

Year 11-12 Transition Pack:

A Level

LAW



**Introduction**

A level Law is a rewarding course, where you will have a number of opportunities to further develop essential key skills. The course encourages you to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying rules and to develop the ability to communicate arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly. These are skills which will compliment virtually any other subject and which will be valued by potential employers.

If you have any further questions, please email the Head of Law, Mrs Flora on, [s.flora@georgesalter.com](mailto:s.flora@georgesalter.com)

**Course Overview**

Qualification Title:- OCR A Level GCE in Law

Exam Board:- OCR

Exam Code:- H418

The specification we follow is OCR. A brief summary of which is on the following two pages. For further details visit the OCR web site on [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

At the end of the second year you will sit three **examinations** – there is no course work for this subject.

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| **Unit 1** | **Unit 2** | **Unit 3** |
| **The Legal System and Criminal Law**  *This unit concentrates on various aspects of the English Legal System and Criminal Law such as Actus Reus; Mens Rea; Murder; Manslaughter; and Non-fatal offences against the person.*  **Assessment: 2 hour Exam** | **Law Making and the Law of Tort**  *This unit concentrates on how laws are made by Parliament and Judges. This unit will also look at the Law of Tort, including negligence and nuisance.*  **Assessment: 2 hour Exam** | **Further Law**  *This unit covers the nature of law and the relationship between law and morality and students will also study Human Rights*  **Assessment: 2 hour Exam** |

If you are planning on doing an A level Law next year then there are plenty of activities you can do to prepare. Please do not feel that you have to do all of these, they are suggestions and you can dip in and out. If you know you want to go on to read Law at university with a view to working in a legal field there are more specific suggestions.

Don’t worry if you come across terminology or concepts that you do not understand. We will start from the beginning when we start the course. Getting background understanding is helpful and writing as much as you can will be useful so you don’t struggle with that element when you return. You might consider making a file to write up information you have found out during research.

The following topics are topics which will be useful for you to research:

* **Juries** – how do they work in the UK? Who can be on a jury?
* **Magistrates** – what do they do? How can be a magistrate?
* **Legal personnel** – what is the difference between a barrister and a solicitor? What is a legal executive?
* **Current affairs**: An understanding of current affairs is useful in Law. Unfortunately, the news is not particularly cheerful at the moment but you will find a number of news articles which relate to the topics we study at A level.

**Reading**

**Main Textbook - OCR A Level Law – Second Edition – Nicholas Price, Richard Wortley, Nigel Briggs**

• Legal fiction: Reading fiction where the legal aspects are accurate can also be a great introduction to legal concepts. You can also get these books on audio.

* Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
* Louise Doughty, Apple Tree Yard (also a BBC drama)
* Ian McEwan, The Children Act
* Charles Dickens, Bleak House (this is a great novel but it is a weighty tome – only attempt this if you are feeling brave!)

**WEBSITES**

https://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/

www.lawteacher.net

www.legalcheek.com

https://thesecretbarrister.com/

http://ukscblog.com/

https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/author/adam1cor/

www.thejusticegap.com

* **Films:**
* 12 Angry Men (a classic!)
* Legally Blonde (OK, it is a chick flick but it still covers real legal issues!)
* Erin Brockovich
  + **Legal career:**

If you want to research possible legal careers then www.lawcareers.net and www.allaboutlaw.co.uk are great places to start. Also look at the resources on the University of Law website: https://www.law.ac.uk/ Look under the “Employability” for the sections on “Legal Careers Guide” and “Legal Practice Areas”. As well as advice and resources there are also some activities that allow you to test your legal skills. https://www.legalcheek.com/ - for anyone who thinks they would like to become a barrister, these are a great way of find out what it is like.

* **Books written by lawyers:**

The Secret Barrister: Stories of how the Law was broken (2019) (this secret author also has a website <https://thesecretbarrister.com/>)

Tim Kevan, Law and Disorder: Confessions of a Student Barrister (2012)

Alex McBride, Defending the Guilty (2011)

**Fancy a challenge?**

We normally suggest books like this for Year 13 students applying to read law at university but there are some really interesting cases.

Hutchinson, A. Is Eating People Wrong?

Great Legal Cases and How they Changed the World (2011)

**Summer Activity- Due second week in September**

Law Summer Project

There is no legal definition of murder, which means that at the time when it became an offence, there was no law to state what is considered as murder.

The courts rely on a seventeenth-century judge, Lord Coke who stated:

*“Murder is the unlawful killing of a reasonable person in being and under the King’s (or Queen’s) Peace with malice aforethought, express or implied”.*

The law states that a ‘foetus’ which is an unborn child, is not considered to be a reasonable person (a human being whom must be a living person being killed).

* The foetus is still in the womb and therefore, not considered a ‘reasonable person in being.
* The foetus is not considered to be alive.

Therefore, a person cannot be charged with murder in respect of the killing of a foetus, as a child must have an ‘existence independent of the mother for it to be considered a human being. This means that it must have been expelled from her body and have an independent existence.

In the case of **Attorney-General’s Reference (No. 3 of 1994) (1997)** it was decided that it was not possible for a defendant to be charged with murder for killing foetus.

**The defendant had stabbed his pregnant girlfriend. The baby was born premature and died 121 days later. The defendant was not charged with murder but instead convicted of manslaughter.**

**Your Task**

Research this area of the law and write a persuasive essay expressing your opinions on this rule.

Do you think it is right?

What supports your view?

Discuss any points that others may have.

Counter-balance your argument and suggest points that are opposite to yours.