



BEECHEN CLIFF

**A Level Law**

**Curriculum Booklet**

**2025 - 2026**

**Head of Faculty: Miss Mather**

**Head of Subject: Miss Mather**

## **Subject Curriculum Intent:**

Law A Level aims to provide students with a number of different skills ranging from explanation of legal terminology, structures, processes and principles, application of these to a scenario situation, and critical evaluation of key areas of law.

The two year course builds on initial knowledge and understanding of the English and Welsh legal systems and their operation by then focussing on specific substantive areas of law - criminal law, tort law, and human rights law - and how they would be tried in a UK court.

This unique application-based approach to questions means that students are able to learn and hone academic skills alongside more practical and vocational legal skills that will be useful in a future career in law, politics, business, the charity sector or indeed any career involving aspects of the legal system or debate.

Students will finish the Law A Level not just with a clear understanding of different areas of law, but also with the ability to think widely and critically about the impact of the law on society locally, nationally and globally.

## Subject Curriculum Implementation:

The Law A Level course is divided between three examination papers, each of which combines one area of theory and one area of substantive law. The course is delivered by working through the knowledge covered within the syllabus before finishing with a more holistic and synoptic approach, with references back across prior learning from the earlier content.

The first topics cover the English Legal System and Criminal Law. The legal system topic is taught in the first two terms of year 12, and gives students an all-important knowledge of the court structure, procedures for bringing cases to trial and the role of various legal professionals such as juries, lawyers and judges. Lots of Law students are interested in going into the legal sector as a career choice so this aspect of the course is particularly useful for many of the students. Students spend the next three terms learning about criminal law and sentencing. This part of the A Level is often the most exciting area for students as it covers a range of non-fatal offences against the person, fatal offences, property offences and also defences. Students are given a scenario in the exam and are asked to discuss the liability of the various characters, assessing their knowledge of the law and also their ability to apply it as a lawyer would. After this we move onto a section on Law Making which develops the students' understanding of how laws are made, interpreted and enforced by UK institutions. Students then study a second substantive area of law – tort law which includes areas of nuisance, vicarious liability, occupiers liability, torts against land and negligence. This is useful as it covers situations involving employer-employee relationships and civil liability.

The final substantive area of law students are tested on is Human Rights. This is a new content area that brings a more international aspect to the A Level, incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into the curriculum. We develop students' knowledge of all areas of law they have covered in a synoptic way by asking them to discuss the relationship between the law and a variety of concepts such as society, morality and justice. This tests students in their ability to draw links between different areas of law and form their own opinion on the role of law in our country. The A Level is assessed through regular formal essays and internal assessments to practise important skills such as essay structures, exam timings, logical and substantiated reasoning and their ability to form an accurate judgement. The Law A Level differs from other A Levels in terms of essay structures due to the application-style answers.

## Allocated Curriculum Time:

	Lower Sixth	Upper Sixth
Fortnightly lesson allocation	8	8

## Course Information

Exam Board: OCR  
Specification: H418A

### Year 12

Term	Curriculum Foci Areas	Assessment
1	<p>Introduction to Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key themes</li> <li>• Terminology</li> <li>• Civil vs Criminal law</li> </ul> <p>Civil Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure</li> <li>• Appeal routes</li> <li>• Pre-trial procedure</li> <li>• Tracks</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Dispute Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediation</li> <li>• Conciliation</li> <li>• Arbitration</li> <li>• Tribunals</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link: career paths in ADR</i></p> <p>Criminal Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of offence</li> <li>• Structure and appeal routes</li> <li>• Pre-trial procedures</li> <li>• Sentencing</li> </ul> <p>Lay People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magistrates (qualifications, selection, appointment, role)</li> <li>• Juries (qualifications, selection, appointment, role)</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link: selection/training of Magistrates</i></p> <p><b>Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop understanding of key terminology</li> <li>• Understand the difference between civil law and criminal law</li> <li>• Understanding of examination command words</li> </ul>	<p>Civil Courts and ADR Assessment</p> <p>Criminal Courts and Lay People Assessment</p>

