

# SUMMER TASKS – A level law 2026

**Subject: Year 12 Law- an Introduction to Juries**

**Title: AN INTRODUCTION TO LAW, JURIES AND OFFENCES**

## NEW STUDENT INFO, ACTIVITIES & SUMMER TASK 2026- LAW

### Course Content

### [\*Scroll down to your Summer Task(s)]

At York College, you will study the following areas of law across your 2- year course: -

#### Law Making

(Where our different laws come from including: - who or what makes our laws, how do they make the laws, what is good and bad about the different types of law making and how we reform (change with a view to improving) the law).

- Laws made by our Parliament.
- Laws made by other organisations e.g., local councils, large companies, and the government departments e.g. The Dept. of Education or the Dept. of Health...
- Laws made by judges in court cases.
- Laws made by the European Union (EU- currently, the highest our most important source of law in the UK)
- Law reform- how law reform bodies, e.g., the Grenfell Inquiry... can influence Parliament to change the law.

#### Legal system

(The key features of both civil and criminal cases including: -the different types of courts which hear both types of case; the procedure (what happens at) civil and criminal trials; how to appeal the decision made at trial; the legally trained professionals and volunteers who have a part to play in both civil and criminal cases etc...)

- How the English legal system developed, different types of legal systems and the difference between civil and criminal cases.
- Criminal courts, criminal appeals, and sentencing (custodial, community, fines and other types)
- Civil courts, civil appeals, and other ways of sorting out a civil dispute including negotiation, mediation, and tribunals...
- What qualifications and training legal professionals including judges, solicitors, barristers, and legal executives need and their roles (work/job) in civil and criminal cases.
- The qualifications and selection process for jurors and magistrates who volunteer to play a part in the legal system.
- The different places which offer legal advice and can arrange for a person with a legal problem to be represented in court including law firms, charities etc. The different ways that an individual can fund (pay for) advice and representation.

#### An introduction to the law of tort

(An introduction to the law of civil wrongdoing (tort law), a type of civil law which includes claims for compensation for financial losses, property damage and injuries suffered because of the other party's **negligence**)

- The rules (law) that the claimant (person bringing the civil claim) must prove to win their case in the law of negligence.
- How a lawful/legal visitor can make a claim for compensation against the occupier (owner or person in control of) premises (land or property).
- How a trespasser can make a claim for compensation against the occupier of premises.

#### An introduction to criminal law

(An introduction to the basic rules of criminal law and an introduction to the law on non-fatal offences such as assault and actual bodily harm...)

