AQA A Level Law 2025/2026

Summer Transition Work



# The Course

Studying A Level Law will help you to develop a knowledge and understanding of law-making and the English Legal System, as well as the substantive areas of criminal law, tort and contract. You will also develop your critical awareness of the law through the study of law and justice, law and morals and law and society. Critical thinking is encouraged through discussion, debates and evaluation of topics. The application of law is practiced through practical activities such as moots and mock trials, where students have to work collaboratively and competitively to identify the relevant areas of law and form a legal argument in response to a scenario.

Successful law students develop problem solving skills, a capacity for independent thinking and good communication skills

## Course specification

You will be studying AQA A Level Law. The specification can be found at: <https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/green/543e9f2bd397a5e918290f9ae265a559285cbbca.pdf>

# Assessment

Assessment of the course takes place at the end of the second year through three exam papers each of which are two hours. Each paper is worth 1/3 of the total qualification. For paper 3 – we will be studying Contract law.) We try to cover the majority of Paper 1 and part of Paper 2 in Year 1 – and it is vital that you regularly review content you have covered so that you don’t forget it.

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| **Content overview** | **Assessment overview** |
| **Paper 1** |  |
| **What's assessed**  The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100).  Criminal law (75 marks out of 100). | **How it's assessed**   * Written exam: 2 hours * 100 marks * 33% of A-level   **Questions**  A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. |
| **Paper 2** |  |
| **What's assessed**  The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100).  Tort (75 marks out of 100). | **How it's assessed**   * Written exam: 2 hours * 100 marks * 33% of A-level   **Questions**  A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. |
| **Paper 3** |  |
| W**hat's assessed**  Law of contract (75 marks out of 100).  The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100). | **How it's assessed**   * Written exam: 2 hours * 100 marks * 33% of A-level   **Questions**  A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. |

# Study Skills

**Note-taking** - In lessons – you will need to listen and make notes. It will be important that you are writing down the information correctly so that when you are revising it – you are revising the right thing! You should supplement the notes you make in class with information you find from your own research

**Reading** – In addition to the material covered in class you will be asked to carry out wider reading. To make sure that you are reading effectively highlight the key points and identify the key information. It is even more effective if you annotate the text and add to it your own thoughts and questions about the information.

**Independent Study** – in addition to the work completed in lessons, you will be expected to complete at least 5 hours per week of independent study to aid your learning. Independent study will allow you to develop your understanding of the law and your ability to apply the law to given situations When you are **studying independently** – read through your notes and identify anything you did not understand. Write down any questions that you want to ask. You could complete some research on the area or use the time to make revision aids – these could be electronic using apps such as quizlet or wordwall or making mind maps of key information. You should practice answering exam questions and mark schemes to write a model answer. This would also be good preparation for assessments and exams.

**Accuracy and attention to detail –** in law it is very important to be accurate. You will be expected to state the law clearly and accurately and then apply it to scenario situations. You will also be expected to analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues.

**Time Management-** It is important to make efficient use of your time. You will have various demands on your time during each week, including independent study in your own time and this will be a significant part of your learning experience. Learning how to effectively manage your time to get your work done and done well will help you feel in control of your workload and give you a better chance of doing well in the exams

# Preparing to start the course

## Resources

Students should ensure that they have the following resources ready to start the course

* Writing pens
* Pencils and eraser
* Ruler
* Folder

## Textbooks

Please note that students will not be provided with a class textbook. In addition to homework and required further reading, lesson slides will be provided on Google Classroom after the lesson.

There are a few copies of the recommended textbook in the library but students may wish to purchase a textbook to support their independent learning. During the course of the first year we will be using materials from the AQA A-level Law textbooks for Years 1 and 2.

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| AQA A-level Law for Year 1/AS Textbook - Jacqueline Martin | AQA A-level Law for Year 1/AS Textbook- Jacqueline Martin, Nicholas Price |
| **AQA A-level Law for Year 2 - Jacqueline Martin** | AQA A-level Law for Year 2 /AS Textbook- Jacqueline Martin, Richard Wortley, Nicholas Price |
| A book cover with a book and a piece of paper  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Law- Craig Beauman, Clare Wilson |

Summer transition work for students entering Year 12

In preparation for starting the course in September please complete the following tasks. This work should be completed by the Friday of the second week after the start of term. The work will be assessed by a short test in that Friday’s lesson and through the work you hand in.

# Definitions

When you start to study Law, you will find that you will need to learn a number of key terms that you may be unfamiliar with. You will soon learn these specialist legal terms and become used to using them in your law work. Look up the following key terms and find out what they mean.

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| Parliament | Claimant |
| House of Commons | Defendant |
| House of Lords | Prosecution |
| Judiciary | Defence |
| Statute | Burden of Proof |
| Case Law/Common Law | Balance of probabilities |
| Criminal Law | Beyond reasonable doubt |
| Civil Law | Court of first instance |
| Liable | Appellate courts |

# How Laws are Made

## The Common Law

English Law consists of a combination of Statutory Law and Common Law.

