A-LEVEL LAW

CHESHIRE COLLEGE SOUTH & WEST



SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Congratulations on gaining your place to study A-Level Law at Cheshire College South & West! We very much look forward to welcoming you in September. Through studying A Level Law, you will learn about the legal system, law making, the nature of law, criminal law, the law of tort and human rights. You will develop a range of skills including the application of legal rules and principles to present an argument, analysis and evaluation of the law, and an understanding of legal issues and concepts. We follow the AQA A-Level Law Course (Option 3B). Please consult the CCSW A-Level Law Course Guide for further detail.

Introductory Reading

You will find the start of the law course a lot easier if you do some introductory reading. There are many books that provide an introduction and useful tips. Do browse through the list and see which you find most interesting: you are certainly not expected to read them all! However, the following may help in introducing you to legal skills and how lawyers think:

III Is Eating People Wrong? Great Legal Cases and How They Shaped the World: Allan Hutchinson

The Rule of Law: Tom Bingham

Letters to a Law Student: Nicholas McBride

Learning the Law: Glanville Williams

What about Law: Barnard, O'Sullivan & Virgo
Understanding Law: Adams & Brownsword

Of more topical interest:

The Secret Barrister series

Overruled: Sam Fowles

IN Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do: Michael Sandel

In Your Defence: Sarah Langford

IN Jeremy Hutchinson's Case Histories: Thomas Grant

And just for fun – some legal fiction:

To Kill a Mockingbird: Harper Lee

Bleak House: Charles Dickens

For those interested in mooting and the art of advocacy:

The Devil's Advocate: Ian Morley
Advocacy in Court: Keith Evans

Pupillage Inside Out: Sokol & McArdle (to dispel any myths about life at the Bar!)

You will also need a strong grasp of the workings of the British political system and should keep abreast of a good-quality broadsheet newspaper (*The Times, The Telegraph, The Guardian*), and listen to topical political programmes (*The Today Programme, Newsnight*). Taking a keen interest in the political issues of the day will aid your legal studies considerably. For example, having a deeper understanding of relations between politicians and judges, 'hot' human rights cases or reform of the House of Lords. The following are some suggestions for media that you may wish to dip into:

<u>Podcasts</u>	TV Shows
	☐ Judge John Deed (BBC)
	☐ Barristers: Fighting for Justice (C4)
O UK Law Weekly	□ Silk (BBC)
	🖫 Parole (BBC)
	24 Hours in Police Custody (C4)
	Defending the Guilty (BBC)
	🖫 Kavanagh QC (ITV)
∩ Law Pod UK	🖫 Accused (BBC)
	🖫 Erin Brockovich (Netflix)
∩ Legal Directions	☐ Mr Bates v The Post Office (ITV)
Our Control of Law Our Control o	🖫 North Square (C4)

Textbooks and Revision Guides

Full and free online access to the AQA-recommended textbooks and revision guides is available through the college library. Hard copies are available for purchase: A1 Textbook, A2 Textbook and Revision Guide. Please ensure that any materials are AQA-specific. You will also receive free access to Flipped Law: a fantastic online resource, combining video explanations, practice scenario questions, interactive quizzes, and topic checklists to consolidate learning. For now, please familiarise yourself with a rough outline of the topics we will study: Tutor2u AQA Student Handbook.

Legal writing is very different from the writing you will have encountered during your GCSE studies. Our introductory legal skills sessions will explain the distinctiveness of legal writing further but for now, you may wish to delve into the IRAC / CLEO methods or dip into 'How to Write Law Essays & Exams' by SI Strong.

By way of materials, you will need three A4 ring binders / plastic wallets / dividers and paper for note taking in lessons alongside a range of coloured pens and highlighters.

Law in Action

Getting a feel for the law can help bring abstract concepts to life. You could visit your local Magistrates' and / or County Courts. Even the highest courts of the land (Royal Courts of Justice and the Supreme

Court) are open to the public. Court sittings are between 10am to 12pm and then 2pm to 4pm. Please aim to arrive half an hour before and inquire with the court usher as to which are the best cases to go and watch: they will be more than happy to help.

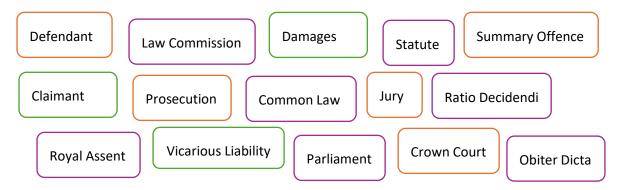
Independent Study

A-Level Law is a fascinating but challenging subject. Therefore, it is important that you complete the following course preparation to gain prior knowledge and skills that will be useful throughout the next two years. Please collate your work for submission during your first tutorial in September. Your responses may be written or typed but please ensure that all your work is named and dated.