- The two main parts (things) which make a crime; - the physical (doing) part and the mental (state of mind) part.
- Some basic rules about criminal law.
- **Non- fatal offences against the person including:** - assault, battery, actual bodily harm, wounding or causing grievous bodily harm...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The different types of compensation, which can form part of the claim...</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Additional tort law</b> (Further offences in tort law, which include, nuisance <u>and</u> some defences, which the defendant might use).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claims for <b>nuisance</b>: - a person can claim compensation or another remedy for the nuisance caused by the way people behave on property/land e.g., dogs barking cause a nuisance, odours/smells coming from property, smoke from factories, noise etc.</li> <li>How the claimant's own negligence (e.g., not wearing a seatbelt when involved in a car crash...) could reduce their claim for compensation.</li> <li>How a claimant cannot win damages if they knew of the risk of damage and had willingly consented to it.</li> <li>The rule of <b>vicarious liability</b>- where an employer is liable (responsible) for the negligent and sometimes criminal acts of their employee who is acting in the course of/in a way connected to their employment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Criminal law</b> (Further criminal law including fatal offences, crimes against property, defences, and attempted crimes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Murder and the partial defences for murder: diminished responsibility and loss of control</li> <li>Involuntary manslaughter: unlawful act manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter.</li> <li>Offences against property: theft, robbery, and burglary.</li> <li><b>Defences</b>, which can be raised/used in criminal law: insanity, automatism, (where the defendant's mind was not in control of their muscles...), intoxication, consent (only to the non-fatal offences from Year 1) and self-defence.</li> <li>Attempted crimes (where the defendant intended to commit the full offence, but they were prevented from completing it for some reason... the bullets were blank, the police arrived and stopped them...)</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Concepts (ideas/theories) about law</b> (This is a holistic unit. You are expected to look back over your whole course, identifying areas of law where we see justice is or is not achieved, legal and moral rules either do or don't coincide/come together or where we see the law trying to strike a difficult balance between protecting individual rights and giving out the right public policy message...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law and justice.</li> <li>Law and morality</li> <li>Law and society</li> <li>Law and technology (cyber- crime/the right to privacy etc.)</li> </ul>	<p><b>An introduction to human rights law</b> (An introduction to laws which protect and enforce human rights)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The history of human rights law in the UK, from Magna Carta to the effect of the European Court of Human Rights and the UK Human Rights Act 1998.</li> <li>The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) including <i>the right to a liberty (freedom) and security; the right to a fair trial, the right to respect for private and family life; the right to freedom of expression (includes free speech) and the right to freedom of assembly (meet where you like/form gatherings/marches etc.)</i></li> <li>Restrictions on our human rights including public order offences and police powers (stop &amp; search, arrest etc.).</li> <li>The duty of confidentiality; obscenity; defamation (writing or saying untrue things about a person, which damage their reputation...) and harassment.</li> <li>How a person's human rights can be enforced through our national (UK) courts and in the European Court of Human Rights.</li> </ul>
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- Year 1= mock exams in May 2026
- Year 2= three x 2 hours exams in May and June 2028

**Exam Board Websites and Information**

A-LEVEL (OCR) [AS and A Level - Law - H018, H418 \(from 2020\) - OCR](#)

**TASKS ON NEXT PAGE** 😊

# YOUR SUMMER TASKS

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## TASK - INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON JURIES

**(1) Watch the following video** “Your Role as A JUROR” and make a note of some key points [Your role as a juror - YouTube](#) (12 minutes).

**(2) Carry out your own independent research on juries** and then make a set of notes on your findings. Notes should be a 1 x A4 page of typed notes (size 12 font) or handwritten, on: -

**(a) The qualifications** that jurors must have (who can and cannot be a juror, the reasons why people might be disqualified, excused or not eligible to serve on a jury).

**(b) The way a jury is selected** (including summons, vetting, challenges, and the jury of 12 is selected for a criminal case).

**(c) The role of a jury** (what a jury does in a criminal trial, which court do they sit in, what do they hear in court, where do they go to decide their verdict, how do they reach their verdict etc.,)

### TIPS

- Type your name on the top of the paper, the date you complete the work and a heading – JURIES – LAW SUMMER WORK
- We study the “English Legal System” which is the law and legal systems in England and Wales. Your research should focus on juries in England and Wales- also ensure that your searches are limited to reputable and relevant sites. \*We don’t want to know about juries in the USA or other parts of the world.
- Do your research first. Go online and search for English Juries in criminal cases.
- Read your research online and make handwritten notes of important things that you read. Jot things down on a piece of paper first.
- Write up the notes of your findings on your 1 x A4 (1 page online) of size 12 font notes.
- Use headings in your notes. Your headings should be (1) Jury Qualifications (2) Jury Selection and (3) The Role of the Jury in Criminal Cases
- The notes that you make should be typed up in your own words- do not simply copy and paste text from websites or things you have found on a google search. When you hand in work at York College, it can be put through TURNITIN, which

identifies things taken from other people’s work, copied from sites etc., We are wanting to see that you can read, understand, and then describe/explain your findings.

