

Law

Law



Exam board: OCR

Specification no: H018 (AS) / H418 (A Level)

This is a two year linear A level course - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

AS Level content:

<p>Paper 1 Legal System Criminal Law</p> <p>Paper 2 Law Making Tort law</p>	<p>Students sitting the AS Level would sit two papers of one hour and 30 minutes. Each paper has a total of 64 marks and it compulsory to answer all questions</p>
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A Level content:

<p>Covers the same topics as above in more depth Plus Nature of Law and Human Rights Law</p>	<p>Students sitting the A Level would sit three papers of two hours each. Each paper has a total of 80 marks, with 5 questions to answer.</p>
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Course Delivery:

Students can access the syllabus before the course commences from Moodle. Moodle also provide access to the student handbook (overview of the course), the timeline of the course, support materials for exam practice and self-isolation/ catch-up packs. The teaching of Law involves a significant amount of class discussions and debates around the current state of the law and the need for reform. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to scrutinize case reviews, explore the law in a lectures style setting from the teacher and guess speakers, alongside group exercises and PowerPoint presentations. Throughout the course students have opportunities to take part in mooting sessions (mock Trials) in class to help reinforce their learning and prepare them for revision. Homework involves

a mix of essays, exercises and exam questions from previous OCR exam papers. All official assessment takes place at the end of the course, as it is a linear course..

Course Content:

Legal System (compulsory): This looks at how a criminal case is brought, starting with the police investigation through the judicial process of trial and appeals to sentencing and the nature of punishment. Special consideration is given to the balance between civil rights and freedoms, alongside the need for and extent of police powers. In addition, the course looks at miscarriages of justice and how these are dealt with. The civil process is also examined from the issue of a writ through to the award of damages. This unit also looks at the people who operate the judicial system, including judges, barristers, solicitors and role of the Crown Prosecution Service. Particular attention is paid to lay people in the system such as magistrates and juries. The provision of legal services is examined through government funding, advice agencies and the legal profession.

Criminal Law (compulsory): In this unit, students will look at the meaning and application of criminal liability, including causation and the different levels of intent to commit a crime, concentrating on the offences of murder and manslaughter. non-fatal offences against the person, such as assaults, and offences against property such as theft, robbery, burglary and criminal damage. Particular attention will be paid to the general defences that are available to any crime, including the defences of insanity, automatism, duress, mistake and intoxication.

Tort Law (compulsory): this unit looks at the rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupiers' liability, nuisance and vicarious liability, and associated defences and remedies.

Law Making (compulsory): this unit looks at how judge made law is made, how bills become Acts of Parliament, how judges interpret Acts of parliament and delegated legislation during their deliberation stage, we review how successful law reform bodies are in the UK and the influence of the EU laws on domestic laws.

Nature of Law (compulsory): This looks at the philosophical side of the Law, reviewing how certain rights or values are inherent by virtue of human nature which is universally understood through human reason. Special consideration is given to the balance between conflicting rights (Public and Private Laws), alongside the meaning of fault in criminal and civil law. Furthermore this unit explores the distinction between law and morality and the application of the Rule of Law.

Human Rights Law (compulsory): This looks at the rules and principles of the Human Rights Act 1998, their nature, protection and constitutional position under UK law. Specific rights are explored in detail as are the restrictions upon them and the process of enforcement through the courts.

Entry requirements:

If the subject is taken at GCSE it should be passed at 5 or above and at least one English/Humanities/Social Science subject should be passed with a 6.

Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:

Students will need organised and passionate about the subject. Furthermore, students need to be able to conduct research and think for themselves. Law is concerned with arguments and debates, therefore students should feel able to make a contribution to discussions in small groups and class ones, as well as listen carefully to the views of others.

Resources:

Students will be issued worksheets for each topic studied on the course. In addition, all teaching notes and revision support and guidance notes are available on demand either via Moodle/ Teams and the library has several general and specialised law books for individual research. Students are encouraged to subscribe to the Law Review Journals and take part in external legal opportunities run by local legal firms, educational establishments and businesses.

Recommended reading / websites:

OCR A Level Law Second Edition. N. Price, R. Wortley & N. Briggs
A-Z Handbook, J Martin
My Revision Notes: OCR A Level Law Second Edition;
C. Beauman & C. Wilson e-lawresources.co.uk
<https://lnat.ac.uk>

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