



Valentines High School

KS5 Academic Law Learning Journey

Year 1 Skills (Year 12)

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles. (AO1)
2. Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology. (AO2)
3. Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles and concepts. (AO3)

The skills a student will need to master for A-level Law are taught and developed in year 12. Initially scaffolding is provided to enable students to utilise these skills. At the end of the academic year students should have a full understanding of these skills and had opportunities to demonstrate them.

Year 1 Knowledge (Year 12)

Law 01 Section A(first exam)

Nature of law

Law and rules: the difference between enforceable legal rules and principles and other rules and norms of behaviour • The connections between law, morality and justice • The differences between civil and criminal law • An overview of the development of English Law: custom, common law, equity, statute law • An overview of common law and civil law legal systems • The rule of law: definition and importance.

Civil courts and ADR

County Court and High Court: jurisdictions, pre-trial procedures, the three tracks • Appeals and appellate courts • Tribunals and Alternative Dispute Resolution • Online courts and Online Dispute Resolution • Evaluation of the civil courts and other forms of dispute resolution.

Criminal Courts and Lay People

Criminal process: Jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court and the Crown Court, including classification of offences and pre-trial procedures • Appeals and appellate courts • Sentencing and court powers: aims, factors and types of sentences • Lay magistrates and juries: qualifications, selection, appointment and their role in criminal cases • Evaluation of the different types of sentences and of using lay people in criminal cases.



Legal personnel

Barristers, solicitors and legal executives: qualifications, training, work and the regulation of legal professions • Changes and trends in legal services, including the impact of technology and globalisation • The judiciary: qualifications, selection and appointment, training, role, retirement and removal • The separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary • Evaluation of the legal professions and the judiciary.

Access to Justice

Government funding for civil and criminal cases • Private funding, conditional fees and other advice agencies • Evaluation of access to justice.

Law 01 Section B (first exam)

Criminal law

An outline of the rules of criminal law • An overview of the theory of criminal law • Actus reus: conduct and consequence crimes; voluntary acts and omissions; involuntariness; causation • Mens rea: fault; intention and subjective recklessness; negligence and strict liability; transferred malice; coincidence of actus reus and mens rea Fatal offences against the person • Murder: actus reus and mens rea • Voluntary manslaughter: defences of loss of control and diminished responsibility under Coroners and Justice Act 2009 • Involuntary manslaughter: unlawful act manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter Non-fatal offences against the person • Common assault: assault and battery under s39 Criminal Justice Act 1988 • Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding and grievous bodily harm under s47, s20, s18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 Offences against property • Theft under s1 Theft Act 1968 • Robbery under s8 Theft Act 1968 • Burglary under s9(1)(a) and s9(1)(b) Theft Act 1968 Mental capacity defences • Insanity, automatism, intoxication General defences • Self-defence, duress by threats, duress of circumstances and necessity • Consent Preliminary offences • Attempts: the actus reus and mens rea; impossibility Evaluation • Critical evaluation of offences against the person, offences against property and defences including ideas for reform.

Law 02 Section A (second exam)

Parliamentary law making

• Influences on Parliament: political, public opinion, media, pressure groups and lobbyists • Legislative process – Green and White Papers, different types of Bill, legislative stages in the House of Commons and the House of Lords and the role of the Crown • Advantages and disadvantages of influences on law making • Advantages and disadvantages of the legislative process

Delegated legislation

• Types of delegated legislation: Orders in Council, Statutory Instruments and By-laws • Controls on delegated legislation by Parliament and the courts, and their effectiveness • Reasons for the use of delegated legislation • Advantages and disadvantages of delegated legislation

Statutory interpretation

• Rules of statutory interpretation: the literal rule, the golden rule and the mischief rule • The purposive approach • Aids to interpretation: rules of language, intrinsic and extrinsic aids • Impact of European Union Law and the Human Rights Act 1998 on statutory interpretation • Advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches and aids to statutory interpretation



