Get off to a ‘Flying Start’ in **Law – AS Level**

Welcome to Flying Start with Exeter College.

Below, you’ll find questions to consider, tasks to complete and some background research you might want to undertake before enrolment.

This is the first of two batches of Flying Start activity sheets we’ll be sending you. The second will be launched around the May half term. Please read the instructions below and have a go at the activities.

If you get stuck at any point, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section at the bottom for help.

| To get you started… | At Exeter College we study Eduqas’ A Level Law. There are four areas of law that are taught over the duration of the course:  
• The nature of law and the English legal system  
• Law of Tort  
• Human Rights Law  
• Criminal Law  
In the first year of the course it is important to understand the nature of the law and how the legal system works. Therefore, this flying start work will focus on this aspect of the course. |

| **Criminal and Civil Cases** | The law is divided into two categories: Public law and Private Law. Public law includes criminal cases and private law includes private disputes e.g. divorces, personal injury claims. The legal system has different approaches and systems for these two categories of law. |

**TASK A:**
Complete the table below to identify the different terminology and processes used in civil and criminal cases. This website might help  
https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/the-justice-system/jurisdictions/|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key term</th>
<th>Civil Cases</th>
<th>Criminal Cases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of the law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Person starting the case</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court the case will be heard in</td>
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<td>Standard of proof</td>
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<td>Person making the decision</td>
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<td>Decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powers of the court</td>
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</tbody>
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**TASK B:**
The court process is often subject to criticism by the media. Can you identify at least 2 criticisms of the court process in civil and/or criminal cases? Are there any advantages of your case being heard in court? Identify at least 2.

**TASK C:** Read the newspaper article and decide whether it is a civil or criminal case. Identify the points or words that led to your decision.
https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/636834/Ripoff-plumber-OAPs-garden-overcharging-6000

**Sentencing in the English Legal System**

**Task A:**
Look up the definitions of these key words:
- Barrister
- Solicitor
- Sentencing
- Defendant
- Jury
- Tariff
- Appeal
- Mitigating factors
- Aggravating factors

**Task B:**
Watch the documentary ‘Crime, Are we tough enough?’
https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000dv33/crime-are-we-tough-enough-series-1-1-the-courts

Listen: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b4301r

Read: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49886053

Answer these questions with examples from the documentary, podcast and article.

1. What factors influences the sentence handed down by the judge?
2. What are the 5 principles of sentencing?
3. What types of sentences may a judge hand down?
4. Why do most offences offer a range of options?
5. How does a judge decide which tariff to hand down for murder?
6. When are most offenders released and what happens to them after?
7. Why do you think that people are often upset or confused by the sentences handed to offenders?

- Name 3 arguments for a ‘tougher’ approach to criminal justice:
- Name 3 arguments for a different approach to criminal justice:
- What do you think would be best and why?
**TASK C:** You be the Judge: Following this link and answer the following questions. [http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/](http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/) [http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/]

**Defendant:** Alexander Jackson

- What did he do?
- What was the plea?
- Which court was it heard in and why?
- Who determines sentencing for the defendant?
- Are there any aggravating factors?
- Are there any mitigating factors?

**Sentence choices:**

- Prison: 2.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
- Prison: 3.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
- Prison: 4.5 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)
- Prison: 6 years (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)

Which sentence **would you give** and why?

What was the **actual** sentence given and why?

What is the **purpose** of sentencing Alex? Link to the aims of sentencing – which do you think was uppermost in the judge’s mind

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**For those who want a bit more…**

**Recommended Books to Read:**
- ‘The Secret Barrister’ (Describes important aspects of the legal system and some of the problems it faces)
- ‘In Your Defence’ by Sarah Langford (Tells the stories of the defendants from real cases)

**Recommended Watching:**
- Supreme Court documentary: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZhg7F2mNz4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZhg7F2mNz4)
- Catching Britain’s Killers, the Crimes that Changed Us: (Some distressing scenes) [https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095qf/catching-britains-killers-the-crimes-that-changed-u](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095qf/catching-britains-killers-the-crimes-that-changed-u)
Murder 24/7: [some distressing scenes]
https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000g1h7/murder-247-series-1-episode-5

| FAQs | Q: Do I have to do it?  
| A: Flying Start isn’t compulsory, but many students find it useful for getting them used to thinking about subjects at the next level. Early classroom sessions will also reflect on some of the Flying Start activities. It is especially helpful as Law will be a new subject for you so it will give you a better understanding of what it is about. |
| Q: Will this work be marked and when is it due?  
| A: This work won’t be formally marked but will be discussed during your first classes with us in September. You should aim to bring along what you have completed with Flying Start along with you to your first timetabled sessions with us in September. |
| Q: I am not sure if I have got the answers right, what should I do?  
| A: Don’t worry, just have a go at getting something down and bring it along to the lesson where we can talk it through. There is no need to get anxious about the tasks, we are not expecting you to know everything before you arrive but are interested in your ideas and what you have found easy or difficult as it helps us support you right from the beginning |