



Get off to a 'Flying Start' in....

Law - A Level

Welcome to Flying Start with North Devon College.

We hope that you are excited to join us at North Devon College. We want to help you to focus on your skills for your course with us and so below you will find questions to consider, tasks to complete and some background research to undertake before enrolment. Please read the instructions and have a go at the tasks.

Link to introduction video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15BhgVQz5HZ9b71uwc_uBCEfBSgqCe4UD/view?usp=sharing

A quick hello and introduction to the course

Welcome to A Level Law! A Level Law is a demanding but enjoyable A Level. You will need to be committed from the beginning and work hard and all attend lessons throughout to get the most out of the course and succeed. In Law, as in many subjects at North Devon College, we use a flipped learning model. This means it is essential that you do the preparatory work before lessons, so that the course content can be applied, and skills developed in lessons rather than them being used purely to deliver content.

Studying A Level Law will give you a fantastic insight into the legal system of England and Wales and a deep understanding of human rights, criminal and tort law. You will debate and consider controversial issues such as how far the government should monitor our lives, defences to murder, how your human rights can be lawfully restricted, and many more!

At North Devon College we study Eduqas' A Level Law, which is 100% exam (no coursework). You will sit two AS exams in the summer of 2027 and three A Level exams in the summer of 2028.

To succeed at A Level Law, we expect:

- High attendance
- Being thoroughly prepared for lessons
- Motivation to undertake 5 hours per week of independent study outside of lessons and full completion of all assignments set.

There are four areas of law that are taught over the duration of the course:

- The Nature of Law and the English legal system
- Law of Tort
- Human Rights Law
- Criminal Law

To get you started...

In the first portion of the Flying Start we will focus on the Parliament of the United Kingdom. This reflects the first two weeks of your AS level lessons. Therefore, it is important that you do your best at completing the following tasks. We have included some extracts from the textbook that we use throughout the year (details of this are contained further on).

TASK A: PARLIAMENT

Watch the following video and answer the questions below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbLTwQwXqWc>

Define parliament – make sure to state its constituent parts.

Who sits in the House of Commons?

Who sits in the House of Lords?

TASK B: HOUSE OF COMMONS

Watch the video explaining the role and function of the House of Commons:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENIW7i48xHA>. Answer the questions below.

What is the primary function of the House of Commons in the UK Parliament?

How are Members of Parliament (MPs) elected to the House of Commons?

What role does the Speaker of the House of Commons play during debates?

How does the layout of the House of Commons chamber influence the conduct of debates and discussions?

What are some key responsibilities of MPs within the House of Commons?

TASK C: HOUSE OF LORDS

This video presents a specific point of view about the House of Lords. Watch the video and answer the questions below <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgMRiA9dZQs>

What is the role of the House of Lords in the UK Parliament?

How do individuals become members of the House of Lords?

What types of members make up the House of Lords?

How does the House of Lords contribute to the legislative process in the UK?

IMPORTANT UPDATE! Since the Labour Party won the General Election in 2024, the position regarding hereditary peers is set to change as the government is seeking to pass a new law to abolish them, see [House of Lords \(Hereditary Peers\) Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#).

Read the following article at [Labour's cautionary tale: how hereditary peers clung on for 26 years | Lords reform | The Guardian](#).

Set out below some criticisms and benefits associated with the House of Lords as an unelected body?

TASK D: PARLIAMENTARY LAW MAKING

- 1. Read Articles 1 and 2 about the types of papers and bills. Take notes as you go along.***

Article 1

The UK Parliament is based at the Palace of Westminster in London, so is sometimes referred to as 'the Westminster Parliament' or simply 'Westminster'. It consists of two debating chambers: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The third element of the UK Parliament is the monarch, who is the head of state. The role of the monarch is hereditary: it normally passes from the present monarch to their eldest child when the reigning monarch dies.

All three parts of the UK Parliament must approve Acts of Parliament before they can become law.

Green and White Papers

The first stage of making a law is often to consult relevant people via a Green and/or White Paper.

Green Paper

A Green Paper is an intention to change the law and outlines the format this change could take. It is published on the internet for the public to comment on and copies are also distributed to interested parties. These individuals will then make comments and put forward suggestions on the proposal.

White Paper

Parliament will then publish a White Paper, which is a positive proposal on the format the new law will take. It often includes changes as a response to the opinions of the interested parties. There is then a further chance for consultation before the final Bill enters Parliament for consideration.

