

## A Level Law

Should suspected terrorists have rights? Should euthanasia be legalised? Can you really get away with murder? Can we trust our judiciary? Does 'life' really mean life? Are sentences too soft?

If these are the kind of questions that interest you, then studying law can give you the answers.

### Why choose this course?

Within the new, linear A level, you will have the opportunity to examine key aspects of the English legal system as well as areas of both Private and Public law and to develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning as used by lawyers and the judiciary. Studying law will encourage you to engage more fully and critically with current affairs and to develop high-level skills in research, communication, analysis and ICT to support your learning. In particular, there will be opportunities to hone your debating skills as well as a chance to experience the practical realities of advocacy by participating in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition.

During the course of study, trips are normally offered to visit Parliament and the Supreme Court in Westminster as well as overseas visits to the European Institutions or the United Nations in New York. On a more local level, at the end of the first year, all students will benefit from opportunities to attend Truro Crown Court to witness the criminal process in action. Students are also given the opportunity to attend various talks given by guest speakers including the police, barristers, judges and even victims of crime.

Law is a natural partner to the study of English language/literature and history at A Level but the syllabus content also connects well with subjects such as Politics, Psychology and Sociology.

### What will I learn?

#### Year 1 Study:

You will start off your studies by examining how the English legal system works. This will provide you with an understanding of the different kinds of Law we have, how these laws are made, applied and updated as well as an appreciation of the role played by key personnel, both professional and lay members, in promoting justice. We will also consider some introductory aspects of criminal law, such as non-fatal offences against the person as well as the potential for liability within the civil law.

#### Year 2 Study:

In second year, we will build on the information gained during the first year by analysing in more depth key aspects of criminal and civil law.

Therefore in our study of criminal law, we will additionally examine the key elements which can lead to a charge of murder or manslaughter, theft or robbery. We will also consider defences such as self-defence and automatism which may assist a defendant to avoid liability along with special defences such as diminished responsibility and loss of control which can reduce a murder charge to that of voluntary manslaughter.

In addition, Human Rights will form the third area of Substantive Law. This will focus on an evaluation of the level of protection afforded to Human Rights by the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998. We will consider fundamental human rights such as our right to liberty, right to a fair trial, right to privacy and right to freedom of speech and, at the same time, will analyse the potential impact of, for example, police powers and surveillance operations in diluting these rights.

## Assessment Arrangements

As the course is linear, final assessment will be in the form of three examinations at the end of Year 2.

### Year 1 Assessment:

#### Where the student ceases to study the subject at the end of Year 1

The AS qualification is available as a “stand alone” qualification and will be decoupled from the A Level, allowing points obtained from the AS examination papers to be available for university entry.

#### Where the student continues to study the subject during the second year

These AS examinations will serve the function of “mock” papers and will provide valuable insight on understanding and knowledge gained during the first year of study.

There are two papers, each constituting 50% of the AS qualification and each being 1.5 hours in duration:

#### Component 1

Examines Law making and the nature of Law in Section A and the English legal system and the nature of Law in Section B. Section A is based on two short answer questions plus one question from a choice of two stimulus response questions. Section B entails one (two part) question from a choice of two essay type questions.

#### Component 2

Examines the Civil Law and Criminal Law. Assessment is based on two short answer questions plus evaluative and one scenario question for each subject area.

### Year 2 Assessment:

The overall result from these three examinations will form the final A Level grade in the subject.

#### Component 1 (25% of the qualification and 1.5 hours in duration)

Examines Law making and the nature of Law in Section A and the English legal system and the nature of Law in Section B. Section A is based on two short answer questions plus one longer question from a choice of two scenario questions. Section B is based on one (two part) question from a choice of two essay type questions.

#### Component 2 (37.5% of the qualification and 2.25 hours in duration)

Examines the Civil Law, Criminal Law and Human Rights. Assessment is based on one analytical question out of a choice of two problem/scenario type questions on each of the three subject areas (three questions in total).

#### Component 3 (37.5% of the qualification and 2.25 hours in duration)

Again examines the Civil Law, Criminal Law and Human Rights. Assessment is based on one evaluative essay out of a choice of two essay type questions on each of the three subject areas (three questions in total).

### Achievement

Your achievement in the subject will be dependent upon adopting a positive work ethic based upon excellent attendance, punctuality and effort. This will include taking the time at home to fully consolidate the information discussed in class and to make your own revision notes.

You will learn in a supportive, friendly atmosphere, using a variety of assessment methods.

You will be assessed regularly at the end of a topic. The work will either be completed at home or alternatively in class, under timed conditions, to practice examination technique. Detailed feedback will be provided on each piece of work and questions are actively encouraged.

You will undertake mock examinations in each paper in advance of your final examinations.

You will review your progress regularly with your tutor in 1:1 sessions during the course.

## Information & Support

It is very important for students to take a wider interest in current affairs as it helps to make their course of study relevant. Therefore it is crucial to read widely and to follow the news on a regular basis. Any work experience within a legal context, e.g. law firm, courts, CPS, CAB etc will be immensely valuable, both to aid understanding and as a point of reference in university applications. A wide variety of electronic resource material is available in addition to a well-stocked Learning Centre.

## Where will it take me?

A qualification in Law is highly valued by many employers, in particular, because of the critical thinking and analytical skills which studying the subject promotes. As well as the obvious career choice of joining the legal profession as a barrister, solicitor, legal executive or paralegal, Law graduates frequently find themselves working in the commercial sector, business and finance, social welfare, human resources management and with charities. A check of the CV of many eminent politicians also highlights the reality that lawyers frequently carve out a career in politics for themselves.

## What do I need?

A high standard of literacy and good communication skills are key tools in the study of Law and therefore we require a B grade (6) in English in order to be accepted on the course.

## Additional Information

### Awarding Body

Eduqas (part of WJEC)