

LAW

Level: A Level

Awarding Body: AQA

Course Introduction

Law covers the rules and principles that govern the way we live and the actions we take on a daily basis. The course covers the nature and theory behind laws and examines how this is reflected in the English legal system. The course will provide a solid foundation in criminal and civil law, in particular relating to violent crime and negligence. Human Rights Laws are also explored, with a focus on both the theory and application of these.

Law touches on subjects as diverse as euthanasia, sexual conduct, the death penalty and immigration. This means that it is an appropriate accompaniment and enhancement to any other subject, from Sociology to History. With its focus on developing academic skills such as analysis, problem solving and evaluation, it is also an excellent preparation for degree-level study, in fact an understanding of Law and an ability to 'think like a lawyer' will be invaluable for any career you wish to pursue.

Course Structure and Content

Topic 1: In the first year this unit introduces students to the nature of law and the English legal system and covers topics such as the rule of law, law making and interpretation. Students will also explore the roles of legal professionals and lay people. In year 2 students will gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between law and society and explore concepts such as morality and justice.

Topic 2: The major principles of criminal liability are studied including the mental and physical elements of a crime, and non-fatal offences. In year 2 the theory behind criminal law is covered and students will cover more serious crimes such as murder, manslaughter and accompanying defences.

Topic 3: This topic introduces students to Tort Law, providing an explanation of the general rules and principles alongside the study of liability in negligence for physical injury to people, damages to property and occupier's liability. In the second year, students will explore Human Rights legislation, examining rules and theory and the application and impact of the Human Rights Act in the UK

How will I learn?

Taking the step up to sixth form study means a commitment to becoming a genuine self- manager and independent enquirer. Formal lecture and note-taking lessons are broken up with discussions and debates, problem solving, mock-trials and games and quizzes. Visits to courts and talks from legal professionals will also aid your understanding. Enjoyment is the key to effective learning, so although our study is taken very seriously we hope you will find it fun too. You will be expected to do about 5 hours private study each week, including reading a newspaper daily and keeping up to date with legal developments.

How will I be assessed?

Law is assessed by examination. At A level there are three exams, each paper includes a section on the English Legal System and Nature of Law and a section on substantive law. Each paper is 2 hours long and includes a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Progression

An A level in Law is a sound academic qualification for whatever you choose to do. Students have gone on to university to study law, history, social sciences, theology, politics, business studies, languages and countless other courses. After a Law degree most students intend to become solicitors or barristers or pursue careers in legal journalism or the civil service. Other students have moved on to careers in banking or business and several have joined the Police.

Entry requirement

Minimum of GCSE English, history or sociology at Grade 6.

Cost

There is a compulsory textbook for both year 1 and year 2 law which retail at approximately £25 each. You may wish to purchase additional revision guides during the exam season however this is by no means compulsory. There may also be additional costs for any trips.

Contact

For further information please contact Miss Pike.