Article 2

Bills

All Acts of Parliament begin life as a Bill, which is a draft law or a proposal for a change in the law. There are three types of Bill: Public Bills, Private Members' Bills and Private Bills.

Public Bills

A Public Bill involves matters of public policy that will affect the whole country or a large section of it. These Bills will sometimes reflect the manifesto of the government in power at the time. Most government Bills are in this category. Examples include:

- **Children and Social Work Act 2017**
- **Juries Act 1974**
- **Finance Act 2017.**

Private Members' Bills

Private Members' Bills are sponsored by individual Members of Parliament (MPs). At each parliamentary session, 20 members are chosen from a ballot to take their turn in presenting their Bills to Parliament. Relatively few Private Members' Bills become law, and the time available for debating them is very short. As they tend to cover issues that the individual MP is interested in, they rarely reflect the government's general agenda. Examples of Private Members' Bills that have become law are:

- **Abortion Act 1967**
- **Marriage Act 1994**
- **British Sign Language Act 2022.**

Private Bills

A Private Bill is a law that is designed to affect only individual people or corporations. Examples include:

- **University College London Act 1996**
- **Whitehaven Harbour Act 2007.**

2. **Read the short excerpt from the law textbook about the stages the bill must go through to become an Act of Parliament. Make flashcards for each of the stages.**

- **If you are unsure how to make flashcards, go here:**
<https://flashcardsandstationery.com/how-to-make-flashcards-step-by-step/>

First reading

The title of the prepared Bill is read to the House of Commons. This is called the first reading and acts as notification of the proposed measure.

Second reading

The second reading is the first opportunity for MPs to debate the main principles of the Bill. At the end of the debate, the House of Commons votes on whether the legislation should proceed.

Committee stage

This is a detailed examination of the Bill where every clause is agreed to, changed or removed, taking into account the points made during the debates at the first and second readings.

Report stage

The committee will then report back to the House of Commons, and any proposed amendments are debated and voted upon.

Third reading

The third reading is a final chance for the House of Commons to debate the contents of a Bill but no amendments can be made at this stage. There is simply a vote on whether to accept or reject the legislation as it stands.

House of Lords

The Bill then goes to the **House of Lords**, where it travels through a similar process of three readings. If the House of Lords alters anything, the Bill returns to the Commons for consideration. This is known as 'ping pong'.

Royal Assent

In the majority of cases, agreement between the Lords and the Commons is reached and the Bill is then presented for Royal Assent. Technically, the King must give his consent to all legislation before it can become law but, in practice, that consent is never refused and is always granted.

The Bill is now an Act of Parliament and becomes law, although most Acts do not take effect the moment the King gives his consent, but on a specified future date. This is known as 'commencement'.

For those who want a bit more...

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

The main textbook we use is produced by Eduqas (our chosen exam board). It is recommended that you buy this in paper copy if you can, it lasts for x2 years (AS plus A-level), and we believe it is beneficial.

'Wjec/Eduqas Law A Level' Second edition by Sarah Davies, Karen Phillips and Louisa Draper-Walters. Illuminate Publishing. [WJEC/Eduqas Law A Level: Second Edition: Amazon.co.uk: Davies, Sara, Phillips, Karen, Draper-Walters, Louisa: 9781398379503: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781398379503)



OPTIONAL - Add in any questions of your own to those above to ask your law teacher in your first law lesson...

Please do not be too shy, there is no such thing as a stupid question, and we are here to help you!

PATHWAYS TO LAW AT EXETER UNIVERSITY

If you have always attended a state/non fee paying school and are keen on pursuing law at University/as a career then we recommend applying for this incredible scheme run by the Sutton Trust in partnership with our local, world class university!

[Pathways to Law at University Of Exeter - Sutton Trust Pathways](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Will this work be marked and when is it due?

A: This work may not be formally marked but will be discussed during your first law class with us in September. Please give it your best shot and make sure to bring your work to your first timetabled law lesson.

Q: I am not sure if I have the answers right, what should I do?

A: Do not worry, just have your best go and we will talk it through in a supportive way. There is no need to get anxious about the tasks, we are not expecting you to know everything before you arrive but want to see your effort to get off to a good start and are interested in your ideas. Identifying anything that you have found difficult to understand helps us to best support you right from the beginning. This is bound to happen for many as law is an entirely new subject and can take a while to get to grips with, this is normal so please do not be concerned if you feel this way.

Q: Do I have to do it?

A: Flying Start is not compulsory, but many students find it useful for getting them used to thinking about subjects at the next level. Early classroom sessions will also reflect on some of the Flying Start activities.