

## A Level Law

### Topic areas studied:

Across the 3 exam papers, 4 broad areas of law are covered.

Firstly, students will learn about the English Legal System including legal personnel (judges, juries, barristers etc.), the law-making process and how disputes are resolved in both the criminal and civil legal systems.

Secondly, as part of the criminal syllabus students will study offences against people (including murder, manslaughter, and grievous bodily harm), property offences (theft, robbery and burglary) as well as defences (including self-defence, insanity and intoxication).

Thirdly, as part of the tort syllabus students will understand how disputes between private parties occur and how they are resolved. Areas of study will include negligence (covering claims for personal injury and an investigation into the award of compensation), trespass and nuisance (covering anything from noisy neighbours, noxious fumes from a factory to rogue golf balls hitting vehicles on the nearby motorway).

Lastly, students will investigate both criminal and civil areas in relation to their impact on human rights. This involves an in-depth study of the powers of the police where students will understand the legality surrounding stop and search, arrest, detention, public order offences and the ability to intercept communications and conduct covert surveillance.

### Exam board:

A-Level Law delivers the specification provided by the EDUQAS exam board.

### Exams:

A-Level Law is a linear subject which is examined at the end of the second year of study. There are three exams in total. The first exam is 90 minutes and requires students to explain, apply and evaluate the law relating to the English Legal System. The second exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes and require students to apply Criminal, Tort and Human Rights law to a variety of scenarios. The third exam is also 2 hours and 15 minutes and requires students to analyse and evaluate areas of Criminal, Tort and Human Rights law.

### Results:

A Level Law has a high success rate and our results have achieved the following profiles within the last two years:

- 98% of students successfully achieving the qualification.
- 88% of them achieved grade A\* - C (This included 10 A\* grades and 22 A grades)

### Teachers:

The Law Department consists of five members staff with many years teaching experience delivering Law A Level, CILEX, and degree programmes. Two staff currently hold positions as examiners for the EDUQAS exam board which gives an invaluable insight into specific examination requirements.

### Skills and prep for future / career:

Law provides students with a multitude of skills. These skills include essay writing, effective communication, problem solving, and the ability to scrutinise and evaluate. The knowledge and skills utilised during the two years will help students prepare for both employment and further study. Many of our students choose to pursue a career in law but this is not the only route. Law provides students with many transferable skills and many students embark upon study and careers in other areas such as politics, journalism, business, teaching, accounting, criminal justice, police, and public services just to name a few. No matter the students chosen

# FAQ YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



career path, law is versatile and provides many transferable skills making it a great choice as a lead subject for further study or in support of other specialisms.

## **Requirements to study:**

To study law we recommend that students enjoy reading and writing (there are lots of essays) and have a genuine interest in current affairs. Law covers controversial and sometimes sensitive issues, so it is important that students are inquisitive, opinionated, and keen to hear other points of view in a mature way. It is beneficial if you have been successful in your English GCSE and/or history as law requires similar skills. We ideally require at least a grade 6 in English, but we will consider grades achieved in other essay-based subjects.

## **Trips:**

We try to give the students as many opportunities as possible. This normally includes a trip to the Local Crown Court to observe a case. We also usually offer a trip to London to visit Parliament and the Supreme Court and in past years we have offered a trip to New York.

## **Other opportunities:**

In addition to trips we also arrange for guest speakers to visit the students. Speakers include judges, police officers, solicitors and barristers. These can be conducted in person or virtually if necessary (as happened in April 2020 when over 40 students took part in a virtual chat with four barristers from Devon Chambers). Students also have the opportunity to join the Law Academy and participate in the National Bar Mock Trial Competition where they will prepare a fictional case, take on the role of barristers and witnesses and compete against other colleges in front of a real judge. In March 2019 we won the regional round of the competition and competed nationally in Edinburgh.

## **COVID-19:**

The college has made a variety of alterations to the way in which the college operates. We have sanitising stations at the entrance to all buildings and in individual classrooms. Students must wear masks in all communal areas and all tables in classrooms are forward facing in line with government guidelines.

## **Lesson time:**

We usually have between 4 and 5 groups in each year. Classes hold a maximum of 22 students and each class will have 3 lessons per week (equating to 4 hours 40 minutes of delivery). In the second-year students also have a 1-hour workshop option.

## **Lesson content / resources:**

We do not expect nor require any prior knowledge of law and the first week is spent introducing students to key terminology and concepts. Students will cover a new topic each week which is supplemented by regular homework and formal assessments to gauge progress. Students will be required to print a booklet for each topic in advance of the lesson and we try to foster an independent learning environment by encouraging students to complete additional activities in their own time. Lessons will include a mixture of content delivery, exam practice, class discussions and regular use of real-life case studies (nationally and locally) to help embed and consolidate their understanding.

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## **Work requirements:**

Law is a challenging but rewarding subject. It helps to demystify the controversy caused by misleading headlines and helps students better understand how the legal system impacts society, which encourages them to interact with current affairs in a mature and intelligent manner.

Although studying law requires hard work and a lot of time spent outside of lessons consolidating class materials, it is an interesting subject and we find that the more a student enjoys a subject the more likely they are to complete the work and ultimately succeed.

## **What subjects go with A Level Law?**

Over the years we have had students study law alongside a variety of different subjects.

Common combinations often include English, history, politics, economics, social sciences and business as these subjects offer either a content overlap and/or transferrable skills.

However, this is not an exhaustive list and we have had many successful law students who have also studied mathematics and the sciences. These students have benefitted from a similar methodical approach to study by learning and applying strict rules in a structured and almost formulaic manner.