

AS/A Level Law

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification provides grounding in the main principles of English and Welsh law and their development. It enables candidates to develop knowledge, understanding, and critical awareness of the structure, personnel and functions of the English Legal System.



**14-19 CHANGES
A LEVEL**

What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

- The redeveloped specification is based on consultation which took place during Spring 2005 between QCA, senior OCR Law examiners and a number of existing centres.
- To reduce the assessment burden on students the number of units has been reduced to four units (two at AS, two at A2). Overall examination time is reduced by one hour.
- Simple, straightforward assessment, with no coursework.
- Unique to OCR's GCE A Level Law specification candidates are required to demonstrate a high level of legal skills throughout the assessment of this specification. The assessment of the English Legal System and the chosen area of substantive law through single units allow for a more integrated approach to teaching and learning.
- This new specification gives excellent preparation for those students wishing to progress to degree level study through encouraging candidates to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules and to develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly.

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Mandatory	G151: The English Legal System Candidates will have an appreciation of the principles underlying the English Legal System. Areas of focus are civil courts, criminal courts, criminal process, penal system, the Legal Profession, lay people and the provision of legal services.	2 hour exam AS Level – 60% A Level – 30%
Mandatory	G152: Sources of Law Candidates will have an appreciation of the principles underlying the English Legal System. Areas of focus are the doctrine of precedent, legislation, European Union law and law reform.	1 hour exam AS Level – 40% A Level – 20%

A2 Level

Mandatory/Optional?	Unit title and description	Assessment method and weighting
Optional	G153: Criminal Law Candidates will understand the principles of criminal law and develop critical awareness of criminal law in relation to specific crimes and defences. Areas of focus are the principles of criminal liability, attempted crimes, offences against the person, general defences, non-fatal offences against the person and offences against property.	2 hour exam A Level – 30%
Optional	G154: Criminal Law Special Study	1 hour 30 mins exam A Level – 20%
Optional	G155: Contract Law Candidates will understand the principles of the law of contract including the principles of freedom to contract, supporting commercial transactions and consumer protection. Areas of focus are the formation of a contract, the contents of a contract, privity of contract, vitiating factors and discharge of contracts.	1 hour 30 mins exam A Level – 20%
Optional	G156: Law of Contract Special Study	1 hour 30 mins exam A Level – 20%
Optional	G157: Law of Torts Candidates will understand the principles of the law of torts and the range of interests that they are designed to protect and have an awareness of the significance of tortious principles. Areas of focus are negligence, occupiers' liability, defences, vicarious liability, torts connected to land, liability for animals and trespass to the person.	2 hour exam A Level – 30%
Optional	G158: Law of Torts Special Study	1 hour 30 mins exam A Level – 20%

How is this qualification assessed?

All units are assessed through a timetabled written examination.

Within each option, one of the A2 units has a set of pre-released 'Special Study' source materials on which candidates base their responses. The sources can be extracts from judgements, articles or Acts of Parliament. Candidates demonstrate their knowledge of the chosen area of substantive law and the development of that area using legal methods and reasoning to analyse legal materials, select legal rules in order to draw conclusions.

Examinations series are available every January and June.

Dates of first examinations

AS

First examination available from January 2009.

A2

First examination available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training

A series of events run annually to support new teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers

Hodder Murray will publish resources to support this specification.

Resources

All of the following resources are available to download from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

- Specimen candidate answers are available for both AS units in the AS level Teacher Support Materials.
- Specimen answers for A2 level will be available from at both A2 and A2 level.
- A scheme of work for each unit.
- Past papers which can be used on exemplar classroom exercises at AS level.