

Year: 9
Term: 1b
Topic: The Law

Lesson Concepts

- 1 – Rules, law and society
- 2 – Fairness and Justice
- 3 – Why do we have laws?
- 4 – Purpose of the Law – Protecting safety
- 5 – Purpose of the Law – Protecting rights
- 6 – Purpose of the Law – Settling Disagreements
- 7 – Key Legal Principles – Innocent until proven guilty
- 8 – Key Legal Principles – Equality before the Law
- 9 – Civil Law
- 10 – Criminal Law
- 11- Key Assessment
- 12 - Civil Law and Criminal Law
- 13 - Sources of Law – Common Law / Parliamentary Law
- 14 - Sources of Law – International Law
- 15 - Sources of Law – Case Law

Core Text:

Citizenship Studies OCR GCSE 9-1;
Steve Johnson & Graeme Roffe;
Hodder Education

Key Laws:

1998 - Human Rights Act
1998 – Data Protection Act
2010 - Equality Act

Key Words:			
W1 Rules	Guidelines that everyone within a certain area should abide by.	W3 Jury	A group of ordinary people deciding guilt or innocence of the accused.
Laws	Generally made by Parliament to ensure that citizens abide by certain rules.	Murder	A killing where the accused person intended to kill or cause serious harm to the victim.
Fairness	Involves making judgements that fit the circumstances of a particular case without being influenced.	Manslaughter	A killing where there was no intention to kill or the accused person has a partial defence such as loss of control.
Justice	Giving each person what he or she deserves.	Crown Court	Court used by the State or Crown for the trial of serious criminal offences.
Common Law	Laws made that are not in a specific Act of Parliament but recognised a legally binding.	Discrimination	Unfavourable treatment, often based on prejudice, towards an individual or a group of people.
Legislation	Acts or laws passed by parliament or assembly.	Citizens Advice	Independent charity offering free, confidential and impartial advice on rights, responsibilities and the law.
W2 Case Law / Judge-made Law	The judge may interpret the law a certain way changing the meaning for future cases.	W4 Supreme Court	The final court of appeal in the UK for civil cases. It hears the most important cases affecting the whole population.
Precedent	When a judge makes a decision that will influence future legal cases.	State	An organised political community under one government.
Magistrates' Court	Court through which all criminal cases pass, and tries minor cases.	Small Claim	If you think someone owes you less than £10,000, you can present your case simply and informally.
Presumption of Innocence	The defendant remains innocent until proven guilty at trial.	County Court	Deals with civil matters such as financial or housing disputes, family issues, personal injury, or contract breach.
Barrister	A qualified member of legal profession specialising in representing clients in court.	Defendant	The person accused of an offence.
Solicitor	A member of the legal profession qualified to deal with legal paperwork and instruct barristers	Prosecution	Prosecution lawyers work on behalf of the Crown and cooperate with police to prove the defendant is guilty.

W5 Key Facts:

Rules are found in homes and schools to ensure safety and good behaviour. Different households and schools have different rules that are tailored to that particular environment.

Laws apply to everyone in society and people who break the laws can be dealt with severely.

Legal system must be fair for them to be respected e.g. punishments must be similar for the same crime.

Purpose of the law –

1. Protecting safety e.g. criminal law
2. Protecting rights, and promoting freedoms and equalities e.g. preventing discrimination
3. Settling disagreements e.g. contract disputes / employee and employer disputes

Key Legal Principles –

1. Presumption of Innocence
2. Equality before the law

Civil Law covers private disputes between individuals, groups and organisations e.g. Contractual Issues / Employment issues / Divorce

Criminal Law covers offences against the community e.g. theft / assault / GBH

Sources of Law – 1. Common Law 2. Parliamentary legislation 3. International / European Law 4. Case Law

The UK is divided into different legal jurisdictions – England / Wales / Scotland / Northern Ireland – so that these areas can make specific legal decisions for their own areas.