AQA A Level Law

The Law Faculty sets its vision as developing: 'Independent and principled thinkers who understand, question and apply the law.'

Intent: Curriculum Intent – AQA A Level Law

Our AQA A Level Law curriculum is designed to develop inquisitive, analytical and independent students who explore the principles, purpose and impact of law within society. Through the study of the English legal system, criminal law, tort law and contract law, students investigate how laws are created, interpreted and applied, while considering the social, moral and political contexts in which they operate.

The curriculum is carefully sequenced to build secure knowledge of the AQA specification, exploring substantive areas of law and increasingly complex legal concepts alongside understanding this in the context of the English legal System. Students develop a thorough understanding of legal institutions, the role of judges, Parliament and the courts, alongside the principles of precedent, statutory interpretation and law reform. This progression enables students to make meaningful connections across topics and apply legal principles confidently to a wide range of scenarios.

In line with the AQA specification, students develop the ability to analyse and evaluate legal rules, apply legal reasoning to realistic problem scenarios, and construct balanced, evidence-based arguments. They engage critically with landmark cases, legal principles and contemporary issues, considering how law interacts with justice, morality, fault and society. Students are encouraged to challenge assumptions through reasoned debate and the careful use of legal authority rather than personal opinion.

The curriculum promotes independent thinking by encouraging students to research current legal developments, evaluate proposed reforms and consider differing perspectives on complex legal issues. Practical experiences, including mock trials, legal debates, internships and engagement with real-world case studies, help students develop confidence in applying legal knowledge beyond the classroom while deepening their understanding of the justice system.

Reading, discussion and extended analytical writing are embedded throughout the course to develop students' ability to communicate precise legal arguments using accurate terminology and supporting authority. Retrieval practice, regular essay writing, problem-solving exercises and examination practice ensure that knowledge is retained, applied and evaluated confidently across all areas of the specification.

Ultimately, our A Level Law curriculum equips students with the knowledge, critical thinking skills and confidence to become informed citizens who understand the role of law in shaping society. It prepares them for higher education, careers in law and related professions, and active participation in a democratic society founded on justice, equality and the rule of law.

Why study AQA Law at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?
Studying AQA Law offers students an in-depth understanding of the English legal system and its various components. This course provides a comprehensive exploration of criminal law, tort law, and contract law, equipping students with critical analytical skills and a solid foundation for further legal studies or careers in law, business, and public service. The structured curriculum is designed to enhance both theoretical knowledge and practical problem-solving abilities, ensuring a well-rounded legal education.

What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	Content
Criminal law	• Personnel involved in criminal trials. • Roles of the jury, judge, barristers, and solicitors. • Criminal courts and funding in criminal cases. • Magistrates and sentencing. • General elements of liability, fatal and non-fatal offences, property offences, general defences. • Problem-solving skills and practice. • Role of judges in making law, statutory interpretation, crime theory, law and justice, law and society.
Tort Law	• Nature of civil law. • Civil courts, roles of legal personnel, funding, and alternative dispute resolution. • Basic negligence, psychiatric injury, private nuisance, Rylands v Fletcher, and vicarious liability. • Problem-solving skills and practice.
Contract Law	• Parliamentary law making, delegated legislation, and the role of the EU. • Introduction to contract law, making contracts, contract terms including the Consumer Rights Act 2015, exclusion clauses, vitiating factors, discharge of contract, and remedies. • Problem-solving skills and practice.

What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
AO1 –	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles.
A02 –	Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology.
A03	Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts, and issues.

What will my lessons involve?

PowerPoints: Covering theoretical aspects of law and detailed explanations of legal principles.
Case Studies: Analysing real and hypothetical cases to understand the application of the law.
Group Discussions: Engaging with peers to debate and discuss legal issues.
Practical Exercises: Problem-solving sessions to develop legal reasoning and application skills.

What will my independent study involve?

Reading: Assigned textbooks, legal journals, and case reports to deepen understanding.
Research: Investigating specific legal issues or case laws.

Essay Writing: Developing arguments and analysis on various legal topics. **Revision:** Regular review of class notes and preparation for exams.

How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment - 100%	Percentage coursework assessment - 0%

Assessment	**Details of assessment**
Paper 1	2 hour written exam Section A: The Nature of Law and the English Legal System Section B: Criminal Law
Paper 2	2 hour written exam Section A: The Nature of Law and the English Legal System (different focus from Paper 1) Section B: Tort Law
Paper 3	2 hour written exam Section A: The Nature of Law and the English Legal System (Different focus from Paper 1+2) Section B: Contract Law

How do I know this is the right course for me?

- You have a keen interest in the legal system and how it operates.
- You enjoy critical thinking and problem-solving.
- You aspire to pursue a career in law, criminology, public policy, or related fields.
- You are prepared to engage in detailed reading, research, and independent study.
- You are looking for a challenging and rewarding academic experience that provides a strong foundation for higher education and professional development.

Choosing AQA Law at Ridgewood will prepare you with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in both academic and professional environments.

