

Thinking about choosing to study Law at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Law in your future career planning.

## + What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with Law may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING

# \* LAW

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (the study of case law and legal precedents, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

## MIX & MATCH +

Law is often taken as a third or fourth AS/A2 level alongside more traditional subjects such as English and History. It can also be taken as part of a vocationally focussed package in combination with other business and social science subjects such as Accounting, Economics, Business Studies, Government / Politics and Sociology.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

<i>Law Skills</i>		⊗ Ways in which you might learn these in the subject:
<i>Research skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> researching an issue by finding and choosing the most appropriate sources to use <input type="checkbox"/> analysing written, statistical and visual information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed <input type="checkbox"/> selecting the most important and persuasive evidence in support of a case	<input type="checkbox"/> reading and analysing legal problems and cases, rulings and other evidence <input type="checkbox"/> using legal textbooks, law journals and law reports
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject <input type="checkbox"/> ordering and presenting material logically and accurately with all sources clearly referenced <input type="checkbox"/> using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters	<input type="checkbox"/> making notes on key events and people <input type="checkbox"/> writing notes, reports, essays and summarising legal texts <input type="checkbox"/> using legal terms and terminology
<i>Communication skills - verbal:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions <input type="checkbox"/> listening and responding to others and encouraging them to speak <input type="checkbox"/> arguing a case in a persuasive manner	<input type="checkbox"/> discussing the importance of legal issues and the workings of the legal system
<i>Numerical skills:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> collecting and recording data <input type="checkbox"/> presenting statistical data in support of a legal argument	<input type="checkbox"/> checking dates and times of events, numbers involved, etc.
<i>Skills of critical analysis:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> investigating legal issues by gathering evidence and establishing facts <input type="checkbox"/> considering the implications of a case in the light of legal precedent <input type="checkbox"/> distinguishing between fact, opinion and judgement when considering pieces of evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> looking at events from many different angles <input type="checkbox"/> trying to ascertain what happened and form an opinion as to the reasons for this

⊗ Ways in which you might use these in a job:

- finding and sorting evidence
- researching and preparing reports, legal paperwork, cases, etc.
- enforcing regulations and statutory requirements

- producing letters, memos, reports, etc.
- sorting evidence and legal precedents to use in arguing for a case
- preparing papers for courts, tribunals, inquiries, etc.

- working as part of a team
- giving advice and information
- giving presentations or persuading others

- working with figures, budgets, accounts, timetables, etc.

- working through the pros and cons of different arguments, eg. in legal cases
- assessing risk for insurance

law

## ⊗ other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Law at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

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- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsure
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

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- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

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- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

## Law

# CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in Law, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. Advanced level Law also gives exemptions from parts of the professional exams for Legal Executives and provides a useful foundation for many other careers which require a knowledge of the law including Police and Probation work. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here.

CRCI code	Title
L	General information on careers related to Law and Political Services
L	Solicitor
L	Barrister
L	Legal Executive
AD	Legal Secretary
L	Barristers Clerk
L	Coroner
UG	Police Work
V	Probation Officer
U	Security work
UK	Private & Store Detective
AC	Local Government work
AB	Civil Service
HC	RSPCA Inspector
V	Welfare Rights Officer
V	Social Work
L	MP/Politician
F	Lecturer

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

## 6 ways to check it out

Look at the 2 Skills pages.

- ① Put a cross against those skills you already have.
- ② Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.

- ③ Could you see yourself studying this subject at:

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- ④ Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to Law. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?

- ⑤ Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Law students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.

- ⑥ So what do you think? Are you interested in studying Law further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1

2

3

**Remember:** Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities.

A = 120 points  
B = 100 points  
C = 80 points  
D = 60 points  
E = 40 points

# Thinking of \* doing a degree?

Generally speaking, any three A2 levels are acceptable at most Law schools. Traditional A2 levels that are preferred include English and History whilst Science A2 levels are accepted for Law at a number of universities. Although it is highly relevant, Advanced level Law is not an essential or required subject for entry to a Law degree.

## Degree courses in Law

Law can be studied either as a single subject or combined with other subjects. Combined courses vary in the amount of time given to each subject. Students wishing to use their Law degree to gain direct entrance to the Legal Practice Course (LPC), need to choose degrees which award LLB. Alternatively, students can graduate in subjects other than law and then take a one year conversion course before taking the LPC.

## Law related degree courses

- Law
- European Community Law & Integration
- European Law
- European Legal Studies
- Scottish Law
- Law & Criminal Justice
- Business Law
- American Law
- Socio-Legal Studies
- European Legal Studies
- Legal Studies
- Criminology
- Politics
- Economics
- Sociology
- Social Policy
- Criminal Investigation
- International Relations
- History
- Community Studies
- Human Rights
- Industrial Relations
- Police Studies
- Human Resource Management
- Housing Studies
- Town Planning
- Journalism
- Communication/Media Studies
- Retail Management
- Womens Studies/Gender Studies

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## Law FACTFILE

### Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from Law degrees:

- around 36% of all graduates entered employment directly after their degree
- of these, around 18% went into related jobs including Solicitors Clerks, Legal Executive work, Clerks and Officers of the Court
- significant numbers of those going straight into work entered management, administrative and clerical occupations (about 33%)
- high numbers of Law graduates continue with full-time further education or training, the majority entering Solicitor or Barrister training (over 40% of graduates)
- of those entering further studies, only a small number (under 6%) took higher degrees such as MAs/MScs

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Law may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

## ...jobs

*These are some of the jobs that Law graduates have gone into in recent years ...*

- Legal Editor
- Legal Assistant
- Company Secretary
- Management Trainee
- Trainee Chartered Accountant
- Tax Consultant
- Management Consultant
- Research Assistant
- Administrative Assistant
- Public Sector Administrator



## need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Law Uncovered  
*published by Trotman*
  - > GET: Law 2007  
*published by Hobsons*
  - > Questions and Answers - Law  
*published by Trotman*
  - > CRAC Degree Course Guide - Law and Accountancy  
*published by Trotman*
  - > Getting into Law  
*published by Trotman*
  - > Progression to Law  
*published by UCAS*
- ▷ The Law Career Advice Network  
[www.lcan.org.uk](http://www.lcan.org.uk)
  - ▷ Bar Standards Board  
289-293 High Holborn  
London WC1V 7HZ  
020 7611 1444  
[www.barstandardsboard.org.uk](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk)
  - ▷ The Bar Council  
289-293 High Holborn  
London WC1V 7HZ  
020 7242 0082  
[www.barcouncil.org.uk](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk)
  - ▷ Government Legal Service  
Chancery House  
53-64 Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1QS  
020 7649 6023  
[www.gls.gov.uk](http://www.gls.gov.uk)
  - ▷ HM Prison Service HQ  
The Secretariat  
Cleland House  
Page Street  
London SW1P 4LN  
online contact form  
[www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk](http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk)
  - ▷ Institute of Legal Executives  
Kempston Manor  
Kempston  
Bedford  
Bedfordshire MK42 7AB  
01234 841000  
Email: [info@ilex.org.uk](mailto:info@ilex.org.uk)  
[www.ilex.org.uk](http://www.ilex.org.uk)
  - ▷ Law Society  
020 7242 1222  
online contact form  
[www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)
  - ▷ Police Services of the UK  
[www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage: