

AQA A-Level Law

Transition Pack



This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to start an A-level in Law in September.

- You are required to complete ALL of the activities in this transition pack ready for the first week of the new academic year.
- Do not rush it. I advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.
- The A Level in Law is a challenging yet interesting qualification. It will develop your reasoning skills, problem solving skills and vastly expand your knowledge of the English legal system.
- Please bring your booklet to your first Law lesson.

TASK 1: THE ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM

Define law:



ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

QUESTION	WRITE YOUR ANSWERS HERE:
1. Why have I chosen to study this subject?	
2. What is the difference between laws and rules?	
3. Make a list of the different types of UK law?	
4. List careers in Law	

TASK 2: CIVIL and CRIMINAL LAW

DEFINE EACH KEY TERM

Highlight which key term is associated with Civil law and which is associated with Criminal law

GUILTY	SUBJECTIVE RECKLESSNESS	MENS REA	DAMAGES
ACTUS REUS	WHITE PAPER	DOCTRINE	STATUTE
RATIO DECIDENDI	CIVIL LAW	JURY	MAGISTRATES
LAY PEOPLE	REMEDY	OBLIQUE INTENTION	OMISSION
GREEN PAPER	TRANSFERRED MALICE	STARE DECISIS	PARLIAMENTARY SUPREMACY

Fill in the grid and find out the difference between how Civil law and Criminal law function in the English Legal system

Elements	CRIMINAL	CIVIL
DEFINITION		
PURPOSE OF LAW		
PERSON STARTING THE CASE		
PERSON BEING ACCUSED		
LEGAL NAME FOR PERSON STARTING THE CASE		
COURTS HEARING THE CASE		
STANDARD OF PROOF		
BURDEN OF PROOF		
PERSON/DECISION MAKING		
POWERS OF THE COURT		

TASK 3 – BIZZARRE LAWS IN BRITAIN



Watch the you tube link and make a list of the weird laws in Britain:

<https://youtu.be/gwXrrLENX2E>

How are laws made in the UK?

UK laws are made by statute law and common law. Watch the following links to understand the law making body in the English legal system.

Parliamentary law making (statute law): <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/>

Common law (Judge made law): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJHTDgMRE8o>

TASK 4:

Why do prisoners only serve half their term? (bbc.co.uk)

Using a range of the information on in the source (linked in the title), produce a summary of the current operation of sentencing in England and Wales in the space below. You may present the information in any format you like, but it must cover the questions below and must not simply be copy and paste.

What influences the sentence the judge hands down?	What type of sentences may a judge hand down?	Why do most offences offer a range of options?	How does a judge decide which tariff to hand down for murder?	When are most offenders released ? and what happens to them?
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Challenge: Why do you think that people are often upset or confused by the sentences handed to offenders?

TASK 5: What is the UK Supreme Court? www.bbc.co.uk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=supreme+court&page=1>

Watch this documentary available on <https://youtu.be/PZtYENfNa7k>

Using a range of the information on in the source, complete each of the information boxes below.

Remember to include relevant legal terminology accurately used.

Name and Location:

Sum up the kind of cases and decisions that it has made over the last years:

What powers does it have (and what can't it do?:

Make up of the court: What issues do you see
With who is on the court (pros and cons)?



Exploring a Case:


Pick one of the cases which the article or documentary highlights. Summarise the facts, question and decision by the court. End with a critical comment on your view of the case and decision:

Critical Response:

You Be the Judge

YOU JUDGE

Smiling like a fool	Teen c'mon	Vandalism
Burglary	Machete fight	Murder

Offender

NAME: Alexander Jackson
AGE: 26
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: Two for domestic burglary
OFFENCE: Burglary

What did he do?

What was the plea?

Which court was it heard in and why?

Who determines sentencing for the defendant?

Relevant information from the police officer:	Relevant information from the Victim:

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Mitigating Factors	Aggravating factors

Would a genuine commitment from Alex to come off drugs affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

What other circumstances might be relevant in sentencing:

Sentence choices:


1. Prison: 2.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
2. Prison: 3.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
3. Prison: 4.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
4. Prison: 6 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)

I would chose option _____ because...

