



Introduction to A Level Law

Dear new Law students, below are some activities that you may find useful to complete prior to starting A Level Law. Feel free to pick and complete as many as you can.

Good luck! Miss Davies 😊

Task 1: Read the attached A Level Law handbook and make a note of the three units you will be studying below with the assessment requirements:

UNIT/TITLE	BRIEFLY EXPLAIN WHAT THIS UNIT IS ABOUT	ASSESSMENT METHOD, LENGTH AND DATE

Task 2: As part of your induction, you will need to be able to define what 'Law is' – have a go below:

Create a definition of Law using some or all of the key words below:

System, rules, body, government, control, regulate, society, behaviour, enforce, punishment, penalties

Need some help? See below...

Choose which definition you think most accurately defines Law:

A	The system of rules which a country or community recognises as regulating the actions of its members and enforcing by punishment
B	A formal mechanism of social control in order to establish and maintain social order
C	The cement of society that holds fundamentally disorganised societies together, and a social medium of change

There are a large number of areas of Law, many of which you have most likely heard of: Criminal Law, Family law, Employment Law etc. These can be categorised into wider areas of Public and Private areas of law. On the A Level, we cover three main areas, which are Criminal Law, Tort Law and Contract Law. Criminal Law is a Public area of law, and Tort and Contract Law are Private areas, otherwise known as Civil Law

Task 3: Find some information on the difference between Criminal and Civil Law online (you can find a nice summary here: <https://www.inbrief.co.uk/legal-system/difference-between-civil-criminal-law/>). Once you have an understanding of the main differences, identify whether each offence or area below is civil and/or criminal:

WHAT IS AN 'OFFENCE'? – A punishable or wrongful act

1. Murder
2. Damaging somebody's property
3. Smoking a cigarette in a public building
4. Borrowing an item of property and not returning it (*what offence is this?*)
5. Rape
6. Making a 'Will' to leave inheritance
7. Driving at 90mph when the speed limit is 70mph
8. Stalking
9. Trespassing on your neighbour's property
10. Divorce

In summary, Criminal Law is a Public area of Law because it involves the State prosecuting/bringing an action against an individual suspected of committing an offence. Civil Law/Private Law areas govern disputes or matters between individuals and/or businesses

Task 4: On the A Level, we start learning about the court processes for both Criminal and Civil areas of Law. This involves learning about the **Legal personnel** involved: Solicitors, Barristers, Judges, Jury members and Magistrates. Note that Jurors and Magistrates are not legally qualified (this is known in Law as 'Lay').

- Use the website <https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/who-are-the-judiciary/> to find out about Judges – who they are and what they do day-to-day. This is a Senior role within our Legal System that carries heavy responsibility, but also a heavy salary!
- Watch this video on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQGekF-72xQ> to find out about the role of a Juror. It lasts approximately 12 minutes and is shown to potential jurors when they arrive at the Crown Court for service
- Use the webpage <https://www.thelawyerportal.com/free-guides/difference-between-solicitor-and-barrister/> to find out more about Solicitors and Barristers, although note that in the future the training for both is set to merge and therefore they may not stay different for much longer

Task 5: When we learn areas of Law, we are required to remember quite a large number of legal authorities. These come in the form of cases (which are legal judgments made by Judges in Courts, which become Law) and legislation (which are laws made by Parliament). Find the following:

- In 1797, Lord Justice Coke, a high ranking Judge, created the offence of Murder. How did he define it?
- The offence of causing Grievous Bodily Harm or Wounding is defined by Parliament in a piece of legislation. What is it? (Clue – it's an Act of Parliament!)

Task 6: Head to <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/> to find out a bit more about how parliament make Laws.

Final note from me:

I hope you have found these tasks useful. The A Level covers a broad range of legal areas and processes, which are extremely advantageous particularly if you are considering pursuing a legal or related course/career after Sixth Form. On the A Level, I provide a range of engaging trips (such as to the Courts!) and enrichment opportunities. You will be able to develop your advocacy/speaking skills if you desire to become a barrister and have the opportunity to identify a number of career paths, plus enter competitions! If you have any questions specifically related to the Law A Level, please email me at daviesl@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk.