



## AS/A Level Law Course Outline

### Overview

Through this exciting and topical course students will gain an understanding of the English Legal system, incorporating an overview of the law making process, legal institutions, civil and criminal law.

Studying Law develops students' problem solving skills through the application of legal rules, together with an understanding of legal method and reasoning. In addition students will become practiced at presenting logically constructed and detailed written work. These skills complement other essay based subjects and provide excellent preparation for those students who wish to progress to degree level study or pursue a wide range of careers.

### Course Structure & Content

#### A Level Law Programme of Study

##### Paper One - The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with emphasis on Criminal Law

This unit introduces the key law making institutions and processes, covering how laws come into being through the formal stages of parliamentary law making, including the role of the Law Commission, House of Lords, and European Union.

This unit also looks at the role of the judiciary in interpreting statute, the hierarchy of the courts and how this interlinks with the operation of judicial precedent and the role of other legal professionals such as barristers and solicitors.

This unit examines the underlying principles of Criminal Liability such as *actus reus*, *mens rea* and applies them in the context of non-fatal offences such as common assault, ABH, GBH and wounding. This unit also examines the criminal courts procedure and sentencing. Fundamental principles of Criminal Law are also examined on this unit with students expected to understand the main concepts of law for Property; Homicide and Non-Fatal Offences

##### Paper Two - The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with emphasis on Tort Law

This unit again examines some of the key law making institutions and processes, covering how laws come into being through the formal stages law making. This unit also looks at the role of the judiciary in interpreting statute, the hierarchy of the courts and how this interlinks with the operation of judicial precedent and the role of other legal professionals such as barristers and solicitors.

In addition, this paper examines the fundamental principles of Civil Law with a focus on Tort Law. All aspects of this area of law are studied so that students can comprehend and apply case law to material facts presented. Defences in Tort are also studied and the understanding remedies is also examined within this unit.

## Paper Three – Contract Law or Human Rights Law

This unit examines the fundamental principles of either Contract or Human Rights Law. Contract Law looks at the rules of contract; Theories of contract law; Essential requirements of contract law and statute law in relation to contract law. Vitiating factors and remedies are also considered.

Human Rights Law examines how rules of human rights law have evolved from the period post World War 2. International human rights legislation is examined and UK laws are also featured within this. There is also a full section within this on the European Convention of Human Rights with restrictions and enforcement applied to case material.

### **Assessment:**

This course is a Linear Programme with all three units studied externally assessed through written examinations at the end of Year 13. All examinations are held in the June examination cycle.

### **The AS Qualification.**

An AS qualification in Law is available but this is NOT part of the assessment process of the A level as it has been de-coupled from the full A Level. There are two exams as part of the AS which are Paper One and Paper 2

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### **Entry qualifications**

No prior experience of Law is required, however a GCSE grade B in English or a Humanity subject e.g. History, Geography of RS is required.

**Career Prospects**

This course is particularly relevant to anyone who is considering a career in law, business, politics or public services such as the police. As an academic subject that develops written skills it is also well suited to anyone intending to pursue a humanities pathway at university.