Aspiration

Compassion

Independence

Respect

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain knowledge of the UK court system and case law</li> <li>• Independent Learning project on sentencing</li> </ul>	
2	<p>Legal Profession - <i>Careers Link throughout</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of solicitors and barristers and legal executives</li> <li>• Different job roles</li> <li>• Evaluation (women, training, diversity)</li> </ul> <p>Judiciary - <i>Careers Link throughout</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of judge</li> <li>• Role, retirement, removal</li> <li>• Separation of powers</li> <li>• Independence</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul> <p>Access to Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government advice</li> <li>• Private advice</li> <li>• Government funding in civil cases and criminal cases</li> <li>• Private funding</li> <li>• No-win-no-fee - <i>Careers Link - insurance / lawyers</i></li> </ul> <p>Criminal Law – Key principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actus reus</li> <li>• Mens rea</li> <li>• Causation</li> <li>• Transferred malice</li> <li>• Coincidence</li> <li>• Strict liability</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of issues surrounding the legal profession</li> <li>• Independent research project into UK judiciary</li> <li>• Comparative analysis of representation and advice</li> <li>• Introduction to application skills for criminal law</li> <li>• Section A assessment - timed</li> </ul>	<p>Legal Profession and Judiciary Assessment</p> <p>Access to Justice Assessment</p>
3	<p>Non-Fatal Offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assault</li> <li>• Battery</li> <li>• ABH s.47</li> <li>• GBH s.20</li> <li>• GBH s.18</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul>	<p>Mid-Year Exam: Section A Legal System and Elements of a Crime</p>



	<b>Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand criticisms of the defences and construct a well-structured essay with conclusion. Focus on linking back to the question.</li> <li>End of L6 Mock Exam Covering all content so far, including defences (but not evaluation of defences)</li> <li>x1 20 mark essay homework</li> </ul>	Criminal Law Overview Assessment
6	<p>Paper 2: Law Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliament <i>Careers Link - political careers</i></li> <li>Delegated Legislation</li> <li>Statutory Interpretation</li> <li>Judicial Precedent</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link - trip to Magistrates Court</i>  <i>Law Conference (Joint HGS event)</i></p> <p><b>Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop understanding of key terminology</li> <li>Understand the different types of law in the UK</li> <li>Recap of Section A examination command words</li> <li>Gain knowledge of the key UK institutions and their role in the legal system</li> <li>Evaluate the effectiveness of our law making in the UK</li> <li>Understand the role of judges in interpreting and establishing legal rules</li> </ul>	End of Year Exam: Paper 1 Assessment (Full Exam Paper)

### Year 13

Term	Curriculum Foci Areas	Assessment
1	<p>Tort Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligence</li> <li>Occupiers Liability for lawful visitors</li> <li>Occupiers Liability for trespassers</li> <li>Private nuisance</li> <li>Rylands v Fletcher</li> <li>Vicarious liability</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link - discussions on employer liability and relationships between employer/employees. Links to business H&amp;S in resources.</i></p>	<p>Law Making Assessment</p> <p>Negligence / OLA Assessment inc Eval</p>

2	<p>Tort Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of negligence, occupiers liability and vicarious liability</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key principles</li> <li>• European Convention on Human Rights</li> <li>• Human Rights Act</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link - judicial roles (international)</i></p>	Paper 2 Mock Exam
3	<p>Case Study Articles of the ECHR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 5 - Freedom from Arbitrary Detention</li> <li>• Article 6 - Right to a Fair Trial</li> <li>• Article 8 - Right to Private Life</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link - police pathways (inc role/powers of police)</i></p>	<p>Human Rights Assessment - Procedural and HRA</p> <p>A5/A6 Assessment</p>
4	<p>Case Study Articles of the ECHR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 10 - Freedom of Expression</li> <li>• Article 11 - Freedom of Assembly</li> </ul> <p><i>Careers Link - policing, newspapers (defamation lawyers)</i></p> <p>Rights Protection in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judicial Review process</li> <li>• UK restrictions and legislation</li> </ul> <p>Legal Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule of Law</li> <li>• Law and Morality</li> <li>• Law and Justice</li> </ul>	<p>A8/10 Assessment</p> <p>Paper 1 Mock Exam (Full Paper)</p>
5	<p>Legal Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law and Society</li> </ul> <p><b>Revision and Exams</b></p>	Paper 3 Mock (in class)
6	<b>Study Leave</b>	<b>n/a</b>

## Reading List

Other than the **OCR A Level Law (2nd Edition)** textbook, there is no other compulsory reading. However please see below for suggestions of super-curricular reading

