

# 'A' Level LAW: Transition Pack

WELCOME TO  
A LEVEL LAW



- 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.

Mrs P Moon

(Head of A level Law)

 MAIDEN ERLEGH  
SCHOOL

  
SIXTH FORM

## COURSE DETAILS:

**QUALIFICATION:** 'A' Level

**DURATION OF COURSE:** 2 years

**SPECIFICATION:** AQA

**COURSE WORK:** No coursework, only exams

### **A quick guide to A LEVEL LAW**

Paper 1:	Paper 2:	Paper 3:
<b>What's assessed</b> The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100). Criminal law (75 marks out of 100).	<b>What's assessed</b> The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100). Tort (75 marks out of 100).	<b>What's assessed</b> Human rights /Contract law (choose one) (75 marks out of 100). The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100).
<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Written exam: 2 hours</li><li>•100 marks</li><li>•33% of A-level</li></ul>	<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Written exam: 2 hours</li><li>•100 marks</li><li>•33% of A-level</li></ul>	<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Written exam: 2 hours</li><li>•100 marks</li><li>•33% of A-level</li></ul>
<b>Questions</b> A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.	<b>Questions</b> A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.	<b>Questions</b> A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.



## 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?](https://www.bbc.co.uk) (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.

<b>What</b> influences the sentence the judge hands down?	<b>What</b> type of sentences may a judge hand down?	<b>Why</b> do most offences offer a range of options?	<b>How</b> does a judge decide which tariff to hand down for murder?	<b>When</b> 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](http://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:**

## Task Six: Case Studies


### You Be the Judge

**Task:** go to: <http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/>. You will need sound as you are going to work through two cases, completing the questions below as you go. **Burglary & Harassment**



Please note: there are other cases you can have a look at, but these two you must complete for this task!

**Offender**



**NAME:**  
Alexander Jackson

**AGE:** 26

**PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS:**  
Two for domestic burglary

**OFFENCE:**  
Burglary

**Defendant One:** *Alexander Jackson*

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:

Will the fact that the victims were at home at the time of the break-in affect your sentence?

**Yes**

**Not sure**

**No**

Judge's response:

Do you think the fact that an item of sentimental value was taken is significant?

**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 ( 1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community )
2. Prison: 3.5 years ( 1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community )
3. Prison: 4.5 years ( 1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community )
4. Prison: 6 years ( 1/2 in custody + 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 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 ( 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 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)	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009dz2/catching-britains-killers-the-crimes-that-changed-us-series-1-2-double-jeopardy">https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009dz2/catching-britains-killers-the-crimes-that-changed-us-series-1-2-double-jeopardy</a>
The Case of Sally Challen	iPlayer (BBC)	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000c65v/the-case-of-sally-challen">https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000c65v/the-case-of-sally-challen</a>
Crime and Punishment (History of the Law)	YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gdZMLtrk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gdZMLtrk</a>
The Briefs	YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fl</a>
HARDtalk interview with Lady Hale	YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VozJR_jC8&amp;t=414s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VozJR_jC8&amp;t=414s</a>
The Bar	YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d78ROXCPgl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d78ROXCPgl</a>
To Kill a Burglar	YouTube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BemcOAg53eM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BemcOAg53eM</a>
The Trial: Murder in the Family	All4	<a href="https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-trial-a-murder-in-the-family">https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-trial-a-murder-in-the-family</a>

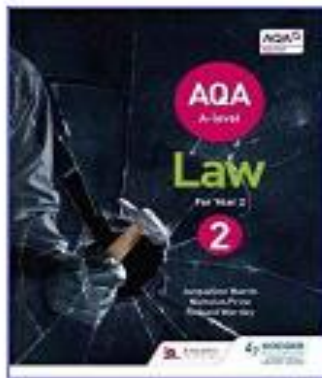
# TEXTBOOKS

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

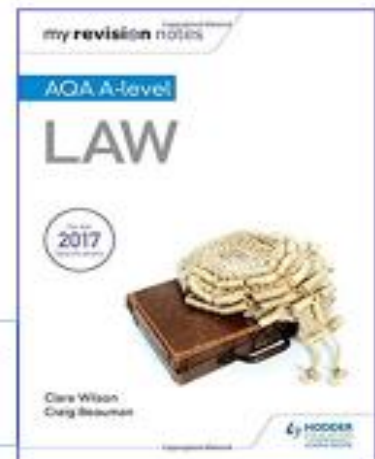


YEAR 1  
ISBN: 978-1510401648



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](http://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 ?