



A-Level Law
Summer Transition Work
2025-26

Welcome to A-Level Law!

Dear Law Student

You have chosen a subject that delves into the foundational elements of legal systems, principles, and regulations, complementing studies in the humanities. Each topic has an applied purpose, requiring that learning is connected to real-world legal cases – this is the intriguing part! It will certainly challenge your thinking and develop your analytical skills in ways you cannot imagine. By the end of your course, you will have a much deeper understanding of how law impacts society and the functioning of justice.

The following tasks have been designed to encourage you to think about the purpose and nature of law. The themes that you will be introduced to in this project are an important part of your A-Level study and we will revisit them regularly throughout the course.

In this transition pack, there are 5 tasks that we would like you to complete, which will be beneficial as you start the course. All work should be completed in your booklet where possible or on lined paper/Word document and brought with you to your first Law lesson in the new school year.

Do not rush it. We advise that you complete different parts of the transition pack at various points during the summer holiday, rather than leaving it all until the final week of your break.

To be completed for September 8th

Before you begin Law it is vital that you complete the following transition task as it will prepare you with some background for the course and to see whether Law is really for you.



You are required to complete **ALL** activities in this transition pack and to submit them in the first week of the new academic year. It will develop your thinking skills and vastly expand your knowledge of what law is.

Task 1 - What is Law?

Use the internet or a dictionary to find a definition / explanation. Please make sure that the source of your definition is a reliable one. Make a note of your source too.



Definition:

Source:

Task 2 – Different Types of Law

Part A

Use the text and websites provided to complete the following table:

	Civil Law	Criminal Law
Purpose and goal		
Who brings the case?		
Names given to the parties to the case		
Standard of proof (to what level does the case need to be proven?)		
Burden of proof (Who has to prove their case?)		

Decision		
Punishment / Remedy		
Provide 3 examples of cases that fit into this category		

Sources of information to help you to complete the table:

Source:

Criminal Laws create criminal offences and punish those who commit them. These laws attract the attention of the Criminal Justice System (CJS). This includes: The police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Criminal Courts, Her Majesty's Prison Service and Her Majesty's Probation Service.

The Crown prosecutes the defendant. The defendant may be found guilty or not guilty. To be found guilty the jury/magistrates must be certain beyond all reasonable doubt – this is called the standard of proof. The prosecution must provide sufficient evidence for the jury or magistrates to be certain of the defendant guilt. If they are not certain, then they have reasonable doubt.

In criminal law, your case may be heard by heard in a Magistrates Court or a Crown Court. A criminal case is always written R v defendant. An example of this is R v Dudley and Stephens. R stands for the Latin term 'Rex' (King) or 'Regina' (Queen) i.e. the Crown.

Civil laws create rights that are enforceable between private individuals. This means that enforcement agencies such as the police do not get involved in these matters. Civil law does not aim to punish, but to compensate.

The claimant can sue the defendant. The defendant may be found liable on the balance of probabilities – this means that the standard of proof for civil cases dictates that the claimant must satisfy the court that their version of events is more likely than not.

In civil law, your case may be heard at the County Court or High Court. A civil case is always written as Claimant v Defendant. An example of this is Donoghue v Stevenson.

Web sources

You may find the following links useful in completing the table:

[The Key Differences Between Criminal And Civil Law - Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors \(bljsolicitors.co.uk\)](http://bljsolicitors.co.uk)

[Differences between Criminal Law and Civil Law in the UK – Wheldon Law](#)

[Differences Between Criminal & Civil Law UK | Slater + Gordon](#)



Remember that not all information on the internet is accurate. If you use your own sources, you should make sure that you are choosing reliable ones and that you check the information that you find against other reliable sources.

Part B

Consider the following case studies, do you think that they involve civil or criminal issues? Read each case carefully and then circle your answer.

Finally, explain why you have chosen your answer.

Case 1:

Stephen missed lunch at school, as he was too busy playing football with his friends. One his way home from school, he stops at a local shop. He can't decide between crisps and chocolate. He can only afford one, he buys the crisps and slips a chocolate bar into his pocket without paying.