### Legal Books:

Aspiration

Compassion

Independence

Respect



Barnard, O'Sullivan and Virgo, *What about Law?*

Bingham, *The Rule of Law*

Bradney A and others, *How to Study Law*

Lord Denning, *Landmarks in the Law*

Grant T, *Jeremy Hutchinson's Case Histories*

Heinrichs J, *Winning Arguments*

Hutchinson A, *Is Eating People Wrong? Great Legal Cases and How They Shaped The World*

Kennedy H, *Eve Was Framed*

McBride N, *Letters to a Law Student*

Robertson G, *The Justice Game*

Slapper G, *How Law Works*

Smith and Bailey, *Modern English Legal System*

The Secret Barrister, *The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How it's Broken*

### **Fiction Books:**

Archer J, *A Prisoner of Birth*

Cavanagh S, *Thirteen*

Lee H, *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Dickens, *Bleak House*

White N, *Next To Die*

## **Studying/Revision Information**

### **Ongoing Studying**

Students need to ensure they are keeping up-to-date notes from every lesson and consolidating their knowledge and understanding at home. Frequent knowledge recall tests are incorporated into lessons meaning that there is a requirement for students to often be revising key aspects of the law. In particular, the memorisation of specific legal terminology and the names of cases can be challenging, so students must make sure they are creating case tables or flash cards with summaries of key cases as they go.

Aspiration      Compassion      Independence      Respect

Students must all have an organised folder with at least a term or topic's worth of work. Students should make regular use of their content overview sheets and assessment records so that they can tick off and 'RAG rate' topics they have covered so far in the course. These will be kept at the front of folders at all times.

Students must make sure they are actively engaging in lessons, particularly when it comes to analysing and critiquing the law. This requires a deeper understanding and an ability to identify issues with the implication of this. Being a willing participant in discussions is beneficial for successful evaluation skills.

### Revision

Students should be revising throughout the course due to the frequency of knowledge tests and assessments. This revision should initially be based around memorisation of specific legal tests and terminology for the substantive areas of law (criminal, tort and human rights), along with case tables or summaries. Students will have weekly **independent study tasks towards their weekly knowledge tests**.

**Overview or summary sheets are provided for each topic** to support with revision. Students are advised to revise from their class notes not the textbook as this can be over-complicated to unpick the crucial legal principles to memorise.

Students should practise scenario style answers by either planning (using the 'I.D.E.A' structure) or writing answers. This will check the effectiveness of their revision and the accuracy of their understanding. Example papers and mark schemes are available on the OCR website.

I would advise students to buy the **My Revision Notes: OCR A Level Law** revision guide to assist with revision and consolidation throughout the year. There is also a guide called 'Revision Express - Law AS and A2' which provides excellent summaries (though students should cross reference topics with the OCR specification as it also caters for other exam board specifications too).

### Final Assessment Structure:

Component	Weighting (%)	Content	Proposed Examination Date
1	33.3	Paper 1 - Legal System and Criminal Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil Courts and ADR</li><li>• Criminal Courts, Sentencing and Lay People</li><li>• Legal Profession</li><li>• Access to Justice</li><li>• Non-Fatal Offences</li></ul>	May 2026

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatal Offences</li> <li>• Property Offences</li> <li>• Defences</li> <li>• Attempts</li> </ul>	
2	33.3	Paper 2 - Law Making and Tort Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliament</li> <li>• Delegated Legislation</li> <li>• Judicial Precedent</li> <li>• Statutory Interpretation</li> <li>• Negligence</li> <li>• Nuisance</li> <li>• Occupiers Liability</li> <li>• Vicarious Liability</li> <li>• Rylands v Fletcher</li> </ul>	June 2026
3	33.3	Paper 3 - Nature of Law and Human Rights Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts of Law</li> <li>• Law and Morality</li> <li>• Law and Society</li> <li>• Law and Justice</li> <li>• Law and Technology</li> <li>• European Convention on Human Rights - Articles 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11</li> <li>• Human Rights Act</li> <li>• Judicial Review and ECtHR</li> <li>• UK Restrictions on Rights</li> </ul>	June 2026

Please see Exam Board websites for up to date information: [AS and A Level - Law - H018, H418 - OCR](#)