

# A Level Law

## Curriculum Overview 2020-2021

### Core aims of the subject at Key Stage 5

To study Law is to study human behaviour and the way in which society attempts its regulation. By pursuing the subject, students will gain a greater insight into human nature, helping to shape their understanding of why the world is as it is. Students will come to appreciate that any successful society depends upon a fine balance between competing interests and that the task of achieving relative harmony is not an easy one. The subject therefore develops greater vigilance, a sense of citizenship, and an awareness that the best way to navigate one's future, is to understand the rules to which we are all subject. As such, the Law curriculum is designed to provide students with a diverse knowledge of the key branches of law and the institutions and people that shape it.

Far from studying the legal system purely in abstract terms, students are confronted with the stark reality of the individual and collective circumstances that people find themselves in. In this way, students quickly learn that life is not straightforward and that pre-conceived ideas of fairness and what is just are challenged. From this, the personal morality of students is shaped and students are encouraged to communicate their opinions with regards to what they believe to be right and wrong. This participatory approach develops a gradual acknowledgement that binary and simplistic interpretations are not always helpful when it comes to recognising what motivates behaviour and the choices that people make. Yet, the law forces one to eventually reach such stark outcomes; guilty or not guilty, liable or not liable. Students are thus compelled to ultimately decide, no matter how detailed and nuanced the evidence presented to them.

The foundation of students' legal understanding is established by their study of Law Making and the English Legal System. Students study a breadth of legal principles, institutions, processes and figures, highlighting the legal landscape and culture in this country. In this regard, students come to realise the importance of law to the successful operation of the British state, safeguarding the values that are fundamental to life in the UK. This provides suitable preparation for adult life and encourages students to consider the particular legal profession that they may wish to pursue in the future. The career ambitions of students are subsequently catered for, the legal services sector of the UK economy only second to that of the US in terms of its size. Students are therefore provided with the motivation to stretch their academic abilities in accordance with the prestigious and high salaried positions that they could achieve in the legal field. In accordance with this, practicing barristers and solicitors are invited to speak to students, informing them about their career experiences and encouraging students think that the law is a viable career path for them.

Complementing the wide-ranging of study of Law Making and the English Legal System is the depth and rigour offered by the study of Criminal Law, Tort Law and Human Rights Law. Each topic provides significant challenge, requiring students to adopt a logical approach to scenario analysis and problem-solving. In becoming adept at assessing the value of evidence and formulating coherent responses based on sound judgement, students are acquiring skills that transcend Law as a subject. Such qualities are transferable to innumerable aspects of everyday and professional life. In this regard, legal study helps to foster a thought process that is rational, level-headed and highly sought after.

To master the complexities of criminal, tort and human rights law, students are presented with a gradual approach to obtaining automaticity when it comes to answering legal questions, whether they be presented verbally or in written form. Students duly encounter numerous opportunities to apply their legal acumen, learning how to deliver answers that are impactful and address the requirements of the questions set. To assist students in this process, hundreds of legal cases are provided to students, allowing them to discern the situations that human beings find themselves in and are subjected to. The reality of this often has a profound impact on students, something that is further deepened following visits to Magistrates' and Crown Courts. Consequently, students come to realise that the Law curriculum covers all facets of human conduct, and enlightens students in ways that are both light-hearted and gravely serious. Irrespective of the precise nature of a case, the interest of students is inevitably captivated and class discussion predictably follows in an intelligent and sensitive manner. Students therefore make holistic progress, the Law curriculum helping to develop students to become mature and self-aware young adults.

### **Trips and visits**

N/A

### **Assessment**

Regular short and long answer exam based questions.  
Regular Q&A sessions.  
Regular knowledge based quizzes to consolidate knowledge.  
Year 13 students are required to answer exam scenario based questions.

### **Homework**

Regular reading and watching of documentaries to develop contextual knowledge.  
Regular exam style questions set to improve technique and examination performance.  
Folders and independent study need to be maintained.

### **Clubs and/or intervention**

Weekly revision sessions available for Year 13 students during the spring and summer terms.

### **Parental/Carer support**

Parents/Carers are requested to assist in the purchase of three core textbooks.

### **Helpful sources of information**

Course Guide has many resources designed to assist students with developing knowledge and understanding.  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/government-and-politics>

## Year 12 Overview

Term	Knowledge	Assessment	Connections to learning	Connections to future pathways
<p><b>Big Idea:</b> The nature of law and the English legal system</p> <p>Rationale: The successful operation of the English legal system underpins the relative success of the UK. It exists to resolve disputes, regulate behaviour, and to provide a sense of justice and fairness. It is therefore a key pillar of British civilisation and has influenced legal systems around the world. In order to fully appreciate the English legal system, it is important to grasp the nature of law, including its sources and its intention. In this way, the impact of the law can be properly understood.</p>				
<p><b>Autumn</b> <b>1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Nature of law</li> <li>➤ The rule of law</li> <li>➤ Composition and role of House of Commons and House of Lords</li> <li>➤ Green and White papers</li> <li>➤ Legislative process</li> <li>➤ Different types of Bill</li> <li>➤ Influences on parliament</li> <li>➤ Advantages and disadvantages of parliamentary law making process</li> <li>➤ Parliamentary supremacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Closed and open questioning in class.</li> <li>➤ Single mark multiple choice questions.</li> <li>➤ AS examination questions: Explain (3 marks), Suggest (3 marks), Advise and assess (12 marks), Consider (20 marks), Explain and discuss (20 marks).</li> <li>➤ A level examination questions: Explain (5 marks),</li> </ul>	<p>SMSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 2a, 2b, 3c, 4c</li> </ul> <p>BV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ a, b, c,</li> </ul>	<p>Future learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A Level Politics</li> <li>➤ A Level Law</li> <li>➤ A Level Sociology</li> </ul> <p>Careers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Education</li> <li>➤ Academia</li> <li>➤ Journalism</li> <li>➤ Civil Service</li> <li>➤ Law</li> <li>➤ Parliamentarian</li> <li>➤ Political Researcher</li> <li>➤ Legal Researcher</li> <li>➤ Policy Officer</li> <li>➤ Activist</li> </ul>

		<p>Suggest why (5 marks), Advise (10 marks), Examine and discuss (15 marks), Consider (30 marks), Consider and assess (30 marks)</p>		
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