Law A Level

Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Intent

Structure

This course will give students an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raise their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals, companies and the state.

Students will learn legal rules through statutes and case law. They will then be able to apply them to real life situations. This will help to develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills; all of which are highly sought after by universities and employers.

This engaging course will also encourage students to think about the relationship between Law and concepts such as justice and morality, and why the Rule of Law should apply to everyone, including those in charge of the state. Students will attend a series of lessons per topic which will incorporate lecture-style lessons giving an overview of the topic involved (such as specific offences of assault and theft), followed by lessons where they will come together to apply their knowledge to specific scenarios and determine how the law would apply in this circumstance. They will argue their cases verbally as well as refining their arguments through extended written answers to questions. We will also use specific lessons to discuss potential problems with the current law and the way these could be resolved to aid them in their evaluation skills.

Students are expected to undertake their own research on case law and principles established by these cases (much as a solicitor or barrister would have to do in real life!) They will be signposted towards where they can find these cases and will be expected to bring their research and conclusions to class. Their independence will evolve throughout the course.

Students should have a chance to see the law operate in real life, therefore there will be opportunities to take part in visits to courts and mock trials, as well as hearing how the legal system operates from a Judge based in Brighton. Students will be encouraged to relate their learning to current affairs and be prepared to discuss the evolving nature of law within society.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

The content of the course can be broadly separated into four categories:

1) **The nature of law and the English legal** system (including parliamentary law making, law reform, the civil and criminal court systems and the judiciary);
2) **Criminal law** (including what constitutes *actus reus* (criminal act) and *mens rea* (guilty mind), murder, manslaughter, non-fatal offences against the person, defences of insanity and intoxication);
3) **Tort** (private actions between individuals due to negligence and breach of duty of care, and associated defences and remedies. This will include personal injury and occupier's liability) and
4) **Law of contract** (including formation of contract, exclusion clauses and remedies for breach of contract).

Assessment Methods

Alongside sixth-form exams, there will also be a series of smaller scale assessments throughout the course. This is because this qualification is linear and students will sit all 3 exams at the end of the 2 year course. It is therefore essential that the students are consistently re-visiting and consolidating their knowledge of topics throughout the two-year course. They will be given the necessary support and guidance to do this.

Impact

Onward Progression

Law is one of the most marketable academic qualifications. It is recognised by institutions of Higher Education and complements Politics, History, Social Science and Business related courses. Apart from the obvious careers of solicitor or barrister, Law students are well liked by industry, commerce and local government and will be found working in retail management, publishing, journalism, the police force, probation, social services, government departments, civil service and teaching.

Further information contact

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