



DIXONS  
SIXTH FORM  
ACADEMY

# SUMMER WORK: A LEVEL LAW

20

23

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# About the Summer Work

This booklet contains a number of tasks that students are expected to complete to a good standard in order to be able to be enrolled in this subject.

Please complete the summer work on A4 paper (not in a notebook so you can hand it in) and bring it with you to the first lesson.

The work handed in should:

- Be written in black ink.
- Be written in full sentences.
- Not copied and pasted from external sources.
- Include your full name on each sheet.
- Have multiple sheets connected together.

Please complete all the tasks to fully prepare for Sixth Form study.

# Welcome to Law

## Subject outline

Exam Board: OCR (H418).

Students of A-Level Law will:

- Develop an understanding of law and how it works by looking at the English legal system and law-making in the UK.
- Learn about different areas of law such as criminal law, tort and contract.
- Learn more about society from a legal perspective – both contemporary and historical.
- Learn about the interaction between law and morals, justice and society.
- Make connections with business, economics, history and politics.
- Develop academic skills, including analysis and evaluation.
- Be able to make an informed decision about future careers.

A-Level Law at D6A consists of the following three units:

1. The legal system and criminal law (H418/01)
2. Law making and the law of tort (H418/02)
3. The nature of law and the law of contract(H418/03)

How will the course be assessed?

A-Level Law is a two year course and assessed at the end of the two years by written examinations. There is no coursework. The exam for each unit is 2 hours long and each is worth 33.3% of the marks. The exam questions include: Essay questions and legal scenario questions.

What core skills or attributes does A-Level Law help develop?

It helps develop a range of transferable skills such as analytical skills, attention to detail, logical thinking, essay writing skills and the ability to memorise large volumes of content. A-Level Law will also highly develop your communication and time management skills. Communication is the skill most commonly highlighted in postings for higher skilled jobs and time management is also highlighted by employers.

What sort of work will students be expected to do outside of lesson time?

Students are expected to undertake a minimum of five hours of independent work for A-Level Law. This will increase during key assessment periods and of course external exams.

The complete specification and further information can be found on:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/law-h018-h418-from-2020/>

## Careers & Higher Education

If I want to study Law at university, should I study the subject at A-Level?

The A Level gives an excellent introduction for students who want to read Law at university or start a legal apprenticeship. Universities recognise the advantages of A Level Law and the old view that it should not be studied has long since faded away. It is therefore a complete myth that universities prefer students studying Law at university to not have studied A-Level Law. If you are considering studying Law at university, then you are fortunate that at D6A it is offered as a subject and this is the best possible way of gaining an insight and an introduction to the subject before pursuing it at university. I would highly recommend it to anyone thinking of pursuing Law at university. The OCR course has been developed following the advice of Russell group universities.

A Level Law is not just for students who want to enter the legal professions. It is an academic, well-respected subject and is a welcome addition to many A Level programmes of study. A Level Law links well with most other subjects. We have students studying it alongside sciences, Maths, Humanities and Social Sciences.

### What can I do next?

Students wishing to continue their legal studies after A Levels can opt for a university degree or work-based apprenticeship. Other related courses include policing, criminology and social work or you can pursue a degree or an apprenticeship in a complete non law related field.

### Careers in law:

Studying Law at degree level or some legal apprenticeships can lead to the qualifications required to become a solicitor, barrister or legal executive.

- Generally, a solicitor is the first source of legal advice and most solicitors carry out an advisory role. The majority of solicitors work in private practice in a solicitors' firm. However, solicitors can also carry out advocacy. This is usually in the lower courts but solicitors with an advocacy qualification can represent in the higher courts too.
- Barristers on the other hand, are self-employed and tend to specialise in a certain field such as personal injury. They tend to be instructed by a solicitor but can be instructed by a client.
- Legal executives work in a solicitors' firm and their role is very similar to that of a solicitor although they tend to deal with more straightforward matters such as drafting wills and handling parts of a property transfer.

The three traditional routes to become a barrister, solicitor or legal executive are outlined below:

	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>
Barrister	Law degree (LLB) (3 or 4 years)	1 year Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)	1 year Pupillage
Solicitor	Law degree (LLB) (3 or 4 years)	1 year Solicitors' Qualifying Examinations (SQE)	2 years Qualifying Work Experience (QWE)

Legal Executive	Legal apprenticeship (usually 5 years)	Becoming a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives	Usually commence work as a qualified Legal Executive at the firm the apprenticeship was undertaken with
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In West Yorkshire, there was a greater demand for lawyers in 2020 compared to 2019 and only 52% of young people in West Yorkshire have achieved Level 3 by the age of 19, compared to the national average of 60%. Therefore, studying at D6A and completing your Level 3 course will give you a great advantage.