Judicial precedent

• The Doctrine of Precedent including stare decisis, ratio decidendi and obiter dicta • The hierarchy of the courts including the Supreme Court • Binding, persuasive and original precedent; overruling; reversing; distinguishing • Advantages and disadvantages of precedent

Law reform

• Law reform including the Law Commission • Advantages and disadvantages of law reform bodies

European Union law

• Institutions of the European Union • Sources of European Union law • Impact of European Union law on the law of England and Wales

Law 02 Section B (Second exam)

Tort Law

Rules and theory • An outline of the rules of the law of tort • An overview of the theory of the law of tort

Liability in negligence • Liability in negligence for injury to people and damage to property • The duty of care: Donoghue v Stevenson (1932) and the neighbour principle, and Caparo test • Breach of duty: the objective standard of care and the reasonable man; risk factors • Damage: factual causation and the 'but for' test; legal causation

Occupiers' liability • Liability in respect of lawful visitors (Occupiers' Liability Act 1957) • Liability in respect of trespassers (Occupiers' Liability Act 1984)

Vicarious liability • Nature and purpose of vicarious liability • Liability for employees, including testing employment status and torts in or not in the course of employment • Liability for the crimes of employees and liability for independent contractors.

Evaluation • Critical evaluation of liability in negligence, occupiers' liability, torts connected to land and vicarious liability, including ideas for reform

Year 2 Skills (Year 13)

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles. (AO1)
2. Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology. (AO2)
3. Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles and concepts. (AO3)



The A-level skills remain the same during the linear course but are consolidated during Year 13. Students should be able to independently demonstrate their proficiency of these skills in relation to year 2 topics.

Year 2 Knowledge (Year 13)

Law 02 Section B (second exam)

Tort Law

Torts connected to land • Public and private nuisance • Rylands v Fletcher. Defences • Contributory negligence • Volenti non fit injuria • Defences specific to claims connected to nuisance and Rylands v Fletcher. Remedies • Compensatory damages • Mitigation of loss • Injunctions

Law 03 Section A (third exam)

Concepts Law

Introduction to the nature of law • Law and rules: the difference between enforceable legal rules and principles and other rules and norms of behaviour • The connections between law, morality and justice • The differences between civil and criminal law • An overview of the development of English Law: custom, common law, equity, statute law • An overview of common law and civil law legal systems • The rule of law: definition and importance

Law and morality • The distinction between law and morals • The diversity of moral views in a pluralist society • The relationship between law and morals and its importance • The legal enforcement of moral values

Law and justice • The meaning of justice • Theories of justice • The extent to which the law achieves justice

Law and society • The role law plays in society • The law as a social control mechanism • The way in which the law creates and deals with consensus and conflict • The realist approach to law making

Law and technology • The intersection of law and technology • Key issues, including privacy and data protection and cyber-crime • Cross-border issues and future challenges.

Contract Law

Rules and theory • An outline of the rules of the law of contract • An overview of the theory of the law of contract



Formation • Offer and acceptance, including the rules of communication and revocation • Intention to create legal relations: domestic and commercial, presumptions and rebuttals • Consideration: adequacy, sufficiency, past consideration, pre-existing duties • Privity: the rights of third parties under the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 and common law exceptions

Terms • Express and implied terms, including the Consumer Rights Act 2015 • Types of term: conditions, warranties, innominate terms • Exclusion and limitation clauses, including the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and the Consumer Rights Act 2015

Vitiating factors • Misrepresentation, including omission in consumer contexts • Economic duress

Discharge • Performance • Frustration • Breach of contract: actual and anticipatory breach

Remedies • Damages: compensatory damages; causation and remoteness of damage; mitigation of loss • Equitable remedies • Consumer remedies under the Consumer Rights Act 2015

Evaluation • Critical evaluation of formation and contract terms, including ideas for reform