



HEADLANDS SCHOOL
SINCE 1965

Applied Law Curriculum Overview

This overview document details what students will be studying in this subject area over the course of their time with us and the skills and knowledge they will be covering. Students will be formally assessed across the year and their progress and ATL (Attitude to Learning) will be reported home at the end of each term. Assessments will aim to assess the knowledge and skills a student has covered up to that point in their education, including the curriculum covered in the previous year/s.

Half term	02.09.25 - 23.10.25	03.11.25 - 19.12.25	05.01.26 - 13.02.26	23.02.26 - 26.03.26	13.04.26 - 22.05.26	01.06.26 - 17.07.26
	Autumn 1 - 8 weeks	Autumn 2 - 7 weeks	Spring 1 - 6 weeks	Spring 2 - 5 weeks	Summer 1 - 5 weeks	Summer 2 - 7 weeks
Year 12	<p><u>Unit 2 Criminal Law and Legal Systems</u></p> <p>Students will explore how laws are created, interpreted, and applied within the legal system. The unit begins by developing essential legal skills, including how to conduct effective legal research, accurately reference sources using legal citation methods, and write in a structured, analytical style suitable for legal contexts. Students will gain an understanding of how statutes are made by Parliament, including the stages of the legislative process and the influences on law-making. They will also learn how judges interpret statutes through rules of interpretation and the use of precedent. Additionally, the unit covers sources of legislation made outside of Parliament, such as delegated legislation and laws from international or European bodies.</p>	<p><u>Unit 2 Criminal Law and Legal Systems</u></p> <p>Students will explore the roles and responsibilities of key legal personnel involved in criminal trials, including solicitors, barristers, legal executives, judges, and magistrates. Students will examine how these professionals contribute to the justice process from initial proceedings to the conclusion of a trial. The unit also looks in depth at crimes involving non-fatal offences against the person (NFOAP), such as assault, battery, actual bodily harm (ABH), and grievous bodily harm (GBH), exploring how these offences are charged, tried, and sentenced. Students will learn about different sentencing options and the factors courts consider when determining appropriate penalties. This unit helps develop practical legal knowledge while strengthening analytical and evaluative skills essential for legal study and future careers.</p>	<p><u>Unit 1 How civil disputes are resolved within the English legal system</u></p> <p>The unit focuses on key areas such as the different methods of civil dispute resolution, including the roles of courts and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods like mediation and tribunals. Students will also examine how civil law is enforced, looking at the processes involved in taking a case to court and how court judgments are implemented. A key part of the unit is understanding how judicial precedent operates—how past decisions influence future cases—and how this contributes to consistency and fairness in the law. The unit concludes with the application of the tort of negligence, where students will study the legal principles involved in proving negligence and explore real-life case examples to apply their knowledge. Through this unit, students will develop core legal skills such as case analysis, reasoning, and evaluation, all essential for progressing in legal education or a career in law.</p>	<p><u>Unit 1 How civil disputes are resolved within the English legal system</u></p> <p>This half term students will continue to study Unit 1 and will investigate how civil disputes are resolved in the legal system. The unit covers methods of dispute resolution, including the roles of the civil courts and alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the enforcement of civil law, the operation of judicial precedent, and the application of the tort of negligence. As the unit progresses, students will complete the final delivery of content before sitting a Unit 1 mock exam to practise applying their knowledge in exam-style conditions. This is followed by an iterative assessment process, where students receive detailed feedback and engage in focused revision activities to strengthen their understanding and exam technique. In the lead-up to</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 The application of criminal law</u></p> <p>This unit focuses on the application of criminal law, with a particular emphasis on serious offences and their legal implications. Students will explore the different types of homicide offences, including murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, infanticide, and corporate manslaughter. The unit examines the key elements required to prove each offence, alongside relevant case law and statutory authority. In addition, students will study specific legal defences that can reduce or eliminate criminal liability, such as loss of control and diminished responsibility, learning how these defences apply in real-life cases. Throughout the unit, students will be encouraged to apply legal rules to scenarios, develop legal arguments, and evaluate outcomes.</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 The application of criminal law</u></p> <p>Students deepen their understanding of criminal law by applying legal principles to real-life scenarios. In this unit they will study serious offences against the person, such as murder, manslaughter, infanticide, and corporate manslaughter, along with key defences like loss of control and diminished responsibility. The focus then shifts to property offences, including theft, robbery, burglary, fraud, criminal damage, and arson. Students will explore the legal definitions, required elements (actus reus and mens rea), and key case law for each offence. Regular end-of-topic assessments (Parts A & B) are used to track progress, supported by an iterative feedback process to refine legal knowledge, analytical thinking, and exam skills.</p>

