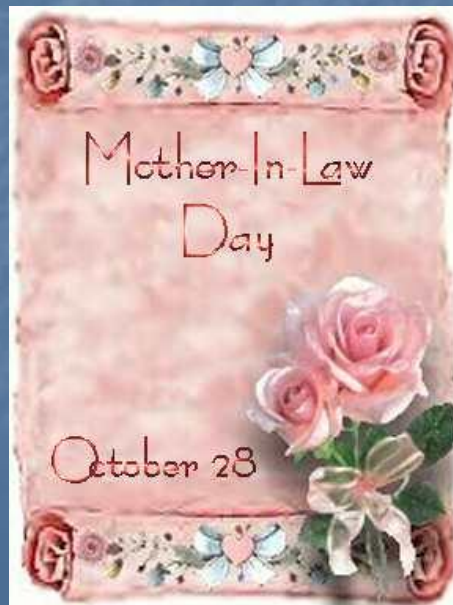
R v Cunningham

- Cunningham broke a gas meter to steal the money in it, and the gas seeped into the house next door. Cunningham's mother in law lived there and she became so ill that her life became endangered. Was Mr Cunningham reckless in endangering her life?



R v Cunningham

- Held: no he was not reckless because he had not foreseen the risk that gas would be released and anyone harmed.



Sentencing

- There are a range of sentences available to magistrates and judges. These include:



- Custodial sentences
- Community sentences
- Probation
- Curfew
- Electronic tagging
- Fines & compensation orders
- Confiscation/forfeiture

Sentencing

- Which sentence(s) should the following defendants receive:
- 1. a man murders his wife because he wants to end her pain as she is suffering from a terminal illness;
- 2. a 15 year old girl is convicted of shoplifting some expensive perfume;
- 3. a man aged 21 is convicted of stealing a car having 4 previous convictions.



Criminal law Examination

question: Application

Paula works as a cleaner for Omar, a rich businessman. When Omar is away on a business trip Paula sells a small sculpture in his house and keeps the money. After Omar returns home he tells Paula to take £500 from his wallet to buy a gift for a friend. Paula buys a gift for £400 and spends the other £100 on lottery scratch cards, winning £200.

Criminal Examination question: Application

Paula spends most of this money on a pair of shoes. On the way home Paula buys a sandwich with her last £10 note. She is given change for a £50 note but says nothing and walks back to Omar's house.

Advise whether Paula is criminally liable for theft. (20)

Criminal Law Examination question: Evaluation

'The defence of intoxication is not fit for purpose and needs to be reformed urgently.' Discuss the extent to which this statement is accurate.

Over the summer

- Please complete the bridging task. If you have any queries please let us know, there will be an opportunity to ask questions you might have for the next few minutes.
- A good website to have a look at would be:
- <http://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/>