

Post-16 Curriculum - Law

Subject Curriculum Overview

Subject	Law
Qualification / Specification	A level
Awarding Body	AQA
Level	3
Curriculum Lead	Nick Binfield
Teaching Staff	Thomas Kidd
Guided Learning Hours	5 hours a week
Year(s) Delivered	12 & 13
Last Review Date	June 2026
Next Review Date	June 2027

1. Curriculum Intent

The purpose of A Level Law is to develop knowledge of key areas of law, including criminal law, tort law, and the legal system. From a skill point of view this builds critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation skills by applying legal principles to realistic scenarios. Allowing students to understand how laws are made, interpreted, and reformed.

A Level Law introduces the foundational legal knowledge required for undergraduate law degrees (LLB) and related subjects such as criminology, politics, sociology, business, and public administration.

In terms of employment it allows for the development of transferable skills such as: strong analytical and evaluative thinking, the ability to interpret complex information, excellent written communication, argument construction using evidence and independent learning and research.

For a student to be successful in law they must demonstrate accurate knowledge of legal principles, cases, and legislation. They must be able to apply legal rules effectively to factual scenarios and analyse and evaluate legal issues using balanced arguments. Finally a successful student will be able to: construct well-organised, evidence-based written responses, use correct legal terminology confidently and develop independence, resilience, and critical thinking.

2. Foundational Knowledge

Area	Essential Knowledge / Skills	Why It Matters
Sources of English law	Parliamentary law, delegated legislation, judge-made law, retained law, law reform	Provides the basis for understanding where legal rules originate and how law develops over time. Students cannot analyse legal issues without understanding the authority and hierarchy of legal sources.
Elements of the English legal system	Court structure, criminal and civil courts, legal personnel, legal professions, judiciary, access to justice	Enables students to understand how law is applied and enforced, and the roles of individuals and institutions within the justice system.
Criminal law	Actus reus, mens rea, offences against the person, property offences, defences	Forms the foundation for analysing criminal liability and applying legal principles to realistic factual scenarios.
Civil law	Tort liability, negligence, occupiers' liability, remedies, civil procedure	Develops understanding of legal responsibility between individuals and organisations and how civil disputes are resolved.

3. Powerful Knowledge

Powerful Knowledge Area	Why It Matters	Evidence of Understanding
Understanding the relationship between law, society and morality	Enables students to evaluate whether laws reflect social values and whether legal reform is justified	Students critically evaluate legal rules and propose justified reforms using legal authority and contemporary examples.
Judicial precedent and statutory interpretation	Demonstrates how judges shape the law while balancing certainty with flexibility.	Students explain and evaluate how precedent and interpretation influence legal outcomes in unfamiliar cases
Legal reasoning and application	Allows students to think like lawyers by applying legal principles logically to factual scenarios rather than recalling information.	Students produce structured legal advice using relevant legislation, case law and balanced reasoning.
Critical evaluation of the legal system	Encourages students to consider issues of fairness, accessibility, efficiency and justice within the English legal system.	Students construct evaluative arguments supported by legal authority, statistics, law reform reports and academic opinion.

4. Curriculum Implementation

Term / Unit	Key Content	Foundational Knowledge	Powerful Knowledge	Assessment Opportunities
Year 12 Autumn	Nature of Law and the English Legal System	Sources of law, court hierarchy, legal personnel, parliamentary sovereignty	Understanding how law is created, interpreted and challenged in society	Knowledge quizzes, short-answer questions, source analysis
Year 12 Spring	Tort Law	Negligence, occupiers' liability, remedies, duty of care	Evaluating whether civil law effectively balances individual rights and social responsibility	Case analysis, extended responses, synoptic assessment
Year 12 Summer	Criminal Law	Actus reus, mens rea, non-fatal offences, fatal offences, property offences	Applying legal principles to complex scenarios and evaluating criminal law reform	Application questions, timed essays,
Year 13 Autumn	Contract Law	Formation of contracts, offer and acceptance, consideration, intention to create legal relations, terms, vitiating factors, discharge and remedies	Understanding how contract law balances freedom of contract with consumer protection, applying legal principles to commercial and everyday scenarios, and evaluating whether contract law achieves justice and fairness in modern society	Legal problem questions, evaluative essays, timed examination questions
Year 13 Spring	Synoptic Revision and Examination Preparation	Retrieval of all substantive and procedural law	Drawing links across topics to evaluate the effectiveness of the legal system as a whole	Full mock examinations, exam practice, retrieval assessments

5. Assessment Strategy

Assessment Type	Purpose	Frequency
Diagnostic	Assess prior knowledge, identify misconceptions and inform planning at the beginning of units.	Beginning of each topic
Formative	Monitor progress through retrieval practice, exam questions, class discussion, peer assessment and teacher feedback.	Weekly
Summative	Measure understanding of completed units against AQA assessment objectives using exam-style questions.	At the end of each topic/term
Synoptic	Assess students' ability to integrate knowledge across the specification and prepare for terminal examinations.	Half-termly in Year 13 and during mock examination periods

