





# Transition to A Level Law

The following tasks will help with your basic understanding of the Law and the English Legal System.

This is the outline of the A Level course components:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
The English legal system  Criminal Law	The English legal system  Civil law	The English legal system  Contract law

For each week, you should complete the task under the subtitle 'you should'. Then, if you would like to do some more you could complete any, or all, of the tasks under 'you could'.

<b>Week 1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Introduction to Law</i></p> <p><i>You should:</i></p> <p> <b>Watch</b> this short video on how laws are made in the UK: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&amp;v=Wuk3L3tknwg&amp;feature=emb_logo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&amp;v=Wuk3L3tknwg&amp;feature=emb_logo</a></p> <p>Following this video, research new laws which are coming before Parliament at the moment. <a href="https://services.parliament.uk/bills/">https://services.parliament.uk/bills/</a> Click on each bill to find out a little more about it.</p> <p><i>You could:</i></p> <p> <b>Read</b> <a href="#">this article</a> for an introduction to the English Legal System. Write down any of the terms you are unsure about and do some more research on their meaning.</p>
<b>Week 2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The English Legal System</i></p> <p><i>You should:</i></p> <p> <b>Watch</b> <a href="#">this six-part programme</a> on Barristers and ask any questions you have after watching the programme on the Week 2 blog.</p> <p><i>You could:</i></p> <p> <b>Read</b> <i>Letters to a Law Student: A guide to studying law at university</i> by Nicholas McBride</p>



**Read** *The Secret Barrister*



**Listen** to this podcast on the Supreme Court:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002r4m>



**Listen** to this podcast on whether current legislation is adequate to deal with the phenomenon of fake news:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08jb9nl>

# Week 3

## *Criminal Law*

*You should:*



**Complete** the online programme - [You be the Judge](#) - A guide to sentencing. Complete as many of the scenarios as you can.



**Read** [this article](#) from The Guardian on key cases in the English Legal System. Research one of these cases - find out the facts and the legal point in more detail.

*You could:*



**Watch** Murder 24/7 on BBC iplayer (please note this programme deals with a real murder case and therefore has sensitive content).



**Research** the non-fatal offences in the UK. Where does the law come from? How might it be criticised? What do you understand is the difference between an 'assault' and a 'battery'? What is meant by a GBH? Have a look at some of the cases [here](#).



**Complete** an online course (this will take a few weeks) Are prisons a

suitable punishment?

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/incarceration-prisons-suitable-punishment>

## Week 4

### *The English Legal System*

*You should:*



**Watch** [this video](#) about the role of a juror.



**Watch** [this debate](#) about whether trial by jury is the best option. Write half-a-page deciding whether you think trial by jury is effective.

*You could:*



**Watch** this documentary about one of the UK's largest criminal legal aid firms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fl>



**Listen** to this podcast on whether social media poses a threat to criminal trials: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b6m9jy> Write a short paragraph to summarise what your view is. Does it pose a threat to criminal trials or not?



**Listen** to this podcast on the future of trial by jury: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00yyhqj> Write 100 words explaining the advantages and disadvantages of trial by jury.

# ...CHALLENGES ...

This is your opportunity to try something outside the course that you are genuinely curious about. Have a look at some examples below.

## Sign up to a free online course



Future Learn - [browse courses here](#)

Examples of relevant courses:

- Are prisons a suitable punishment?  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/incarceration-prisons-suitable-punishment>
- Introduction to forensic science:  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introduction-to-forensic-science>
- Witness Investigation: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/forensic-psychology>

## Wider reading list

The following list has been compiled from a UK university and The Guardian newspaper recommendations:

- *About Law* by Tony Horore (an excellent introduction to Law. If you only read one book from this list, go for this one!)

- *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens
- *Eve Was Framed* by Helena Kennedy
- *How Law Works* by Gary Slapper
- *Jeremy Hutchinson's Case Histories* by Thomas Grant
  
- *Landmarks in the Law* by Lord Denning
- *Law's Empire* by Ronald Dworkin
- *Learning the Law* by Glanville Williams
- *Lord Denning, A Life* by Iris Freeman
  
- *On Liberty* by J.S. Mill
- *The Concept of Law* by H.L.A. Hart
- *The Rule of Law* by Tom Bingham
- *What about Law* by Catherine Barnard et al.
- *Winning Arguments* by Jay Heinrichs