- We hope to see you write up what you have found out yourself- rather than simply copying and pasting things. This is what is expected of both A level and university (degree level) students.
- For typed work, always spell check work (if in Word, look for red and blue underlining and click on any to check or correct).
- Make your notes clear and easy to read.
- Try to remember your SPAG- use paragraphs, capital letters for names etc.,
- PUT A LIST OF THE SITES YOU ACCESSED AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PAGE (DON'T WORRY IF THAT GOES OVER ONTO A SECOND PAGE)
- **FINALLY PRINT OFF A COPY OF YOUR WORK AND BRING IT TO YOUR FIRST LAW LESSON- WORK CAN BE HANDWRITTEN ANSWERS- WRITE/TYPE**

**HELPFUL LINKS/SITES** (CLICK OR RIGHT CLICK AND OPEN LINKS /AS A HYPERLINK TO ACCESS THEM) S

[Your role as a juror - YouTube](#)

[The Jury System \(lawteacher.net\)](#)

[The role of juries, selection, challenges and disqualification](#)

[Advantages and disadvantages of juries](#)

**The 2 sites above are on YouTube- Learn Law With Hanah, playlists, lay people – the 2 videos on jurors/juries**

[Everything you need to know about jury service | ULaw](#)

[Juror Notice General Version 1 March 20 2018.indd \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Understanding the jury selection process – Inside HMCTS \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[Role and Process of the Jury \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Crown Court - Preparing to come to court - YouTube](#)

[Bushel's Case and the Independence of Juries | Legal Landmarks \(youtube.com\)](#)

PLEASE DO YOUR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH OF JURIES (ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM & CRIMINAL TRIALS. THESE ARE JUST SOME HELPFUL IDEAS. WE WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU DID YOUR OWN RESEARCH TOO.

**OPTIONAL EXTRA TASK- THINK ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES (GOOD POINTS/BENEFITS) OF JURIES AND THE DISADVANTAGES (BAD POINTS)**

**ABOUT JURIES**

**PREPARATION FOR OUT TIMED 10 MINUTE WRITING IN WEEK 1**

[Is the Jury System Fit for Purpose? | Loose Women \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Do We Need Juries? - YouTube](#)

**GOOD AND BAD POINTS GRID – ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST JURIES**

FOR (advantages)	AGAINST (disadvantages)

The first 4 links are the best ones

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

You can research this now or in your first week of College

## **OPTIONAL EXTRA TASKS (YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO THIS)**

Watch the following programmes if you are interested in how our legal system and laws developed... This is optional- just do it if you have time. We will not be checking it. 😊

- “The Strange Case of the Law”, episodes 1-3, BBC4, presented by Harry Potter (a barrister, not the wizard), available on YouTube...
- [The Strange Case of the Law, episode 1 of 3, Laying Down the Law - YouTube](#)
- **Interested in learning more about law? Watch a fly on the wall documentary about becoming a barrister...**
- “The Barristers”, episodes 1-6, BBC1 Documentary, available on YouTube... [The Barristers, part 1 - 1of6 - YouTube](#)
- Watch the following video which introduces you to human rights law [Everything you need to know about human rights | EachOther](#)
- Find out how laws are made in our country- by Parliament- [How Are Laws Passed in the UK? | EachOther An introduction to Parliament - YouTube](#)
- [Justice: What's The Right Thing to Do? Episode 01 "THE MORAL SIDE OF MURDER" - YouTube](#)

### **WARNING**

PLEASE CHECK WITH PARENTS/CARERS BEFORE WATCHING ANY CLIPS WHICH HAVE ANY GUIDANCE/WARNINGS & ONLY WATCH THINGS WHICH ARE AGE & CONTENT APPROPRIATE FOR YOU.

NOTE-we study criminal law, which includes fatal offences and offences of violence. 😊

**How long should I spend on this?** 2-3 hours

**How will I get feedback?** Bring your work/sheet to class. Hand -in is in your first Law Lesson.

**What if I cannot print the work?** Don't worry- just write your notes (what you find out) on paper and bring that to your first lesson.

**Contact email (\*Don't hesitate to contact us if you need any help/guidance/advice- we will be back in College from 18 August):**  
Clare Kirton [ckirton@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:ckirton@yorkcollege.ac.uk) or Clive Broadley  
[cbroadley@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:cbroadley@yorkcollege.ac.uk)