The Cardinal Wiseman School
A Level Courses

LAW

Entry requirements:

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a grade 6 in English Language.

Despite the urban myth to the contrary, A Level Law provides an excellent platform for study of the subject at degree level. It is certainly not a prerequisite to a Law degree but, if a student has a desire to become a legal professional, it is a subject that they should consider. At best, harnessing their early interest may help boost those A Level grades. At worst, a student may complete the AS Level and at least have some knowledge to base their future study plans on.

Law also complements a number of other A level subjects. As it relates to the running of the country, there is considerable overlap with Government and Politics. It is clear to that many of the analytical and research skills developed studying Law lend themselves well to studying History. Alternatively, Law may be chosen by a student who is just curious to learn about the rules that govern our society and looking to inject a little variety into their timetable.

Law is a subject which requires students to have a good grasp of the English Language. After all, words are a lawyer's weapon of choice! A substantial proportion of the marks available for the OCR exam papers are actually awarded solely for the use of English. However, while there will be the odd essay to write, A Level Law is primarily a "problem-solving" subject. As such, it offers a chance to develop skills that can be of value to future undergraduate students of any subject.



Course content

The A Level Law syllabus is a 2 year linear course.

Unit 1: Law Making

Study of this unit enables the students to begin to comprehend the answers to a number of questions - Firstly, what is English Law? Secondly, where does Law come from and finally how do judge's interpret Law and how are precedents set.

Unit 2: The English Legal System

Attention is then turned to the courts system, sentencing, and the role played by magistrates, juries, solicitors, barristers and judges in the legal process. We look to develop students' analytical and problem solving skills.

Unit 3: Criminal Law

Here attention turns to the Homicide offences, Assaults, Theft and the Defences. Students learn to distinguish between murder and the various forms of manslaughter, applying the law and the relevant specific defences in the process. As well as fine tuning their problem solving skills, students are also required to evaluate the law for the first time.

Unit 4: Nature of Law

Here students will learn about the relationship between law and morality. The different theories of punishment will also be examined.

Unit 5: Contract Law

Attention here will be focussed on all aspects of contract law. Topics will include how contracts are made and what remedies are available in Law for breach of contract.

Unit 6: Tort Law

Finally, students will learn about all aspects of Tort including the Law of negligence, duty of care, nuisance and Occupiers Liability.

How are lessons organised?

A Level Law is assessed purely by means of examination and the lessons reflect that. From an early stage, there is an emphasis on tackling examination style questions and a short test. Law is however, a dynamic subject. The Supreme Court sets important legal precedents for other courts to follow as seen in the recent Brexit/prorogation case decided during the Brexit discourse. To keep up to date we try to embrace modern media and technology. Students will often be asked to carry out guided research of their own direct from many of the online primary resources.

As the students' own legal knowledge and skills increase, the nature of the teaching also develops. Alongside lectures we also have a number of speakers visiting the lessons: magistrates, the police and staff from the prison service. Visits to Courts are also organised during the Summer term.

What careers might Law lead to?

The knowledge and skills acquired through undergraduate study of the Law lend themselves to all manner of careers in addition to the obvious legal options:

Barrister Local Government Business Management Solicitor Police and Law Enforcement

Broadcasting Legal Executive Health & Safety Inspector Civil Service Paralegal

Teaching & Academia

Further information: For further information please contact the Head of Law, Miss Arthur (ArthurJ@wiseman.ealing.sch.uk)