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Case 2:

Ania is late for a meeting and is running down a corridor at work. She slips on a wet floor that has recently been mopped by cleaning staff. There was no signage to warn her of the wet floor. She damages her back in the fall and has had to pay for a chiropractor to help her to recover.

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Case 3:

As Adi is leaving his local shop, he gets abuse shouted at him from a person sitting outside of the pub opposite (Mark). Adi goes over and threatens to punch Mark if he doesn't apologise. Mark taunts Adi further and Mark punches him hard in the face, causing a black eye and a bloody nose.

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Case 4:

Sarah plays her music very loud into the night. Her neighbours want to get her to stop.

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Case 5:

Dina and Jonah have been married for five years and bought a house together eight years ago. They both work full-time and Dina earns significantly more than Jonah. They have been arguing a lot recently and have decided that they no longer want to be together. They want to sell the house, get a divorce and move on with their lives.

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Case 6:

Natalie is late for work. She drives over the speed limit and knocks a cyclist off their bike.

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Case 7:

Civil

Criminal

Explanation:

Task 2 – The Real-Life Impact of Law

Part A

Watch the video, [The Rule of Law by UK Judiciary](#) following video and make brief notes.

Notes:

Part B

Select two people and try to identify how they are affected by law in their everyday lives. You should try and think of as many examples for each of them as you can.

- Person 1 should be someone that you know personally. You may want to interview this person to see how they think they are affected by the law.
- Person 2 should be a person that is in the public eye.

Try to pick two people with different lifestyles, roles and responsibilities. This will help you to think more widely about the impact of law.

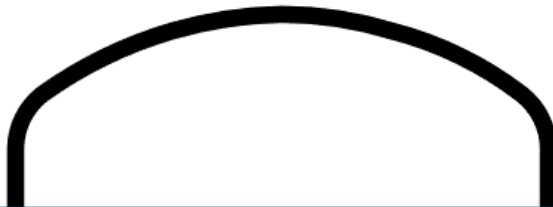
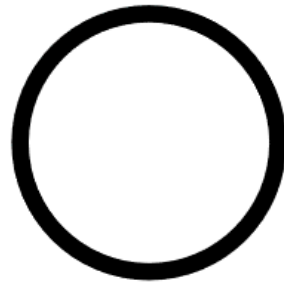
Provide some brief information of the person (you don't need to name them or state their relationship to you). Provide information that is relevant to the law that affects them. For example: If your Person A is a parent then they will have responsibilities that relate to their children.

Write laws that affect both people in the middle between them and then examples that you feel relate more to one of them to the left (for person 1) and the right (for person 2).

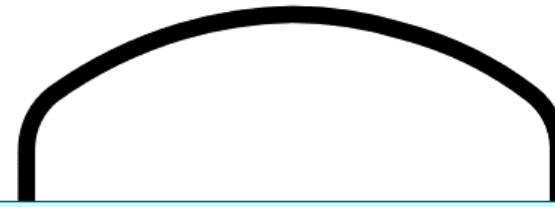
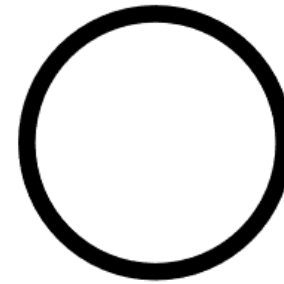
Affects Person 1

Affects both Person 1 and Person 2

Affects Person 2



About Person 1:



About Person 2:

Task 3 – Laws for a safe and happy society



You are stranded on a desert island following a shipwreck, you have no hope of rescue. There are twenty other people with you. To set up your new society you need to create some laws that will enable you to survive and ultimately to thrive.

Part A

Select the five laws or rules that you think would be most important at the very start of your new society.

List your five rules and explain your reason for choosing each of them (maximum 750 words):

List your five rules and explain your reason for choosing each of them (extra space):