



Why study law?

Law plays a vital and wide-ranging role in society. Its functions include protecting the public, regulating relationships, the construction of agreements and the resolution of disputes.



An aspect of law that students particularly enjoy is the 'case study approach', this is where legal principles are applied to real life cases. For example, *R v White* [1910] where a man tried to poison his mother but was not convicted of murder because she died of a heart attack before the poison could take effect. Or, the ethically complex case of Jodie and Mary in *Re A (conjoined twins)* [2001] which posed the question, is it justified to separate and knowingly 'kill' the weaker twin in order to save the stronger twin? Finally, the negligence case of *Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932] involving the infamous snail in the ginger beer that developed an entire area of law.

It is the combination of human stories raising real and relevant issues that makes A level law an engaging, yet challenging subject to study. Studying law is about gaining a deep understanding of core legal principles and concepts which enable you to access a number of careers. Law equips you with a wide range of skills and knowledge which are respected by a range of different disciplines where legal issues are attached. Whatever your ambition, an A level in law is a valuable first step.

The course

This is a linear two-year course which means you will sit exams at the end of Year 13. There will be many opportunities for assessment and feedback throughout the course, and revision and mock exams in order to fully prepare you for the final exams.

In addition to learning about real past cases or 'case law' you will also learn about legal principles and tests that are applied in future cases and apply this knowledge to new scenarios.

Topics

These are *some* of the subtopics covered within the four main topics:

- The English Legal System – how laws are made, law and justice, how judges use and create law, the courts
- Criminal Law – liability, fatal offences, non-fatal offences, property offence, defences
- Tort Law – liability for physical injury and damage to property, liability for psychiatric injury, defences, remedies
- Contract Law – formation of contracts, statutory terms, discharging contracts, remedies

Progression

Some potential career options for law students:

Solicitor, Barrister, Paralegal, Legal Executive, Law Enforcement, Law Journalist, Politics, Researcher. Additionally, opportunities outside the legal sector such as: Police Force, Health Care, Management and Policy, Social Work, Counselling, Teaching, Probation Service, Prison Service


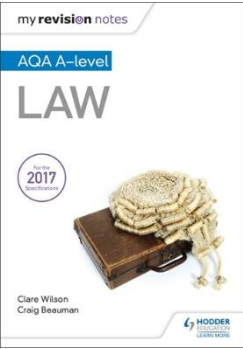
Skills

Studying law at this level and/or higher study allow you to develop skills such as: research, analysis, problem solving, reasoning, conflict resolution, fact management, evaluation, and critical thinking.



Resources

Want to get a head start for September? Have a look at these resources. You do not need to purchase anything now, though it is highly recommended that you do purchase a textbook as we will refer to this in lessons.

Textbooks	
	<p>The official approved AQA textbook</p> <p>Authors: Jacqueline Martin & Nicholas Price Publisher: Hodder Education Price: £28 Edition: 2017</p> <p>This book is for the first year of study. There is a book available for the second year too. You can buy directly from the publisher or Amazon</p>
	<p>Additionally, Hodder Education offer a revision guide for the two years of study</p> <p>Authors: Craig Beauman & Clare Wilson Publisher: Hodder Education Price: £17 Edition: 2018</p> <p>You can buy this directly from the publisher or on Amazon</p>
Websites	
<p>https://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/</p>	<p>A great resource for case law. This website offers simplified and clear case law summaries.</p>
<p>https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/</p>	<p>For some pre-reading, the Parliament website gives a good clear explanation of how laws are made.</p>
Other	
<p>News sources such as:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news</p> <p>https://news.sky.com/uk</p>	<p>Keep up to date on current affairs with news sources. Use a variety of sources to ensure there is no bias.</p> <p>Crime is heavily reported in the news, more so than civil law, because we are fascinated by it in society. When you see crime in the news consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What crime has been committed? • If it is an ongoing investigation, do the facts suggest they are guilty? Why? • When a sentence has been given what is it and do you think it is fair?
<p>https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/starting-law-overview-the-law/</p>	<p>This free course from the Open University offers a brilliant introductory course for those studying law. It is aimed at those without any legal knowledge.</p> <p>This is not compulsory but a great activity to complete should you wish to get a head start for September.</p>
<p>https://www.tutor2u.net/law/reference/learning-activities</p>	<p>This website creates free and paid for resources for different topics. This link leads to free revision resources that you may find useful later in your studies</p>

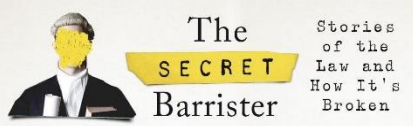


<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2013/dec/04/law-cases-essential-student>

Some of the most famous legal cases (UK and worldwide) that have shaped our legal system and others.

<https://www.law.ac.uk/resources/blog/top-legal-podcasts/>

Podcasts are a fantastic way to learn something new or just for entertainment. This link leads to some great legal podcasts you may find useful especially if you wish to enter the legal profession or want to know more about it.



The Secret Barrister is a legal blogger (@BarristerSecret on Twitter) who is a practicing Barrister. This book sheds light on what the legal profession is really like, and the problems it faces daily. Great reading especially if you wish to enter the profession.



Tasks

Below are two tasks to prepare you for your studies in September. Complete these to the best of your ability in your own words please do not copy and paste from other sources. On this course all work must be in your own words throughout.



Task One: Reflection on Sentencing

Why do prisoners only serve half their term? (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49886053>)

Using a range of the information on in the source (linked in the title), produce a summary of the current operation of sentencing in England and Wales in the space below. You may present the information in any format you like, but it must cover the questions below and must not simply be copy and paste. Answer the 5 questions below before answering the 'challenge' question.

What influences the sentence the judge hands down?	What type of sentences may a judge hand down?	Why do most offences offer a range of options?	How does a judge decide which tariff to hand down for murder?	When are most offenders released and what happens to them?
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Challenge: Why do you think that people are often upset or confused by the sentences handed to offenders?



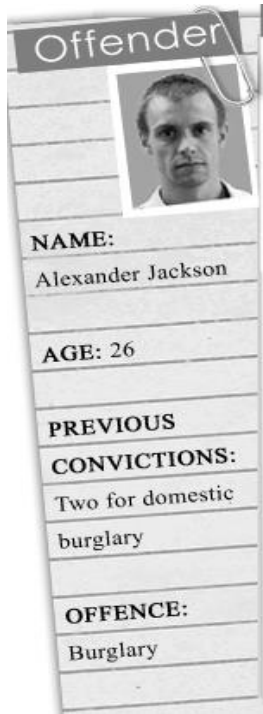
Task Two: Case Studies

You Be the Judge

Task: go to: <http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/>. You will need sound as you are going to work through a case, completing the questions below as you go.



Please note: there are other cases you can have a look at, but this one you must complete for this task!



Defendant: Alexander Jackson

What did he do?

What was the plea?

Which court was it heard in and why?

Who determines sentencing for the defendant?

Relevant information from the police officer:	Relevant information from the Victim:

Will the fact that the victims were at home at the time of the break-in affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Do you think the fact that an item of sentimental value was taken is significant?

Yes

Not sure

No



Judge's response:

Mitigating Factors	Aggravating factors

Would a genuine commitment from Alex to come off drugs affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

What other circumstances might be relevant in sentencing:

Sentence choices:

1. Prison: 2.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
2. Prison: 3.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
3. Prison: 4.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
4. Prison: 6 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)

I would chose option _____ because...

He was actually given option _____ because...

What is the **purpose** of sentencing Alex? *Link to the aims of sentencing – which do you think was uppermost in the judge's mind*