



# St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

## A-Level Law Handbook



*At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.*

Aristotle

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

**Course outline:**

Studying the law gives students an understanding of the role of law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. All these skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers.

We will be studying the **AQA A-Level Law specification** which has been designed with help from teachers and subject experts, ensuring the course is kept fresh, relevant and engaging!

**So, what will we be studying?**

*The Nature of Law and the English Legal System*

This is a topic that appears across all three papers and involves understanding the important differences between criminal and civil law. It also consists of the role law plays in society, the distinction between law and morality, the meaning of justice and the extent to which justice is achieved through law, primary and other sources of legislation as well as the personnel involved in the law and the process in the courts.

*Criminal Law*

Usually a firm favourite of our students, this substantive area of law gives an in-depth look at the criminal law in the UK. It focuses on elements of liability, fatal and non-fatal offences against the person, property offences, preliminary offences and defences to crimes.

*The Law of Tort*

Tort law is a complex area of law and students will learn about the rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupier's liability, nuisance and vicarious liability. It also focuses on the associated defences and remedies available.

*Contract Law*

This is a topic that helps you to understand your rights in many contractual situations — it supports understanding of the essential requirements of a legally binding contract, contractual terms, vitiating factors, discharge of a contract and remedies for a successful claim.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is a linear course assessed in three examinations at the end of two years of study:

### Paper 1:

#### What's assessed

The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100).  
Criminal law (75 marks out of 100).

#### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 1/3 of A Level

#### Questions

A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

### Paper 2:

#### What's assessed

The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100).  
Tort (75 marks out of 100).

#### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 1/3 of A Level

#### Questions

A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

### Paper 3:

#### What's assessed

The nature of law and the English legal system (25 marks out of 100).  
The law of contract (75 marks out of 100).

#### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 1/3 of A Level

#### Questions

A combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

## What are the Assessment Objectives (AOs)?

AQA will be assessing your legal knowledge and understanding using three AOs. These are set by OFQUAL and are the same across all A-Level Law specifications and examination boards.

**AO1:** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles.

**AO2:** Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology.

**AO3:** Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues.

## Additional resources:

Listed below are a range of resources you might find helpful to support your legal studies.

<https://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/law>

<https://www.legalcheek.com/>

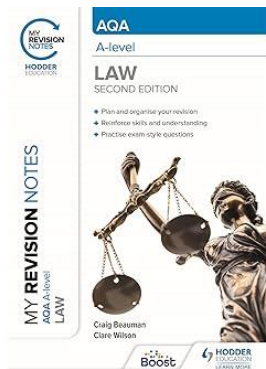
<https://www.theguardian.com/law>

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/>

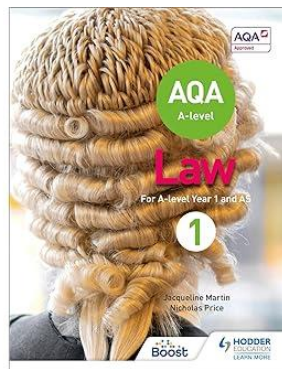
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/magazines/magazines-extras/a-level-law-review-extras>

## Suggested materials required for September:

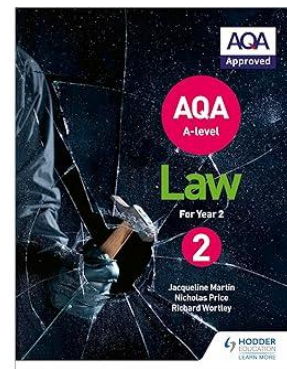
It is recommended that you use three ring binder folders and label these Law 1, Law 2 and Law 3. This will make the work you complete easier to organise. There is no requirement to purchase any books/revision guides as materials will be provided by your teacher, however if you do wish to buy something for your own personal use, we recommend the following:



My Revision Notes: AQA A-Level Law (2nd edn)  
(Beauman & Wilson)



AQA A-Level Law for Year 1/AS  
(Martin & Price)



AQA A-Level Law for Year 2  
(Martin, Wortley & Price)

# Year 12 Bridging Work

Complete the activities below prior to starting A-Level Law in September

## Task 1:

Look out in local or national newspapers or the internet for **two** interesting court cases heard in the UK and outline all the information you can find on the cases below.

Try to make the cases as current as possible.

Case 1:	
Name and date of the case:	
What were the facts of the case?	
What was the issue in dispute?	
What was held? (what was the decision)	
Do you agree or disagree with this decision? Explain your reasoning.	

Case 2:	
Name and date of the case:	
What were the facts of the case?	
What was the issue in dispute?	
What was held? (what was the decision)	
Do you agree or disagree with this decision? Explain your reasoning.	





**Task 4:**

Using the following websites, answer the following questions:

<https://www.parliament.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/age-of-criminal-responsibility>

1. What is the age of criminal responsibility in England?
2. What is meant by the phrase of 'criminal responsibility'?
3. What change to the law has been proposed by the 'Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill'?
4. What is a Bill?
5. What stage of the parliamentary process is the 'Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill' at?
6. How long may it take for this Bill to become law?
7. What has to happen for the Bill to become law?

**Identify arguments for and against lowering the voting age to 16:**

<b>Arguments for:</b>	<b>Arguments against:</b>