	They will then complete their first piece of coursework based on this knowledge.	After this you will complete and submit the coursework for Unit 2.		the externally assessed May exam (Part A), students will be supported in developing strong analytical, evaluative, and legal writing skills to help them succeed in their first formal assessment in Applied Law.		
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Year 13	<p><u>Unit 3 The application of criminal law</u></p> <p>This half term the focus will be on building students' ability to analyse legal scenarios and apply relevant legal rules and principles. During the delivery of Unit 3 content, students will explore a range of criminal offences—including homicide and property offences—before examining a variety of legal defences. These include duress, intoxication, self-defence, insanity, and automatism, all of which may impact a defendant's liability. Students will evaluate how and when these defences apply, using real-life cases to support their understanding. The unit also covers key aspects of police powers, such as stop and search, arrest, and detention, helping students understand how law is enforced in practice. Through regular assessments and scenario-based tasks, students will develop the skills to construct legal arguments, apply complex legal concepts accurately, and evaluate case outcomes.</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 The application of criminal law</u></p> <p>As students progress through Unit 3 of BTEC Applied Law, they will complete the final delivery of content covering key areas such as homicide and property offences, a wide range of legal defences (including duress, intoxication, self-defence, insanity, and automatism), and the use of police powers. Once the content delivery is complete, students will undertake a Unit 3 mock exam to practise applying legal knowledge to realistic scenarios under timed conditions. This will be followed by an iterative assessment and feedback process, allowing students to reflect on their performance, strengthen their legal reasoning, and improve their written responses. Targeted revision sessions will then focus on key areas for development in preparation for the externally assessed Unit 3 Part A exam.</p>	<p>UNIT 3 Jan EXAM</p> <p><u>Unit 7 key principles and application of tort law</u></p> <p>Unit 7 of BTEC Applied Law is a coursework unit which focuses on the key principles and application of tort law. Students begin by exploring the objectives of tort law and its role in providing remedies for individuals who have suffered harm. The unit covers the essential elements of liability in negligence, including establishing a duty of care, proving a breach of that duty, and demonstrating resulting damage or loss. Students will also examine more complex areas such as psychiatric harm and economic losses, gaining an understanding of how courts assess and award compensation. Throughout the unit, students will apply legal principles to a variety of realistic case scenarios, developing their ability to analyse, interpret and present legal arguments clearly and effectively.</p>	<p><u>Revision</u></p> <p>During this half term students will engage in a comprehensive retrieval recap and iterative assessment to reinforce their understanding before completing their coursework. Key topics revisited include Occupiers' Liability, exploring the duties owed by occupiers to lawful visitors; Vicarious Liability, examining when employers are held responsible for employees' actions; Private Nuisance, focusing on interference with land use and enjoyment; and the landmark case of <i>Rylands v Fletcher</i>, which establishes strict liability for escape of hazardous substances. This structured review ensures students consolidate essential legal principles and case law to confidently apply them in their coursework.</p>	<p><u>Unit 7 key principles and application of tort law</u></p> <p>During this half term students will complete their Unit 7 Coursework.</p> <p>Upon submission, students may have the opportunity for resubmission to improve their work based on assessor comments, ensuring they achieve the best possible grade while demonstrating a comprehensive grasp of the unit's core topics.</p>	