**Links to key information:**

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/law-h018-h418-from-2020/>

<https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/Law.pdf>

### Task 1: The English Legal System

Criminal offences are grouped into 3 categories.

Using the following website, **fill in the table below**:

<https://www.lawtonslaw.co.uk/resources/categories-of-offences/>

Types of offences	Definition	Examples	The court(s) this offence can be tried in
Summary offences			
Triable-either-way offences			
Indictable offences			

### Task 2: The English Legal System

Using the following website (*or others*), **answer the two questions below**:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/you-and-the-judiciary/going-to-court/>

- 1) List the 5 courts that deal with criminal cases in England and highlight which two are first instance courts.
- 2) List the 4 courts that deal with civil cases in England and highlight which two are first instance courts.

*(Some courts deal with both criminal and civil cases so you will write the same court for 1 and 2).*

### Task 3. The English Legal System

Please read the jurisdiction of magistrates and the jurisdiction of the jury below, then answer the following Q:

**State similarities and differences between the magistrates and the jury.**



### **The jurisdiction of magistrates in criminal cases**

The magistrates role is largely governed by the Magistrates' Court Act 1980. There are three magistrates who sit in the Magistrates Court.

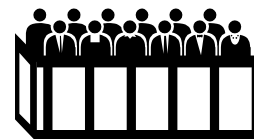
Pre-trial, all cases first appear at the Magistrates Court. In this preliminary hearing, the magistrates carry out administrative tasks and may also consider bail applications under the Bail Act 1976. The defendant (D) may also enter a plea for summary cases and triable either way (TEW) cases. (*for indictable cases, the plea is entered later at the Crown Court*).

Types of cases they hear - Magistrates hear all summary offences in the Magistrates' Court, these are the least serious offences such as assault and some triable either way offences, these are middle range offences such as assault occasioning actual bodily harm under s.47 of the OAPA 1861. Magistrates will send serious offences (indictable and some TEW offences) to the Crown Court for a trial. At trial, in the Magistrates' Court, the magistrates will listen to all the evidence. The legal adviser helps magistrates with any law. The magistrates then alone decide the verdict. The magistrates will then proceed to sentence the defendant if found guilty. When sentencing, magistrates must act within their sentencing powers as provided by the Sentencing Act (2020). The maximum sentence that the Magistrates can now impose for a single offence is 12 months imprisonment (A fine must not exceed the statutory limit) under The Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022. Magistrates will commit TEW offences (guilty plea cases) for sentencing at the Crown Court, if their sentencing powers are not sufficient, under Section 3 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act (2000).

Other roles - In addition to hearing cases in the Magistrates Court, magistrates can also sit in the Crown Court with a judge to hear appeals from the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates may also sit in the Youth Court, Family Court or Licensing Appeals Panel after carrying out specialised training.

Magistrates can also, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) issue a warrant authorising the police to enter and search premises for evidence of a serious arrestable offence. *Magistrates should only issue warrants under this section if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the police will not be able to obtain access to the evidence without a warrant.*

Magistrates can also allow the police to keep a defendant in custody for longer.



### **The jurisdiction of the jury in criminal cases**

- Main law for this area is contained in the Juries Act (1974) and the Criminal Justice Act (2003).
- Twelve jurors sit in the Crown Court. They decide indictable offences (most serious offences, like murder and GBH with intent (s18)) and some triable either way offences (mid-range offences, like theft and Assault occasioning ABH (s47)). They listen to evidence and submissions provided by those in court, (this includes evidence in chief and cross-examination of the witnesses and summing up by defence and prosecution). *They may see exhibits such as items involved in the crime, photographs, CCTV images and diagrams.*
- They focus on the facts of the case. *Jurors are excluded from court if lawyers need to argue points of law.*



- They can make notes during the trial but these can only be used in the courtroom and the private jury room. They cannot be taken home. At the end of the trial, the notes will be destroyed, because the whole process of the jury's deliberation is secret.
  - After evidence has been presented in the courtroom, the judge sums up at the end of the trial and explains to the jurors what they have to decide. The law is explained to them by the judge. In some cases (about 10%), the trial judge can also tell the jury to acquit the defendant. (But cannot tell them to find the defendant guilty as established in Bushell's case).
  - The jury has to reach a verdict and they retire to a private jury room to do this. They have a secret discussion. Jurors are prohibited from discussing the case with anyone else and cannot be questioned. They could be liable under Section 8 of the Contempt of Court Act (1981) if they don't ensure confidentiality. They can put written questions to the judge while they are deliberating.
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- The jury's decision has to be unanimous, i.e. all of them will agree that the defendant is either guilty or not guilty. However, a majority verdict of 11:1 or 10:2 can be accepted by the judge when enough time has elapsed (usually at least 2 hours).
  - The foreman then publicly announces the verdict to open court but do not have to give reasons for their decision (unlike magistrates).
  - The judge then decides the sentence not the jury.

