

# Transition to A level Law



## Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to ease you into A level law, the course we follow at The Palmer Catholic Academy is AQA A level Law. There is a link to the specification at the bottom of this page. There is included in this booklet some recommended reading and viewing to give you a basic understanding as well as a link to the revision guide which will be essential to the course.

Law at A level is an exciting and interesting course which covers the English Legal System, Criminal Law, Contract Law and the Law of Tort (Negligence). The course will give you an understanding of the law; how laws are made and enforced through the Courts as well as peoples' civil and criminal rights and responsibilities.

Have a go at the activities in this booklet and feel free to use the internet to assist you and in particular the link in the useful websites page to support you with these activities.

Once you have completed the transition activities, look up the real life cases listed on page 15 and make notes.

Please bring your answers to the activities as well as your research on your chosen case to your first law lesson in September.

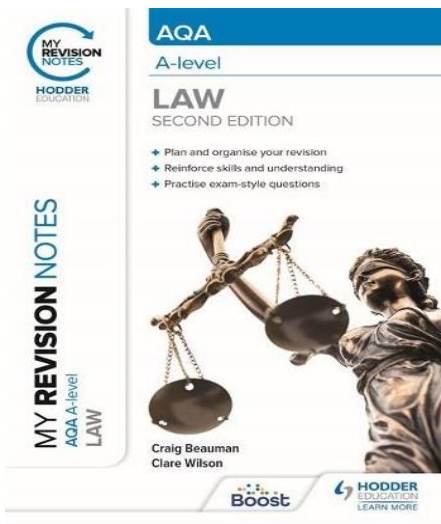
See you there!

### **AQA LAW SPECIFICATION**

This is a two year linear course that comprises four topics that will be formally assessed at the end of the two year course. Students will also be assessed throughout the course by way of formal and informal testing.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/as-and-a-level/law-7162/specification-at-a-glance>

## Essential requirement for the course



"Target success in AQA A-Level with this proven formula for effective, structured revision; key content coverage is combined with exam-style questions, revision tasks and practical tips to create a revision guide that students can rely on to review, strengthen and test their knowledge."

[My Revision Notes: AQA A Level Law Second Edition:](https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-AQA-A-level-Law-Second-Edition/dp/1444999999)  
[Amazon.co.uk: Bauman, Craig, Wilson, Clare: 9781398352049:](https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-AQA-A-level-Law-Second-Edition/dp/1444999999)  
[Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-AQA-A-level-Law-Second-Edition/dp/1444999999)

## Non Essential reading



This is a great starter book for those who are new to the subject of English law and are starting any kind of course of study in law. **(now free at Amazon)**

## **Suggested Viewing**

### **Briefs:**

A documentary series which follows the work of the UK's largest criminal legal aid firm.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+briefs+criminal+law+documentary](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+briefs+criminal+law+documentary)

### **Acts of Parliament:**

A look at how laws are made by Parliament

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhYpkVclXbA>

### **Common Law:**

A look at how the common law is made by Judges

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb9JjncNq3k>

## Transition activity - Criminal or Civil Law?

A number of words and phrases are listed below but do they relate to civil or criminal law. Can you put them in the right column? Feel free to use your phones.

criminal

civil

jury

prosecutes

defendant

punishment

plaintiff

compensation

beyond reasonable doubt

damages

convicts

R

small claims court

CPS

balance of probabilities

county court

crown court

Fill in the grid and find out the difference between how Civil law and Criminal law function in the English Legal system

<b>Elements</b>	<b>CRIMINAL</b>	<b>CIVIL</b>
Definition		
Purpose of Law		
Person starting the case		
Person being accused		
Legal name for the person starting the case		
Courts hearing the case		
Standard of proof		
Burden of proof		
Person (s) making the decision		
Powers of the court		

## Why do prisoners only serve half their term?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49886053>

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?

## Research cases

Look up below and make brief notes on each case. They will be vital when we start criminal law!

Donoghue V Stevenson 1932

R V Miller 1982

R V White 1910

R V Smith 1959