

A-Level Law



Welcome to A-Level Law at Woking College!

During the course, we will be looking at the following topics:

- The Legal System
- Law Making
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law
- Contract Law
- The Nature of Law

We will be following the OCR Specification:

[AS and A Level - Law - H018, H418 \(from 2020\) - OCR](#)

This booklet will give you a 'taster' of some of the topics you will study during the course. You can complete the tasks in the space provided or on a separate document.

We would like you to bring your booklets/work to enrolment in August, but if you would like to get in touch about the project, get some feedback or find out more about the course, please email Leanne Gallagher at lga@woking.ac.uk



Section 1 – The Legal System

Task 1 – Crown Court

Your first task is to look in detail at the Crown Court. You need to research who is there, what each of their roles is and what types of cases this court hears. These video links should help you with the task:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZYvv_s5R-s
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQGekF-72xQ>

Who is at a trial?

	Person/people in courtroom	Role
1	Judge	
2	Prosecution Barrister (advocate)	
3	Defence Barrister (advocate)	
4	Solicitors	
5	Jury	
6	Defendant	
7	Witnesses	

Types of cases (can you include any examples?) -

Challenge – What do judges consider when deciding the sentence if the defendant is found guilty? A good place to start would be the sentencing council guideline

Task 2 – Criminal Offences

Below are 10 criminal offences, you need to research which court they would be heard in and the possible sentences. This link can be used to help with this - <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/going-to-court/which-court-will-a-case-be-heard-in/>

Offence	Place of trial	Possible sentence
Murder		
Theft		
Speeding		
GBH (Grievous Bodily Harm)		
Rape		
Possession of Cannabis		
Criminal Damage		
Burglary		
Dealing Class A drugs		
Driving without insurance		

Challenge – what factors may vary a sentence?

Task 3 – Sentencing

You need to read the following article and answer the questions below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49886053>

What changes have been suggested?

How are prison sentences decided?

What influences the sentence given by a judge?

What type of sentences may be given by a judge?

Why do most offences offer a range of options?

What is a life sentence?

When are most offenders released and what happens to them?

Task 4 – Sentencing

‘Should life mean life?’

Using the following links and your own you need to write an essay describing when a life sentence is given and to answer the question of ‘should life mean life?’

<https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/sentencing-and-the-council/types-of-sentence/life-sentences/>

<https://www.gov.uk/types-of-prison-sentence/life-sentences>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theoneshow/consumer/2009/01/13/should-life-mean-life.html>

<https://www.debate.org/opinions/should-a-life-sentence-mean-life-in-prison-uk>

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2014/02/Should-life-mean-life27-02-14.aspx>

Section 2 – How laws are made

Task 1 – Making the laws

Using the information provided by Parliament, answer the following questions:

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/>

Why are new laws needed?

What is a draft bill?

What is an Act of Parliament?

Task 2 – The process

How does a bill become a law? You need to provide a brief description of each of the stages in the House of Commons and the House of Lords

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee Stage

Report Stage

Third Reading

Other House

Royal Assent

Task 3 – The new laws

Research 3 bills which are currently before Parliament and write a brief description of what the law is intending to cover, the following link will help. <https://services.parliament.uk/bills/>

Bill 1

What is the title of the bill?	
Who put the bill forward (sponsored the bill)?	
What law(s) is it trying to introduce?	
What stage in the process has it reached?	

Bill 2

What is the title of the bill?	
Who put the bill forward (sponsored the bill)?	
What law(s) is it trying to introduce?	
What stage in the process has it reached?	

Bill 3

What is the title of the bill?	
Who put the bill forward (sponsored the bill)?	
What law(s) is it trying to introduce?	
What stage in the process has it reached?	

Challenge – What would you do?

Come with your own idea for a Bill. You need to include:

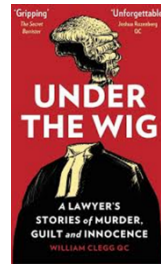
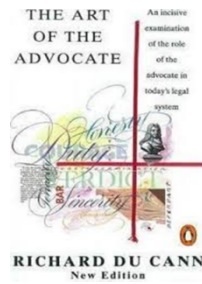
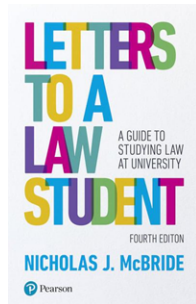
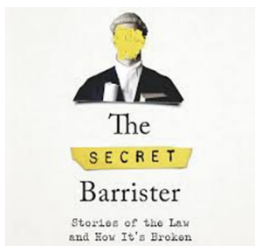
A title for your bill

What law it is changing or introducing?

Why it is needed?

Section 3 – what else could you do?

Reading:



Television:

Life and death row- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b03zndw4/life-and-death-row-series-1-3-crisis-stage>

Disclosure- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0005yzn/disclosure-series-2-1-can-cannabis-save-my-child>

Crime: Are we tough enough?- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000dv36/crime-are-we-tough-enough-series-1-5-the-trial>