He was actually given option _____ because...

What is the **purpose** of sentencing Alex? *Link to the aims of sentencing – which do you think was uppermost in the judge's mind*

Offender



NAME:
Chris Williams

AGE: 19

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS:
None

OFFENCE:
Threatening behaviour

Defendant Two: Chris Williams

What did he do?

What was the plea?

Which court was it heard in?

What is the relevant evidence from the victim?	Relevant information from the defendant?

Will the fact that Mrs Dixon is elderly influence your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Do you think the fact that Chris was provoked is significant?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Mitigating Factors	Aggravating factors

Will the fact that Chris pleaded guilty from the start affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Sentence choices:

1. Fine: £300
2. Community sentence: 80 hours unpaid work + £100 compensation + £90 costs
3. Community sentence: 200 hours unpaid work + weekly supervision meetings with a probation officer for 2 years
4. Prison: up to 3 months ($\frac{1}{2}$ in custody + $\frac{1}{2}$ monitored in the community)

I would chose option _____ because...

He was actually given option _____ because...

What is the **purpose** of sentencing Alex? *Link to the aims of sentencing – which do you think was uppermost in the Magistrates' mind.*

Below are a range of documentaries and legally linked films...

The original PowerPoint slide you have access to contains all of the links to any open access sources – just click on the **image**.

In case you need them, the suggestions and their origins are below.

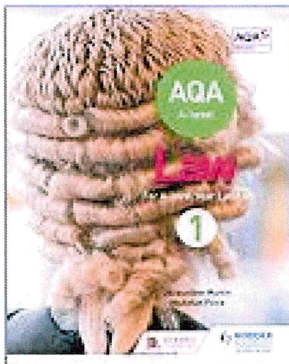


Title	Origin	Link (if available)
Catching Britain's Killers	iPlayer (BBC)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009dz2/catching-britains-killers-the-crimes-that-changed-us-series-1-2-double-jeopardy
The Case of Sally Challen	iPlayer (BBC)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000c65v/the-case-of-sally-challen
Crime and Punishment (History of the Law)	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gdZMLtrk
The Briefs	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fl
HARDtalk interview with Lady Hale	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VozJR_jC8&t=414s
The Bar	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d78ROXCPgl
To Kill a Burglar	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BemcOAg53eM
The Trial: Murder in the Family	All4	https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-trial-a-murder-in-the-family

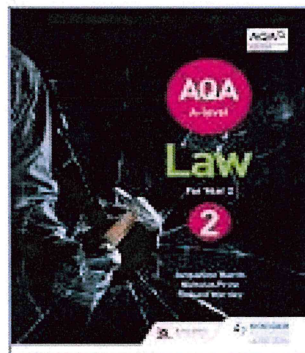
TEXTBOOKS

It is a requirement of the course that by the end of the second week in September you have purchased the compulsory Year 1 textbook. These are the textbooks required for the AQA course.

TEXT BOOKS

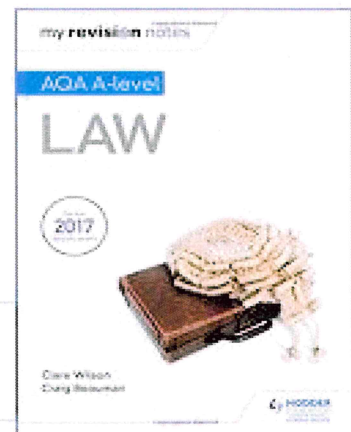


YEAR 1
ISBN: 978-1510401648



YEAR 2
ISBN: 978-1510401747

REVISION BOOK FOR A LEVEL
AQA LAW:
ISBN: 978-1510429222



Keep up to date with current affairs:

www.bbc.co.uk

<https://news.sky.com/uk>

What is happening in parliament?

Are any new laws being passed?

Which crimes have been committed ?

Has anyone been convicted or sentenced?

What is currently being debated in Parliament ?

