



# LAW

## STEP UP TO SIXTH FORM



### KEY INFO:

**Faculty:** Creative and Social

**Course Title:** A-Level Law

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Textbook:** My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Law by Craig Beauman (this provides structured revision, key content, exam-style questions and revision tasks)



### Activity 1: Read the Course Specification

This is an exciting two year linear course that comprises four topics of Law at A level: covering the English Legal System, Criminal Law, Contract Law and the Law of Tort (Negligence). The course will give you an understanding of the law; how laws are made and enforced through the Courts as well as peoples' civil and criminal rights and responsibilities: [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/as-and-a-level/law-7162/specification-at-a-glance](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/law/as-and-a-level/law-7162/specification-at-a-glance)

### Activity 2: Subject Specific Vocabulary

- Go to: [www.aqa.org.uk/resources/law/as-and-a-level/law/teach/subject-specific-vocabulary](http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/law/as-and-a-level/law/teach/subject-specific-vocabulary)
- Create flashcards, test yourself and begin to talk like a lawyer!

We will have a class test in September: prizes to be won!

### Activity 3: Carefully read the case below and answer the following questions...

*R v Dudley & Stevenson (1884)*

Facts: Four sailors set sail from Southampton to deliver the new yacht to its' owners in Australia. The yacht capsized and sank during a storm and the four man crew took to a lifeboat. They had two tins of turnips but no water. They initially survived on turnips and a turtle they caught. After fifteen days at sea, three of the crew drew lots to see who should be sacrificed and eaten by the others, according to the customs of the sea. One of the crew members (Brooks) refused to be involved, so Dudley and Stephens killed the poorly cabin boy (Parker). However, all three of the remaining crew ate the cabin boy. After twenty-four days at sea they were rescued by a passing boat.

Upon reaching Cornwall, all three men were arrested for murder. The charges were dropped against Brooks so he could give evidence against the other two. The remaining defendants Dudley & Stevenson argued there was no case to answer due to the established customs of the sea (shipwrecked sailors engaged in cannibalism if stranded from land for days) and that under the law of necessity they had to!

Held: This was rejected by the court and they were found guilty of murder. The court was not convinced it was necessary to kill Parker to save themselves. They avoided the death penalty and were sentenced to six years.

- Q1) Is this a criminal or civil case? Highlight/identify the content that supports your answer
- Q2) As a member of the jury, would you have found the defendants guilty or not guilty?
- Q3) What legal rule comes from this case?

### Activity 4: Look up and make notes on the following vital cases to be studied for Criminal Law...

Use the following website to search for your cases: <https://www.lawteacher.net/cases/>

- R v White (1910). What were the facts, the issue before the court, the Court's decision (held) ?
- R v Miller (1983)
- R v Pagett (1983)

## ACTIVITIES:

## TV AND FILM:

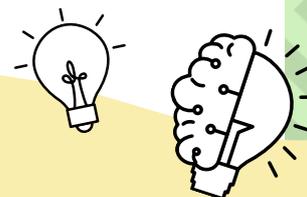
- BBC One - Silk, drama series about life at the Bar
- Series 1 and 2 exploring the investigation of Murder Cases in Scotland - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0006qk2/murder-case-series-1-3-motive-unknown>
- App following real-life Trials in the UK courts - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06886ny>
- Law and Order UK (ITV) - UK drama that tells the stories of two separate yet equally important groups: the police, who investigate crime, and the CPS, who prosecute the offenders.
- The Witness for the Prosecution (BBC) - The hunt is on to find the murderer of a wealthy glamorous heiress who is found dead in her London townhouse. Based on the short story by Agatha Christie.
- Murder, Mystery and My Family (BBC) - Two leading British criminal barristers investigate historic murder cases on behalf of a relative of the person convicted of the crime. They then present any new evidence to a judge for assessment.

Inspiration can also be motivational:

- **Twelve Angry Men (1957)**. This US film is set in the jury room. In the UK, no one knows precisely what goes on in the jury room. One question to ponder: how do you think the verdict might have differed if the jury had been told it could reach a majority verdict under UK Law, rather than a unanimous one?
- **In the Name of the Father (1993)**. This is an Irish-British film based on the story of the Guildford Four, four people falsely convicted of the 1974 IRA's Guildford pub bombings, which killed four off-duty British soldiers and a civilian. The story is important as it formed part of the background to major changes in the criminal justice system of England and Wales, including the creation of the Criminal Cases Review Commission and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- **10 Rillington Place (1971)**. A film about the trial of a supposed murderer: one of a number of high profile miscarriage of justice cases that ultimately led to the abolition of the death penalty in the UK in 1965. Worth watching as a reminder of why the death penalty needs to remain abolished.
- **10th District Court (10e Chambre - Instants d'Audience) (2004)**. Documentary on the work of a Paris Criminal Court. Worth viewing to compare how the French criminal justice system operates to the work of Magistrates' Courts in England.

## WIDER READING:

- The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken, by The Secret Barrister
- Cardiff and UCL academic Richard Moorhead: The End of Lawyers by Richard Susskind
- Crossing the Line: Lessons from a Life on Duty, by retired Detective John Sutherland
- Recommendations from UK Human Rights blog editor and 1 Crown Offices Row barrister chambers of Adam Wagner: Geoffrey Robertson's The Justice Game
- How Law Works by Gary Slapper, well written introduction to the law in action
- Legal and philosophical puzzle, asking for your moral viewpoints in The Case of the Speluncean Explorer by Lon Fuller 1949
- The Colour of Law by Mark Giminez. The apparent American legal right to act based on the 'color of the law'
- G. Williams, Learning the Law (16th edition, Sweet and Maxwell (2016)). A simplifying of the law that helps you to understand the legal system and the discipline of studying law. It has been published many times: second hand copies are available, but recent editions have up-to-date information.



## ONLINE LINKS:

Students wishing to prepare for their studies are encouraged to access specific sections for legal news: The Independent, The Telegraph, The Guardian and Twitter @GdnLw

Useful Instagram feeds to access legal-minded posts include popular hashtags to the legal world are: #law #justice #lawfirm #barrister #solicitor #instalawyer #commercialawareness #legalnews #lawlife

Read about the 25 Most Influential Psychological Experiments in History: <https://www.onlinepsychologydegree.info/influential-psychological-experiments/>

## PODCASTS:

- Prison Service and Inmates present the reality of prison life: <https://prison.radio/the-secret-life-of-prisons/> <https://secretlifeofprisons.libsyn.com/>
- UK Human Rights Blog: <https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/tag/law-pod-uk>
- Broaden your legal horizon with Harry Clark, More from Law: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/more-from-law/id1497485950>
- Leading figures in the Law with Sally Penni Talking Law: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/talking-law-with-sally-penni/id1446876356?mt=2>
- BBC Law in Action: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1>

For further information please contact the Sixth Form team (P16@emmanuel.nottingham.sch.uk) who will be happy to forward your email to the relevant department.