

Law A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Am I right for this course?

The good news is that you do not have to want to be a lawyer to study law. Law is an excellent subject for career progression and anyone wishing to go on to University reading any discipline. The advantage of studying law is that you will have already begun to develop your reading, discursive and analytical skills, as well as your research and evaluative skills. Many other subjects would go well with law, for example, English, psychology, history and sociology.

Law students should keep abreast of the current topical debates regarding the law, using newspapers and the media to keep an eye on the ever-changing world of law. It is never too hard to find a news story about the law...

What is the course structure?

During the course, you will cover:

The Legal System - Here you will learn just what barristers, solicitors and judges actually do; as well as how and why people do such jobs. You will also look at how ordinary members of the public just like you, get to participate in the legal process. You will also be provided with an in-depth view of what happens to an individual from the time of arrest to being sentenced by the courts. In addition to this, civil courts as well as the alternatives to the courts, such as tribunals, will be looked at.

Law making - Here you will examine exactly how Parliament and the Courts create and modify our laws, just like the ones you hear about on the news, and the difficulties we (and judges) have in applying them. You will also study the different sources of law, including the ways in which judges follow past cases, Acts of Parliament, and European laws, as well as how the law develops and changes over time.

Criminal law - In this section, you will focus on the general principles of criminal liability and non-fatal and fatal offences against the person. By applying the law to factual situations, you will be able to develop a critical awareness and appreciation of the role of criminal law in modern society, just like real lawyers do.

Law of tort - The focus here will be on the rules of tort, liability in negligence and remedies. This will provide you with knowledge of civil liability. You will also complete a critical analysis of civil law and use these skills to apply all your legal knowledge to scenario-based situations.

How will you be assessed?

This is a linear qualification. You will take three exams at the end of the course: Paper 1- Crime; Paper 2 - Tort; Paper 3 - option paper on either contract or human rights law. Each exam will be assessing knowledge, application of legal rules and analysis of legal principles.

What can I do after the course?

A successful A Level in law indicates that you have strong academic ability. Law is a dynamic subject and will help you develop your verbal and written communication, which are essential for any career or higher education course. A Level Law is a useful stepping stone to a law degree at University but it can also lead to any number of non-law University courses, including Forensics, Criminology and Business. The key is that you will be prepared for life and whatever it throws at you.