1. What is common Law and why is it called this?
2. Research what happened in the following key cases and write brief notes summarising the facts and the decision of the court

* Donaghue -v- Stevenson (1932)
* Robinson-v-Chief Constable of West Yorkshire (2018)
* R -v- White (1910)
* The Wagon Mound (1961)
* Pharmaceutical society of Great Britain -v- Storkwain Ltd (1986)

## Changing the Common Law

Research Judicial precedent. What is it and how does it work to ensure certainty in the decisions made by judges?

Research the cases of Caparo -v – Dickman (1990) and Robinson-v-Chief Constable of West Yorkshire (2018). What was the law on establishing a duty of care under the Caparo tests? How was this changed by the case of Robinson-v-Chief Constable of West Yorkshire (2018).

## English Legal System- Parliamentary Law Making

1. Using the link <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/passage-bill/> Draw a flow chart setting out the different stages of the parliamentary process for making laws.
2. Pressure on Parliament to make or reform the law comes from a variety of sources. Research the different influences which may cause Parliament to change the law and briefly summarise your findings
3. Research a campaign which has resulted in a change in the law. You can choose from one of the following or select your own campaign:

* **The Snowdrop Campaign**
* **The Dangerous Dogs Act**
* **The Criminal Justice Act 2003-** and the removal of the double jeopardy rule

Once you have completed your research produce a poster showing the events and campaign which resulted in change in the law. Why the law needed to change and how it changed

1. The civil and criminal courts have a hierarchy (order of importance). Using the judiciary website <https://www.judiciary.uk/structure-of-courts-and-tribunals-system/> make two flow charts one for the criminal courts and one for the civil courts. Place the courts on the flow chart in their order of importance

## Criminal Law

The normal rule is that in order to be guilty of a criminal offence you must commit the actus reus and have the necessary mens rea for the crime.

1. What is meant by the terms actus reus and mens rea?
2. Carry out some research and identify the actus reus and mens rea for the following crimes.

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| **Crime** | **Actus reus** | **Mens Rea** |
| Murder |  |  |
| Assault |  |  |
| Grievous Bodily Harm |  |  |
| Theft |  |  |
| Robbery |  |  |

1. Although it is normally necessary for the defendant to carry out a voluntary positive act to be guilty of a crime, in some special circumstances a person may be liable for a crime because they fail to act. This is known as being liable by omission. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOM7vNPYW-s&list=RDCMUCncqUKd4i0c4j4w5VoJIOkA&start_radio=1&rv=vOM7vNPYW-s&t=5>
2. Research the following case examples. Copy out the table and summarise the facts of each case and explain what they say about when someone might be liable by omission.

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| **Area of omission** | **Case example** | **Facts** | **Explanation** |
| Contractual duty | R v Pittwood (1902) |  |  |
| Special Relationship between the victim and the accused. | R v Gibbons and Proctor (1918) |  |  |
| Voluntary acceptance of responsibility for another | R v Stone and Dobson (1997) |  |  |
| Professional duty | R v Dytham (1979) |  |  |
| The defendant has created a dangerous situation | R v Milller (1983) |  |  |

1. Consider the mini scenarios below. Make notes on each scenario explaining whether Gail, George and Frank will be liable by omission:
2. Gail agrees to move into the house of her elderly aunt so that she can look after her. Gail’s friends ask her to go on holiday with them for two weeks. Gail agrees and leaves her aunt alone even though she knows that her aunt cannot look after herself. Gail’s aunt dies whilst she is away
3. George is a police officer. One night when he is just about to go off duty he sees a group of men drag a man out of a night club and attack him. George does not want to be late getting home so he stands and watches the attack and does not intervene. The man is seriously injured.
4. Frank is an anaesthetist at a large hospital. He is responsible for checking the oxygen levels of patients during operations. One day he fails to realise that the patient’s oxygen tube has become detached for several minutes. As a result, the patient suffers brain damage.

# Useful Resources

The following sites/ publications may be of interest

* <https://www.thetimes.com/topic/law?page=1>
* <https://thestudentlawyer.com/2014/01/02/liability-for-omissions/>
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cz4pr2gdg4dt>
* <https://www.judicialcareers.judiciary.uk/judges-talk-about-their-judicial-roles>

Additional Reading/ listening

* Government websites:
* https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/
* <https://www.parliament.uk/>
* Legal Commentary:
* <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/>
* <https://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/>
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/localnews/2644795-Law/0>
* [A-Level Law Review - Hodder Education Magazines](https://magazines.hachettelearning.com/magazines/a-level-law-review/)
* Open University (free materials):
  + <https://mediaplayer.open.ac.uk/popup/pod/3908/9b9dfcb1c0>
* BBC Law blog:
* [Law - Latest News, Headlines and Entertainment from the BBC](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cy4ng11dlpxt)
* Books:
  + Secrets of the law and how it’s broken, The Secret Barrister
  + Nothing but the truth, The Secret Barrister
  + Unlawful killings, Wendy Bingham
  + The rule of law, Tom Bingham
  + Under the wig, William Clegg
  + In your defence, Sarah Langford