



UXBRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL



Sixth Form Transition Pack

Law

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Why study A-level Law?

Law is the endeavor of human-beings to govern our personal, social, economic and political relationships through the use of rules. To study law is to study the nature of those relationships.

Studying A-Level at UHS will enable you to think in critical manner using the precision of language. You will learn how to argue, on paper and in class, to develop and defend your views on how legal principles apply to specific situations.

“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.”

- Philosopher Aristotle

Year 1		Year 2
Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
The Nature of Law and the English Legal System. Criminal Law	The Nature of Law and the English Legal System. Tort	The Nature of Law and the English Legal System. Human Rights Law

What will I study?

The Nature of Law and the English Legal System:

This examines the relationship of law with society, morality and justice, and explores fundamental concepts such as the 'Rule of Law' and Parliamentary Sovereignty'. This unit also covers how law is made centrally within Parliament, and by decisions made in the appeal courts. You learn about key legal institutions, including the civil and criminal court hierarchy, and the various processes and personnel involved in the practice of law.

Tort Law:

This explores torts ('wrongs') including Negligence and Private Nuisance and explores concepts such as 'Liability' and deals with the 'Remedies' available to the courts. Demonstrating a critical awareness of the relationship between policy and principle in common law and legislative provisions in the tort of negligence.

Criminal Law:

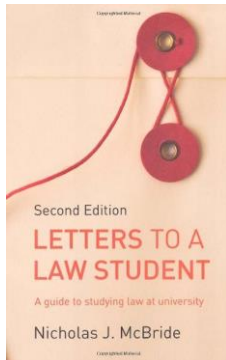
Studying Criminal Law will enable you to develop a sophisticated knowledge of current issue in criminal justice and criminal law in the UK. Throughout the Unit we'll encourage you to:

- Explore the complex and dynamic nature of the criminal justice system
- Examine the critical issues and principles in Criminal Law
- Explore Criminal Theory and Criminal Liability such as the act of murder and the mens rea 'guilty mind'.

Human Rights Law:

Human Rights considers the historical development of human rights and the legal theory underlying the current approach, analysing the scope of 'fundamental rights'. We will be discussing principles of law relating to the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Essential summer reading



'Letters To A Law Student' Nicholas J. McBride

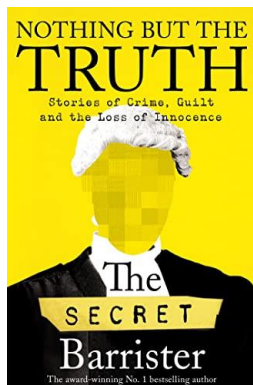
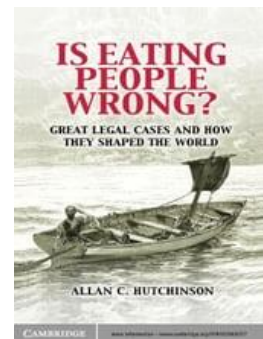
Why read this book?

- This book gives a realistic view on studying the law both at A-Levels and degree level.

'Is Eating People Wrong?' Allan C. Hutchinson

Why read this book?

- Interested in the moral dilemmas between survival and murder? This book discusses the dichotomies behind the legalities of law and morality.



'Nothing But the Truth' The Secret Barrister x3

Why read this book?

- Think the law is fair? This book is a critical first-hand account of the state of the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

'Eve Was Framed' Helena Kennedy

Why read this book?

- An eye-opening analysis of the disadvantages that women face in the criminal justice system.



Tasks to be completed:

Task 1 - Short Quiz [10 key facts about the course]

1. Name the two Houses of Parliament?

i.

ii.

2. What is the name of the most senior national court in the English Legal System?

3. The term lawyer can be defined in three ways, what are these?

i.

ii.

iii.

4. Normally, in order to commit a crime in England and Wales, the Actus Reus and Mens Rea need to be establish. What do these terms mean?

i. Actus Reus:

ii. Mens Rea:

5. Once being able to define the above, try to explain where it can be seen in a criminal offence?

6. Tort law is an area of law that can affect us on a daily basis, what is meant by the term Tort Law?
7. The Human Rights Act 1998 was passed into law in 1998. It is made up of a range of Articles. Can you name two Articles between 2 and 11 and state what they concern?
 - i.
 - ii.
8. What is meant by the term 'Rule of Law'?
9. What is the legal definition of Murder in this country?
10. Research the case, Re A (Conjoined twins) What was the decision from this case and why was no one found guilty of murder?

Task 2 - Building Block 1 Significance

One of the central recurring themes in A Level Law is the role case law and its significance of shaping and explaining the law. Why is it that some cases are more significant than others? In what ways, if at all, can the contributions of the decision of these cases to the past be unprecedented?

Step 1: Create a timeline on an area of law (some suggestions would be Murder, Non-Fatal Offences, Theft, Personal Injury, Vicarious Liability). The timeline should start from when the existing law was established, so for example Non-Fatal offences are governed under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. This would be your starting point. Identify 5 key cases (if in doubt, double check with Mr Gibbons to see if the cases you have chosen are suitable!).

Step 2: For each of your case, complete the grid below, explaining the ways that they are significant:

What happened in this case?

What was the judgment in the case?

How did it develop/clarify the law?

Has the case been developed upon?

Step 3: Based upon your grids, which of your cases do you think was most significant and why? If you had to rank them into an order of significance, what would your criteria be for what makes a case significant to the Law?

In what ways were these cases remarkable, both at the time and since?

Task 3 - Building Block 1 Interpretation

A Level Law you will not only require you to study the law, but also to engage critically with the interpretations of different lawyers/judges about how the law has been developed.

1: Select one of the texts from the reading list below. You might want to select something that will help you prepare for your A Level units in Year 12, or explore something new - speak to your teacher for advice!

2: Write a book review of your text, addressing the questions below: - What are the key legal themes/arguments of this book? - How convincing do you find these themes/arguments, and why? - What surprised you about this interpretations given, and why? - What did this text reveal to you about the nature and the challenges of studying Law?