#### **Task 4: Revision Task**

A-Level Law predominantly assesses knowledge and therefore you will be required to retain a large volume of content and so you need to find a strategy that helps you with retention.

Please **create a revision resource on the role / jurisdiction of the magistrates and the jury** using all the information above (under task 3) **and revise**, ready to be assessed in September. The above two answers are model answers and both scored 8 out of 8 so essentially you need to learn all of that. Within the first two weeks, you will have the following two question to complete in exam conditions (10 minutes per Q): 'Outline the jurisdiction of Magistrates' and 'Outline the role of the jury [8]'

#### **Task 5: Parliamentary law-making**

**Create a flow-chart on the legislative process** (the passage of a Bill to become a law) following the link below (your flow-chart can be either on a Bill that starts in the House of Commons or the House of Lords – you do not need to re-write all the steps again when it goes to the other House and instead just state 'the same procedure in the other House':

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/passage-bill/>

#### **Task 5: Criminal law**

Revision task

Below is a list of all the offences and defences that we cover under the criminal law topic.

**Research the difference between an offence and a defence and write it down.** Then create a **revision resource and memorise the name of each offence or defence and which law it is provided under.** This is the starting point for each offence and defence that you will need to know.

<b>Non-fatal offences</b> <i>(the V does not die)</i>	Name of offence:	Provided under:
	<b>Assault</b>	Defined by <u>common law</u> ( <i>this means defined by judges</i> ) but mentioned under <u>Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act (1988)</u>
	<b>Battery</b>	Defined by <u>common law</u> but mentioned under <u>Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act (1988)</u>
	<b>Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm</b>	<u>Section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act (1861)</u>
	<b>Malicious wounding or Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm</b>	<u>Section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act (1861)</u>
	<b>Wounding or causing Grievous Bodily Harm with intent</b>	<u>Section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act (1861)</u>

<b>Fatal offences</b> <i>(the V dies)</i>	Name of offence/defence:	Provided under:
	<b>Murder</b>	Defined by <u>common law</u> . Defined by <u>Lord Coke</u> in the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century.
Voluntary manslaughter <i>(this is where one avoids being liable for murder due to a special partial defence).</i>	<i>The defence of: <b>Diminished Responsibility</b> (a special partial defence just for murder that reduces liability from murder to voluntary manslaughter)</i>	<u>Section 52 of the Coroners and Justice Act (2009)</u>
	<i>The defence of: <b>Loss of Control</b> (a special partial defence just for murder that</i>	<u>Section 54 of the Coroners and Justice Act (2009)</u>

	<i>reduces liability from murder to voluntary manslaughter)</i>	
Involuntary manslaughter (this is where the defendant doesn't have the intent for the offence of murder)	<b>Unlawful Act manslaughter</b>	<u>Common law</u>
	<b>Gross Negligence manslaughter</b>	<u>Common law</u>

<b>Property offences</b>	Name of offence:	Provided under:
	<b>Theft</b>	<u>Section 1 of the Theft Act (1968)</u>
	<b>Robbery</b>	<u>Section 8 of the Theft Act (1968)</u>
	<b>Burglary</b>	<u>Section 9 of the Theft Act (1968)</u>

<b>Criminal Attempts</b>	Name of offence:	Provided under:
	<b>Criminal Attempts</b>	<u>Section 1 of the Criminal Attempts Act (1981)</u>

<b>General Capacity Defences</b>	Name of defence:	Provided under:
	<b>Consent</b>	<u>Common law</u>
	<b>Self-defence</b>	The <u>common law</u> defence of self-defence is governed by the <u>Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (2008)</u> and <u>Section 3(1) of the Criminal Law Act (1967)</u> .
	<b>Duress by threats</b>	<u>Common law</u> (defined in the case of <u>Graham</u> )

	<b>Duress of circumstances</b>	<u>Common law</u> (defined in the case of <u>Graham</u> )
	<b>Necessity</b>	<u>Common law</u>

<b>Mental Capacity Defences</b>	Name of defence:	Provided under:
	<b>Intoxication</b>	<u>Common law</u>
	<b>Insanity</b>	<u>Common law</u> (defined in the case of <u>M'Naghten</u> )
	<b>Automatism</b>	<u>Common law</u>

# Reading list

## Suggested reading:

- OCR A Level Law Textbook (the second edition, 2021, N. Price et al)
- Provoked: The story of Kiranjit Ahluwalia (by K. Ahluwalia and R.Gupta)
- The Law supplement in the Times -  
(<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/topic/law?page=1>)
- <https://www.legalcheek.com/>
- <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/>

