

A Level Law

Queen Elizabeth *School*



Subject Philosophy

Studying A Level 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.

Intent

We aim to empower all law students to develop a level of legal literacy that will be of practical use whether or not they pursue a career in law.

We aim to address the lack of diversity in the legal profession and dispel the myth that such careers are only for an elite. We are proud to be one of the very few Comprehensive Secondary School Sixth Forms in the West Country to offer Law at A Level. The Department enjoys strong relationships with barristers, solicitors, and judges and we aim to offer all students the opportunity to engage with and learn from external practitioners in law at all levels.

Design

Topics are clearly structured and include:

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Criminal Law
- Civil (Tort) Law
- Human Rights Law

We have chosen to teach the Human Rights option on the AQA Specification, as this enables students to discover how the international legal order emerged in the aftermath of the Second World War and how in turn this shaped and enhanced the common law legal tradition in the UK.

The Human Rights option also gives students an insight into the balancing of interests that takes place between the state and the individual, or between individuals themselves. Students will grapple with the moral, ethical and practical dilemmas that face governments and state institutions when protecting and promoting the rights of individuals and society as a whole. Students are exposed to the legal complexity of everyday decision making by agents of the state such as frontline police officers, prison staff or NHS surgeons and use their knowledge to answer exam style questions and scenarios.

Delivery

Lessons are delivered in line with the school's teaching and learning policy. A Level Law students are expected to engage in lesson discussions and to complete a number of hours of study outside of the classroom each week equal to the number of hours taught. (currently 4 hours in year 12 and 5 hours in year 13).

Classes include teacher led discussions of cases on topics such as murder, manslaughter, theft or assault, followed by questions on legal principles and practical application in worked examples. Students will also be expected to work individually and in pairs and small groups as well as in whole group tasks.

Students will develop their literacy skills as they tackle progressively more complex written work reflecting the question types used in the AQA A Level exam papers.

Students will receive updates on contemporary legal developments throughout the year.

Teacher of Law	
Law & EPQ	Ben Grant