

Law

Test of Key facts

10 key facts to learn for the start of the course

1. Name the two Houses of Parliament?
2. What is the name of the most senior national court in the English Legal System?
3. The term lawyer can be defined in three ways, what are these?
4. Normally, in order to commit a crime in England and Wales, the Actus Reus and Mens Rea need to be establish. What do these terms mean?
5. Actus Reus:
6. Mens Rea:
7. Once being able to define the above, try to explain where it can be seen in a criminal offence?
8. Tort law is an area of law that can affect us on a daily basis, what is meant by the term Tort Law?
9. The Human Rights Act 1998 was passed into law in 1998. It is made up of a range of Articles. Can you name two Articles between 2 and 11 and state what they concern?
10. What is meant by the term ‘Rule of Law’?
11. What is the legal definition of Murder in this country?
12. Research the case, Re A (Conjoined twins) What was the decision from this case and why was no one found guilty of murder?

Building Block 1: Significance

One of the central recurring themes in A Level Law is the role case law and its significance of shaping and explaining the law. Why is it that some cases are more significant than others? In what ways, if at all, can the contributions of the decision of these cases to the past be unprecedented?

Step 1: Create a timeline on an area of law (some suggestions would be Murder, Non-Fatal Offences, Theft, Personal Injury, Vicarious Liability). The timeline should start from when the existing law was established, so for example Non-Fatal offences are governed under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. This would be your starting point. Identify 5 key cases (if in doubt, double check with Mr Gibbons to see if the cases you have chosen are suitable!).

Step 2: For each of your case, complete the grid below, explaining the ways that they are significant:

What was the judgment in the case?

What happened in this case?

Has the case been developed upon?

How did it develop/clarify the law?

Step 3: Based upon your grids, which of your cases do you think was most significant and why? If you had to rank them into an order of significance, what would your criteria be for what makes a case significant to the Law?

 In what ways were these cases remarkable, both at the time and since?

Building Block 2: Interpretation

A Level Law you will not only require you to study the law, but also to engage critically with the interpretations of different lawyers/judges about how the law has been developed.

Task 1: Select one of the texts from the reading list below. You might want to select something that will help you prepare for your A Level units in Year 12, or explore something new – speak to your teacher for advice!

Task 2: Write a book review of your text, addressing the questions below: - What are the key legal themes/arguments of this book? - How convincing do you find these themes/arguments, and why? - What surprised you about this interpretations given, and why? - What did this text reveal to you about the nature and the challenges of studying Law?

1. The Rule of Law by Tom Bingham
2. Eve Was Framed by Helena Kennedy
3. Bleak House by Charles Dickens
4. Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law at University by Nicholas J. McBride
5. The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broke