

Law Sixth Form Bridging Guidance

Entry Criteria: students are expected to have achieved the standard entry criteria for A levels.

Exam board: OCR

Qualification: Law A-Level

Qualification web link: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/law-h018-h418-from-2020/>

A Level Units:

There are 4 topics of study.

1. The legal system and the nature of law. The legal system focuses on civil and criminal courts, the legal professions, and access to justice. Students develop knowledge and understanding of the processes and people involved in the law and the changing nature of the legal system. They will gain a critical awareness of the legal system.
2. Criminal law. Criminal law focuses on the rules and general elements of criminal law, criminal liability, offences against the person, offences against property and defences. Students develop their understanding of criminal law, apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations, and gain a critical awareness of the present state of criminal law.
3. The law of tort. The law of tort focuses on the rules of tort, liability in negligence, occupiers' liability and remedies. Learners develop their understanding of the law of tort, apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations, and gain a critical awareness of the present state of the law of tort.
4. The law in relation to Human Rights. Human rights law focuses on the protection of human rights and freedoms, key provisions of the European convention on human rights and the restrictions and enforcement of human rights law. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding, the skills to apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations and gain a critical awareness of the present state of the law.

Students will learn to apply their legal knowledge in these areas to scenario based situations.

A Level Assessment:

All of the 4 units of study are assessed across 3 exam papers. There are a mixture of scenario based questions which require students to make a legal argument using appropriate case history and terminology, and essay questions requiring students to create a balanced response referring to legal rules, principles and theory.

Further studies and career opportunities:

A-Level law is a great place to begin perusing a career in law. A-Level law helps you to understand the fundamentals of the law, and it can give you an insight into the different types of legal roles available and the skills required to become a successful lawyer. When paired with studying A Level History and/or Politics it can lead to careers and further study in business, government, media and international relations.

Law A Level Suggested Bridging Activities and reading

1. Law in the News:

Law is part of everyday life. You have most likely entered into a legally binding agreement today (e.g. buying a bus ticket is a legal contract). To illustrate this point, complete the following activity:

Task: At least once a week, look at the home page of a news website (e.g. BBC News, sky news). Try to spot the link that the law has with each story. Make a note of the story and the way in which it is connected to the law.

2. How is law made?

Much of UK law is made by Parliament. It will be really helpful for you to understand how the process works before starting the course. Watch the following link to understand the law making body in the English legal system. <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/>

Then explore the rest of the links on the web page, and make notes on the different stages of law-making.

3. Why do prisoners only serve half their sentence?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49886053>

Using a range of the information in the source above, produce a summary of the current operation of sentencing in England and Wales. 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.

- 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?

4. Significant cases.

Explore these significant cases. Use the links next to the case as a starting point, then do further research of your own. For each one, make notes on:

- The important facts of the case
- Prosecution claims
- Defence claims
- Verdict
- Any principles or future laws that come from the verdict.

Ghaidan vs Godin Mendoza 2004

https://www.oxbridgenotes.co.uk/law_cases/ghaidan-v-godin-mendoza

Donoghue vs Stevenson 1932

<https://www.tutor2u.net/law/reference/key-case-donoghue-v-stevenson-1932-negligence-duty-of-care>

R vs Matthews and Alleyne 2003

https://www.oxbridgenotes.co.uk/law_cases/r-v-matthews-and-alleyne

