

LAW

The Course

Law encompasses nearly everything we do from birth, employment, families, medicine, crime and even something as simple as buying a bus ticket. To study Law is to study life itself. This means that on this course we will be looking at not only how our justice system works but you will also study two substantive areas of law, namely Human Rights and Criminal. You will learn what it means to represent a defendant on a charge of murder, the difference between theft and robbery, how to sue a newspaper when they ruin your client's reputation and the powers of the police to arrest, detain and charge you with an offence.

Tasks

As Law will be a brand new subject to you, it would be extremely beneficial to become familiar with some of the new terminology and basics of Law before you start the course. It is also recommended that you read the news often, bookmarking any articles that refer to anything legal (you'll soon come to realise that nearly every article has something 'legal' to it).

You should start by working out the difference between civil law and criminal law. Criminal law is when you can be punished for something (meaning if you can be arrested for it then it's a criminal law you have broken). Everything else is civil law - including anytime someone sues someone. Each area of law has its own key terminology too.

When reading articles you should start by first asking yourself:

- is this criminal or civil law?
- How do I know this?
- What subject specific terminology is there?
- Who are the main parties to this case?
- Did this case go to court? What court, and where is it?
- Who decided the outcome of this case?

In our lessons, we will regularly be using real life examples to help place into context what we are studying, so becoming accustomed to analysing news articles will be a vital skill.

Here are two articles from March 2020 to help get you started:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/mar/20/johnny-depps-libel-case-against-the-sun-in-high-court-adjourned>

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/mar/24/final-member-oval-four-1972-conviction-overtured-constantine-omar-boucher>

Pre-Course Reading

The Rule of Law (Tom Bingham)

An advanced read, but an essential topic that covers the constitutional theory 'rule of law' which underpins our whole legal system. Tom Bingham was a judge in the House of Lords and produced many judgments we will study.

The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How it is Broken (The Secret Barrister)

A must read for anyone aspiring to the legal profession - it paints a very true picture of the realities of life at the Bar and the devastating impacts cuts to legal aid has had on the criminal justice system (we study legal aid at AS too)

Letters to a Law Student (McBride Nicholas)

An insightful read, preparing students for the study of law, which tips, strategies and words of encouragement.

WJEC/Eduqas Law for A Level Book 1 Revision Guide (Sara Davies, Louisa Draper-Walters, Karen Phillips)

This is the recommended course textbook. It covers the majority of our topics, with links to exam questions and practise.

Useful Websites

<https://www.theguardian.com/law> --- <http://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/> ---

---- <https://twitter.com/BarristerSecret> - - - <https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/>