Task One: Key Legal Terminology & Personnel

The Distinction Between Criminal and Civil Law

When studying Law, we will use different legal terms, and it is important to know and understand what these terms mean from the outset of our course. Please define the following:



- **Solicitor or Barrister?**
- **Watch the Advocacy Training that Your Lecturer Went Through!**
- Legal Executive Apprenticeships

Is it true that Barristers must eat 12 meals in an 'Inn of Court' before they can be 'called to the Bar?'

Task Two: Criminal Courts & Sentencing

- **1** Introduction to Magistrates Courts
- **Introduction to Crown Courts**

In passing sentence, the first thing that a Judge or Magistrate will consider is the purpose of their sentence. The different aims of sentencing can be found in Section 57 of the Sentencing Act 2020.

Understanding the Sentencing Act 2020

Please match the following to the five aims of sentencing found within the Act:



o A fixed term prison sentence proportionate to the crime e.g. life sentence for murder

- o Drug and alcohol treatment or education requirements
- Compensation orders or unpaid work within society
- o Long prison sentences, curfews or prohibited activity orders
- o A long prison sentence or a large fine

Task Three: Legal Theory & the Morality of Law

You may find Professor Sandel's Harvard lectures on Justice fascinating in their breadth and depth: The Moral Side of Murder. Please consider the following questions: What is law? How do we distinguish law from morality? Why do we have legal rules? What is the purpose of our legal system? What does justice mean? In English law, we do not have a 'good Samaritan' rule in that there is no duty of care upon a stranger to save a baby from drowning in a pond? Do you agree? Do you believe that if you mean to hit X but instead hit Y that you should be guilty of a crime?

			CCSW Law Summer Assignment 2025/26
Why is the standa	rd of proof low	ver in civil law compared to	criminal law?
vviiy is the stande	ira or proor low	rei in eivii iaw comparea to t	arminariaw.
Task Four: The De	evelopment of	the Common Law	
Every case that go	nes to court is a	recorded in the 'Law reports	s' which explain the facts of the case, the
		•	he decision. Some are quite lengthy, and
			ow the law is being applied. Research the
		m in a table with name, date	÷ , ,
(A) Cilout Dhono	Calla, D., Inglan	٠.	
	Calls: <u>R v Irelan</u> ings: <u>R v White</u>		
-	_	hue v Stevenson	
_		rough: Airedale NHS Trust v	Bland
Conjoined Tw		<u> </u>	
Name	Year	Facts	Legal Principle
Task Five: Law in	the News		
Lady Hale, Fo	rmer President	of the UK Supreme Court	
Do you think we	ara still at risk o	f an 'imminent' hreakdown	of the rule of law in the UK?
Do you tillik we a	ire still at risk o	i ali ilililililetti breakdowii	of the fale of law in the ox:
	•••••		
What does Lady F	lale note has ca	aused a rise in 'litigants in pe	erson?'

Research R v R. Why are conviction rates for rape so low? Is the court system failing women?

To Kill a Burglar: The Tony Martin Story (2006)		
Do you believe 'an Englishman's home should be his castle?'		
Do you selecte an Englishman o nome should se his castle.		
Why did Tony Martin's plea of self-defence fail? Do you agree?		
What is diminished responsibility? What impact does it have on the indictment / sentencing?		
Eour jailed for at least 173 years for murder of Ashley Dale		
- San Janes 10. de l'edit 210 y San Sier I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I		
What cases are tried in the Crown Court?		
What are aggravating and mitigating factors? What were two aggravating features in this case?		
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What discount is granted for an early guilty plea?		

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Play-Fight Claim Dad jailed for murdering daughter
What is a minimum term?
When can a judge accept a majority verdict from a jury?
What is the role of the parole board? What is meant by the term 'being out on licence?'
Nursery worker jailed for 14 years over baby death
What is the difference between murder and manslaughter?
What was the offence underpinning the finding of unlawful act manslaughter?
What is meant by the term 'culpability?'



And finally....

BBC News: Law

The Guardian: Law

Research a recent legal debates and / or news articles on a topic that interests you. The Law Commission's <u>Current Reform Projects</u> may prove insightful alongside the following websites:

Legal Cheek

Law Gazette

The Times: Law	<u>Financial Times: Law</u>
What are the legal issues involved?	
What is the area of law you are most looking forwa	ard to studying?
What do you believe you may find most challengir	ng about studying law?

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Thank you for all of your hard work and we look forward to welcoming you in September!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your Lecturer in Law: