

**A LEVEL**  
Specification

**LAW**

**H415**

For first assessment in 2019

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Specifications are updated over time. Whilst every effort is made to check all documents, there may be contradictions between published resources and the specification, therefore please use the information on the latest specification at all times. Where changes are made to specifications these will be indicated within the document, there will be a new version number indicated, and a summary of the changes. If you do notice a discrepancy between the specification and a resource please contact us at: [resources.feedback@ocr.org.uk](mailto:resources.feedback@ocr.org.uk)

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# 1 Why choose an OCR A Level in Law?

## 1a. Why choose an OCR qualification?

1

Choose OCR and you've got the reassurance that you're working with one of the UK's leading exam boards. Our new A Level in Law has been developed in consultation with teachers, employers and Higher Education to provide learners with a qualification that's relevant to them and meets their needs.

We're part of the Cambridge Assessment Group, Europe's largest assessment agency and a department of the University of Cambridge. Cambridge Assessment plays a leading role in developing and delivering assessments throughout the world, operating in over 150 countries.

We work with a range of education providers, including schools, colleges, workplaces and other institutions in both the public and private sectors. Over 13,000 centres choose our A Levels, GCSEs and vocational qualifications including Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals.

### Our Specifications

We believe in developing specifications that help you bring the subject to life and inspire your learners to achieve more.

We've created teacher-friendly specifications based on extensive research and engagement with the teaching community. They're designed to be straightforward and accessible so that you can tailor the delivery of the course to suit your needs. We aim to encourage learners to become responsible for their own learning, confident in discussing ideas, innovative and engaged.

We provide a range of support services designed to help you at every stage, from preparation through to the delivery of our specifications. This includes:

- A wide range of high-quality creative resources including:
  - Delivery Guides
  - Transition Guides
  - Topic Exploration Packs
  - Lesson Elements
  - ...and much more.
- Access to Subject Advisors to support you through the transition and throughout the lifetimes of the specifications.
- CPD/Training for teachers to introduce the qualifications and prepare you for first teaching.
- Active Results – our free results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual learners or whole schools.

Our Resource Partner textbook will develop knowledge and skills with its comprehensive coverage of the assessment structure and all the law topics your students need to know.

All A level qualifications offered by OCR are accredited by Ofqual, the Regulator for qualifications offered in England. The accreditation number for OCR's A Level in Law is QN603/0706/7.

## 1b. Why choose an OCR A Level in Law?

This engaging course has been developed following the input of teachers and higher education stakeholders. The content has been designed to inspire, nurture and develop learners. It will foster their interest and enjoyment in law. The qualification is designed to develop knowledge and skills for the further study of law, and related subjects, such as

business. Learners will develop their knowledge of the law in England, and an awareness of law in a European and global context. The course will enable learners to know and understand the changing nature of law and the interaction between law, morals, justice, society and technology.

### Aims and learning outcomes

OCR's A Level in Law will encourage learners to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and areas of both private and public law within the law of England and Wales
- develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning as used by lawyers and the judiciary
- develop and apply the techniques of legal method and reasoning to analyse and offer answers to problems, based on legal principles, legislation and case law
- develop the ability to construct conclusions and communicate legal arguments by reference to appropriate legal authorities
- develop the ability to communicate persuasive legal arguments by reference to appropriate legal authorities
- be able to demonstrate critical awareness of the influence and operation of the law in society.

## 1c. What are the key features of this specification?

The key features of OCR's A Level in Law for you and your learners are:

- a straightforward specification with a straightforward assessment model
- specialist support and quality resources
- an opportunity to specialise in human rights law or the law of contract
- co-teachability between AS and A Level
- breadth, with a range of legal subjects.

## 1d. What is new in OCR A Level in Law?

1

This section is intended for teachers currently delivering OCR A Level in Law. It highlights the differences between the A Level in Law (H534) and

the A Level in Law (H415) for first teaching from September 2017:

What stays the same?	What's changing?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessment is at the end of the course</li><li>• Assessment focuses on knowledge and understanding; applying legal rules and principles and analysis and evaluation</li><li>• Content and structure are familiar although updated</li><li>• Learners will study the English legal system and substantive law</li><li>• Engaging introduction to law.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The assessment consists of three exams, two hours each</li><li>• Assessment styles are consistent across all three components</li><li>• Shorter questions</li><li>• Learners will study three substantive areas of law – criminal law, law of tort and law of contract or the new option in human rights law.</li></ul>

## 1e. How do I find out more information?

If you are already using OCR specifications you can contact us at: [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

If you are not already a registered OCR centre then you can find out more information on the benefits of becoming one at: [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

If you are not yet an approved centre and would like to become one go to: [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

Find out more?

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## 2 The specification overview

### 2a. OCR's A Level in Law (H415)

Learners take components 01, 02 and 03 to be awarded the OCR A Level in Law.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<b>The legal system</b> 25 marks out of 100 <b>Criminal law</b> 75 marks out of 100	The legal system and criminal Law (01)  100 marks  2 hour paper	<b>33⅓%</b> of total A level
<b>Law making</b> 25 marks out of 100 <b>The law of tort</b> 75 marks out of 100	Law making and the law of tort (02)  100 marks  2 hour paper	<b>33⅓%</b> of total A level
<b>The Nature of Law</b> 25 marks out of 100 <b>Human rights law or The law of contract</b> 75 marks out of 100	Further law (03) (including option of human rights law or law of contract)  100 marks  2 hour paper	<b>33⅓%</b> of total A level

All components include synoptic assessment.

#### Twelve month rule:

While learners are encouraged to be aware of the changing nature of law, they are not required to be familiar with innovations coming into effect in the twelve months immediately preceding the examination.

## 2b. Content of A Level in Law (H415)

The OCR A Level in Law content focuses on the English legal system and areas of both private and public law within the law of England and Wales. Learners will be required to show knowledge and understanding of the nature of law and the English legal system. This will provide learners with the foundation for the study of both private and public law. This specification will develop learners' understanding of legal method and reasoning through the study of statutory interpretation and judicial precedent.

Learners will be introduced to the concept of legal liability through the study of criminal law and the law of tort. This will enable them to develop and apply the techniques of legal method and reasoning to analyse and offer answers to legal problems, based on legal rules and principles and develop the ability to

The A Level specification content is set out in two parts:

Topic:	Content:
Topics to be explored	Subject content that learners need to know for the assessment of this qualification.

construct and communicate legal arguments by reference to appropriate legal authorities. The A Level in Law will develop learners' knowledge of law through advanced study of an additional legal subject – human rights law or the law of contract. They will develop their critical awareness of the law through the study of the nature of law.

The English legal system and the nature of law is split into three sections:

- Component 01 Section A: the legal system
- Component 02 Section A: law making
- Component 03: Section A: the nature of law

Each section A is worth 8⅓ % of the overall marks – the English legal system and the nature of law accounts for 25% of the overall qualification.

### The legal system and criminal law (Component 01)

This component introduces learners to the legal system. It also introduces learners to the concept of liability through an introduction to criminal law.

This component is split into two sections, Section A: the legal system and Section B: criminal law.

### Law making and the law of tort (Component 02)

This component introduces learners to the law making. It also introduces learners to the concept of liability through an introduction to the law of tort.

This component is split into two sections, Section A: law making and Section B: the law of tort.

### Further Law (Component 03)

This component will enable learners to extend their study of law. They will explore and consider in more detail the nature of law and develop their legal knowledge through the study of one option,

either human rights law or the law of contract. This component is split into two sections, Section A: the nature of law and Section B: human rights law or the law of contract.

## 2c. Content of H415/01 – The legal system and criminal law

### Section A: The legal system

This section focuses on the civil and criminal courts, the legal professions and access to justice. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the

processes and people involved in the law and the changing nature of the legal system.

2

Topic:	Content:
Civil courts and other forms of dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County Court and High Court: jurisdictions, pre-trial procedures, the three tracks</li><li>• Appeals and appellate courts</li><li>• Tribunals and Alternative Dispute Resolution</li><li>• Online courts and Online Dispute Resolution</li><li>• Evaluation of the civil courts and other forms of dispute resolution</li></ul>
Criminal courts and lay people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Criminal process: Jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court and the Crown Court, including classification of offences and pre-trial procedures</li><li>• Appeals and appellate courts</li><li>• Sentencing and court powers: aims, factors and types of sentences</li><li>• Lay magistrates and juries: qualifications, selection, appointment and their role in criminal cases</li><li>• Evaluation of the different types of sentences and of using lay people in criminal cases</li></ul>
Legal personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barristers, solicitors and legal executives: qualifications, training, work and the regulation of legal professions</li><li>• Changes and trends in legal services, including the impact of technology and globalisation</li><li>• The judiciary: qualifications, selection and appointment, training, role, retirement and removal</li><li>• The separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary</li><li>• Evaluation of the legal professions and the judiciary</li></ul>
Access to justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government funding for civil and criminal cases</li><li>• Private funding, conditional fees, other advice agencies</li><li>• Evaluation of access to justice</li></ul>

## Section B: Criminal law

This section focuses on the rules and general elements of criminal law and provides an introduction to criminal liability through the study of offences against the person and offences against property. Learners will develop their knowledge and

understanding of criminal law and the skills to apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations and gain a critical awareness of the present state of criminal law.

2

Topic:	Content:
Rules and theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outline of the rules of criminal law</li> <li>An overview of the theory of criminal law</li> </ul>
General elements of criminal liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Actus reus</i>: conduct and consequence crimes; voluntary acts and omissions; involuntariness; causation</li> <li><i>Mens rea</i>: fault; intention and subjective recklessness; negligence and strict liability; transferred malice; coincidence of <i>actus reus</i> and <i>mens rea</i></li> </ul>
Fatal offences against the person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Murder: <i>actus reus</i> and <i>mens rea</i></li> <li>Voluntary manslaughter: defences of loss of control and diminished responsibility under Coroners and Justice Act 2009</li> <li>Involuntary manslaughter: unlawful act manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter</li> </ul>
Non-fatal offences against the person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common assault: assault and battery under s39 Criminal Justice Act 1988</li> <li>Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding and grievous bodily harm under s47, s20, s18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861</li> </ul>
Offences against property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theft under s1 Theft Act 1968</li> <li>Robbery under s8 Theft Act 1968</li> <li>Burglary under s9(1)(a) and s9(1)(b) Theft Act 1968</li> </ul>
Mental capacity defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insanity, automatism, intoxication</li> </ul>
General defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-defence, duress by threats, duress of circumstances and necessity</li> <li>Consent</li> </ul>
Preliminary offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attempts: the <i>actus reus</i> and <i>mens rea</i>; impossibility</li> </ul>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical evaluation of offences against the person, offences against property and defences including ideas for reform</li> </ul>

## 2c. Content of H415/02 – Law making and the law of tort

### Section A: Law making

This section focuses on law making in England and Wales as well as the European Union. Learners will study law making methods and their underpinning

concepts. They will develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning as used by lawyers and the judiciary.

2

Topic:	Content:
Parliamentary law making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Influences on Parliament: political, public opinion, media, pressure groups and lobbyists</li><li>• Legislative process – Green and White Papers, different types of Bill, legislative stages in the House of Commons and the House of Lords and the role of the Crown</li><li>• Advantages and disadvantages of influences on law making</li><li>• Advantages and disadvantages of the legislative process</li></ul>
Delegated legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Types of delegated legislation: Orders in Council, Statutory Instruments and By-laws</li><li>• Controls on delegated legislation by Parliament and the courts, and their effectiveness</li><li>• Reasons for the use of delegated legislation</li><li>• Advantages and disadvantages of delegated legislation</li></ul>
Statutory interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rules of statutory interpretation: the literal rule, the golden rule and the mischief rule</li><li>• The purposive approach</li><li>• Aids to interpretation: rules of language, intrinsic and extrinsic aids</li><li>• Impact of European Union Law and the Human Rights Act 1998 on statutory interpretation</li><li>• Advantages and disadvantages of the different approaches and aids to statutory interpretation</li></ul>
Judicial precedent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Doctrine of Precedent including <i>stare decisis</i>, <i>ratio decidendi</i> and <i>obiter dicta</i></li><li>• The hierarchy of the courts including the Supreme Court</li><li>• Binding, persuasive and original precedent; overruling; reversing; distinguishing</li><li>• Advantages and disadvantages of precedent</li></ul>
Law reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law reform including the Law Commission</li><li>• Advantages and disadvantages of law reform bodies</li></ul>
European Union law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institutions of the European Union</li><li>• Sources of European Union law</li><li>• Impact of European Union law on the law of England and Wales</li></ul>

## Section B: The law of tort

This section focuses on the rules of tort, liability in negligence, occupiers' liability and remedies. It provides an introduction to civil liability. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the law

of tort and the skills to apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations and gain a critical awareness of the present state of the law of tort.

2

Topic:	Content:
Rules and theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outline of the rules of the law of tort</li> <li>An overview of the theory of the law of tort</li> </ul>
Liability in negligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liability in negligence for injury to people and damage to property</li> <li>The duty of care: <i>Donoghue v Stevenson</i> (1932) and the neighbour principle, and <i>Caparo</i> test</li> <li>Breach of duty: the objective standard of care and the reasonable man; risk factors</li> <li>Damage: factual causation and the 'but for' test; legal causation</li> </ul>
Occupiers' liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liability in respect of lawful visitors (Occupiers' Liability Act 1957)</li> <li>Liability in respect of trespassers (Occupiers' Liability Act 1984)</li> </ul>
Torts connected to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public and private nuisance</li> <li><i>Rylands v Fletcher</i></li> </ul>
Vicarious liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature and purpose of vicarious liability</li> <li>Liability for employees, including testing employment status and torts in or not in the course of employment</li> <li>Liability for the crimes of employees and liability for independent contractors</li> </ul>
Defences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributory negligence</li> <li><i>Volenti non fit injuria</i></li> <li>Defences specific to claims connected to nuisance and <i>Rylands v Fletcher</i></li> </ul>
Remedies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensatory damages</li> <li>Mitigation of loss</li> <li>Injunctions</li> </ul>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical evaluation of liability in negligence, occupiers' liability, torts connected to land and vicarious liability, including ideas for reform</li> </ul>

## 2c. Content of H415/03 – Further law

### Section A: The nature of law

This compulsory section focuses on the nature of law. Learners will explore the nature of law in a wider context and develop their understanding of how the law interacts with morality, justice, society and technology. They will consider the changing nature of law.

Learners will be expected to bring together the different areas of knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and the nature of law, legal rules and principles, concepts and issues from across the full course of study.

2

Topic:	Content:
Introduction to the nature of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law and rules: the difference between enforceable legal rules and principles and other rules and norms of behaviour</li><li>• The connections between law, morality and justice</li><li>• The differences between civil and criminal law</li><li>• An overview of the development of English Law: custom, common law, equity, statute law</li><li>• An overview of common law and civil law legal systems</li><li>• The rule of law: definition and importance</li></ul>
Law and morality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The distinction between law and morals</li><li>• The diversity of moral views in a pluralist society</li><li>• The relationship between law and morals and its importance</li><li>• The legal enforcement of moral values</li></ul>
Law and justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meaning of justice</li><li>• Theories of justice</li><li>• The extent to which the law achieves justice</li></ul>
Law and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The role law plays in society</li><li>• The law as a social control mechanism</li><li>• The way in which the law creates and deals with consensus and conflict</li><li>• The realist approach to law making</li></ul>
Law and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The intersection of law and technology</li><li>• Key issues, including privacy and data protection and cyber-crime</li><li>• Cross-border issues and future challenges</li></ul>

## Section B Option 1: Human rights law

Learners will be required to choose either this option on human rights law or the option on law of contract. This option focuses on human rights, including their nature, protection and constitutional position under UK law. Specific rights are explored in detail as are the restrictions upon them and the process of

enforcement through the courts. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of human rights law, the skills to apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations and gain a critical awareness of the present state of human rights law.

Topic:	Content:
Rules and theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outline of the rules of human rights law</li> <li>• An overview of the theory of human rights law</li> </ul>
Protection of the individual's human rights and freedoms in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the development of human rights in the UK, including Magna Carta 1215 and the Bill of Rights 1688</li> <li>• The history of the European Court of Human Rights</li> <li>• The impact of the Human Rights Act 1998</li> <li>• The entrenched nature of the Human Rights Act 1998 in the devolution settlements of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland</li> </ul>
Key provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 5: the right to liberty and security</li> <li>• Article 6: the right to a fair trial</li> <li>• Article 8: the right to respect for family and private life</li> <li>• Article 10: the right to freedom of expression</li> <li>• Article 11: freedom of assembly</li> </ul>
Restrictions on human rights law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions permitted by the European Convention on Human Rights</li> <li>• Public order offences</li> <li>• Police powers</li> <li>• Interception of communications</li> <li>• Duty of confidentiality</li> <li>• Obscenity</li> <li>• Torts of defamation and trespass</li> <li>• Harassment</li> </ul>
Enforcement of human rights law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of domestic courts</li> <li>• The process of judicial review</li> <li>• The role of the European Court of Human Rights</li> </ul>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical evaluation of human rights protection in the UK, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998, including ideas for reform</li> </ul>

## Section B Option 2: The law of contract

Learners will be required to choose either this option on the law of contract or the option on human rights law. This option focuses on the central elements of contract law from the formation of contracts to their enforcement. Learners will develop knowledge

and understanding of the law of contract, the skills to apply their legal knowledge to scenario-based situations and gain a critical awareness of the present state of the law of contract.

Topic:	Content:
Rules and theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outline of the rules of the law of contract</li> <li>• An overview of the theory of the law of contract</li> </ul>
Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer and acceptance, including the rules of communication and revocation</li> <li>• Intention to create legal relations: domestic and commercial, presumptions and rebuttals</li> <li>• Consideration: adequacy, sufficiency, past consideration, pre-existing duties</li> <li>• Privity: the rights of third parties under the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 and common law exceptions</li> </ul>
Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express and implied terms, including the Consumer Rights Act 2015</li> <li>• Types of term: conditions, warranties, innominate terms</li> <li>• Exclusion and limitation clauses, including the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and the Consumer Rights Act 2015</li> </ul>
Vitiating factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misrepresentation, including omission in consumer contexts</li> <li>• Economic duress</li> </ul>
Discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance</li> <li>• Frustration</li> <li>• Breach of contract: actual and anticipatory breach</li> </ul>
Remedies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damages: compensatory damages; causation and remoteness of damage; mitigation of loss</li> <li>• Equitable remedies</li> <li>• Consumer remedies under the Consumer Rights Act 2015</li> </ul>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical evaluation of formation and contract terms, including ideas for reform</li> </ul>

## 2c. Legal Skills

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This qualification:

- develops competence in using legal skills during the study of the nature of law, legal issues and the English legal system, and the private and public areas of substantive law.
- requires learners to demonstrate their ability to analyse a factual scenario by identifying the key facts from which legal issues arise.
- requires learners, when formulating a legal argument, to be able to analyse legislation by applying the rules and principles of statutory interpretation; and analyse case law by applying the doctrine of precedent.
- requires learners, in respect of each private and public area of substantive law they are required to study, to analyse, apply and evaluate the legal rules and principles of that area of law. Analysis and application must include the ability to identify and breakdown into constituent parts the relevant legal rules and principles for each area of law and apply those legal principles to a hypothetical scenario. Evaluation must require learners to formulate a reasoned argument to support a particular proposition by reference to the relevant legal rules and principles that support that argument.
- requires learners to construct clear, concise and logical legal arguments which are substantiated by legal authority, using appropriate legal terminology. In addition, learners must be required to construct a persuasive argument including instances where they have recognised that there are no clear legal precedents or conflicting precedents to solve a problem.
- requires learners to analyse and critically evaluate legal issues by identifying different perspectives, being able to support their identification of the strongest viewpoint and demonstrating the ability to counter alternative viewpoints.

## 2d. Prior knowledge, learning and progression

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- No prior learning or knowledge of the subject is required.
- Throughout the course of study, learners are encouraged to develop a critical awareness of how legal institutions operate in society and the changing nature of law in society.
- This qualification provides a suitable opportunity for the study of law or related courses in higher education. Equally, it is suitable for learners intending to pursue business careers or further study in business, social sciences or as part of a course of general education.

# 3 Assessment of A Level in Law (H415)

## 3a. Forms of assessment

OCR's A Level in Law is a linear qualification with 100% external assessment. The qualification consists of three components. All components will test all three assessment objectives (AO1, AO2 and AO3).

<b>The legal system and criminal law (H415/01)</b> <b>100 marks</b>	<b>Section A: the legal system</b> A choice of medium tariff questions <b>Section B: criminal law</b> Legal scenario and extended response questions
<b>Law making and the law of tort (H415/02)</b> <b>100 marks</b>	<b>Section A: law making</b> A choice of medium tariff questions <b>Section B: the law of tort</b> Legal scenario and extended response questions
<b>Further law (H415/03)</b> <b>100 marks</b>	In this component the nature of law is compulsory and learners must choose between either human rights law or the law of contract. <b>Section A: the nature of law</b> A choice of extended response questions <b>Section B: human rights law or the law of contract</b> Legal scenario and extended response questions

## Components 01 and 02

Components 01 and 02 have exactly the same structure. The structure will follow this pattern:

Questions	AO1	AO2 1a/1b	AO3 1a	AO3 1b	Total
1–2	10	0	0	0	10
3–4	0	0	0	15	15
5 or 8	10	15	0	0	25
6 or 9	10	15	0	0	25
7 or 10	10	0	15	0	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

### Section A

Learners will answer **two** questions.

Questions 1–2 will require learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the English legal system. Learners will answer one question from two. Questions 1–2 are worth 10 marks.

Questions 3–4 will require learners to analyse and evaluate legal concepts. Learners will answer one question from two. Questions 3–4 do not require a conclusion and are worth 15 marks.

### Section B

All Section B questions are worth 25 marks.

Learners will answer Part 1 or Part 2, each composing of two scenario questions and one essay question.

Questions 5, 6, 8 and 9 will require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles and to apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology. Learners will use their legal reasoning developed through the study of statutory interpretation and judicial precedent. The scenarios may or may not be related – this will be made clear on the assessment material.

Questions 7 and 10 will require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles and analyse and evaluate legal rules and principles. Learners will be required to consider the law in relation to the relevant legal theory. This question is separate from the scenarios and is considered an extended response question. It should be treated as an essay requiring a conclusion.

## Component 03

Component 03 has the following structure:

Questions	AO1	AO2 1a/1b	AO3 1a	AO3 1b	Total
1 or 2	10	0	0	15	25
3, 6, 9 or 12	10	15	0	0	25
4, 7, 10 or 13	10	15	0	0	25
5, 8, 11 or 14	10	0	15	0	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

3

### Section A

Learners will answer **one** question from two.

Questions 1–2 will require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles, and analyse and evaluate legal concepts and issues. Learners will be required to draw together their knowledge and understanding from across their full course of study. This question is considered an extended response question. It should be treated as an essay requiring a conclusion.

Section A questions are worth 25 marks.

### Section B

All Section B questions are worth 25 marks.

Learners will answer Option 1 or Option 2, and from these options either Part 1 or Part 2, each composing of two scenario questions and an essay question.

Questions 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 will require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles and to apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology. Learners will use their legal reasoning developed through the study of statutory interpretation and judicial precedent. The scenarios may or may not be related. This will be made clear on the assessment material.

Questions 5, 8, 11 and 14 will require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles and analyse and evaluate legal rules and principles. Learners will be required to consider the law in relation to the relevant legal theory. This question is separate from the scenarios and is considered an extended response question. It should be treated as an essay requiring a conclusion.

## Command words

**Explain** or **describe** is to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles (AO1).

**Advise** is to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles (AO1), **and**, in combination, apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology (AO2).

**Discuss** is to analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. Learners **are not** expected to give a conclusion (AO3).

Discuss **the extent to which** is to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles (AO1), **and**, in combination, analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. Learners **are** expected to give a conclusion (AO3).

### 3b. Assessment objectives (AO)

There are three Assessment Objectives in OCR A Level in Law. These are detailed in the table below.

Learners are expected to demonstrate their ability to:

	Assessment Objective
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and legal rules and principles.
AO2	Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology.
AO3	Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues.

### AO weightings in A Level in Law

The relationship between the assessment objectives and the components are shown in the table below:

Component	% of overall A level in Law (H415)		
	AO1	AO2	AO3
The legal system and criminal law (H415/01)	13⅓	10	10
Law making and the law of tort (H415/02)	13⅓	10	10
Further law (H415/03)	13⅓	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

### 3c. Assessment availability

There will be one examination series available each year in May/June to **all** learners.

All examined components must be taken in the same

examination series at the end of the course.

This specification will be certificated from the June 2019 examination series onwards.

### 3d. Retaking the qualification

Learners can retake the qualification as many times as they wish. They retake all components of the qualification.

### 3e. Assessment of extended response

The assessment materials for this qualification provide learners with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained and coherent line of reasoning and marks for extended responses are integrated into the marking criteria.

The quality of extended response will be assessed in the evaluation essay questions for each area of law and in the nature of law essay questions which are marked with an asterisk in the assessment material.

### 3f. Synoptic assessment

- Synoptic assessment is the learners' understanding of the connections between different elements of the subject. It involves the explicit drawing together of knowledge, skills and understanding within different parts of the A level course.
- The emphasis of synoptic assessment is to encourage the understanding of law as a discipline.
- Learners will use their understanding of legal method and reasoning developed through the study of the English legal system, whilst answering scenario questions on criminal law and the law of tort, applying legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology.
- At A level learners will answer questions on the nature of law in Component 03. This will focus on how the law interacts with morality, justice, society and technology. In answering the questions learners will be required to use their knowledge and understanding gained from the entire course of study for A Level Law.

### 3g. Calculating qualification results

A learner's overall qualification grade for A Level in Law will be calculated by adding together their marks from the three components taken to give their total weighted mark. This mark will then be

compared to the qualification level grade boundaries for the relevant exam series to determine the learner's overall qualification grade.

## 4 Admin: what you need to know

The information in this section is designed to give an overview of the processes involved in administering this qualification so that you can speak to your exams officer. All of the following processes require you to submit something to OCR by a specific deadline.

More information about the processes and deadlines involved at each stage of the assessment cycle can be found in the Administration area of the OCR website.

OCR's *Admin overview* is available on the OCR website at <http://www.ocr.org.uk/administration>.

### 4a. Pre-assessment

#### Estimated entries

Estimated entries are your best projection of the number of learners who will be entered for a qualification in a particular series. Estimated entries

should be submitted to OCR by the specified deadline. They are free and do not commit your centre in any way.

#### Final entries

Final entries provide OCR with detailed data for each learner, showing each assessment to be taken. It is essential that you use the correct entry code, considering the relevant entry rules.

Final entries must be submitted to OCR by the published deadlines or late entry fees will apply.

All learners taking an A Level in Law must be entered for H415.

Entry code	Title	Component code	Component title	Assessment type
H415	Law	01	The legal system and criminal law	External Assessment
		02	Law making and the law of tort	External Assessment
		03	Further law	External Assessment

## 4b. Special consideration

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Special consideration is a post–assessment adjustment to marks or grades to reflect temporary injury, illness or other indisposition at the time the assessment was taken.

Detailed information about eligibility for special consideration can be found in the JCQ publication *A guide to the special consideration process*.

## 4c. External assessment arrangements

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Regulations governing examination arrangements are contained in the JCQ *Instructions for conducting examinations*.

### Head of centre annual declaration

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The Head of Centre is required to provide a declaration to the JCQ as part of the annual NCN update, conducted in the autumn term, to confirm that the centre is meeting all of the requirements detailed in the specification.

Any failure by a centre to provide the Head of Centre Annual Declaration will result in your centre status being suspended and could lead to the withdrawal of our approval for you to operate as a centre.

### Private candidates

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Private candidates may enter for OCR assessments.

A private candidate is someone who pursues a course of study independently but takes an examination or assessment at an approved examination centre. A private candidate may be a part-time student, someone taking a distance learning course, or someone being tutored privately. They must be based in the UK.

Private candidates need to contact OCR approved centres to establish whether they are prepared to host them as a private candidate. The centre may charge for this facility and OCR recommends that the arrangement is made early in the course.

Further guidance for private candidates may be found on the OCR website: <http://www.ocr.org.uk>.

## 4d. Results and certificates

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### Grade Scale

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A level qualifications are graded on the scale: A\*, A, B, C, D, E, where A\* is the highest. Learners who fail to reach the minimum standard for E will be

Unclassified (U). Only subjects in which grades A\* to E are attained will be recorded on certificates.

### Results

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Results are released to centres and learners for information and to allow any queries to be resolved before certificates are issued.

The following supporting information will be available:

Centres will have access to the following results' information for each learner:

- the grade for the qualification
- the raw mark for each component
- the total weighted mark for the qualification.

- raw mark grade boundaries for each component
- weighted mark grade boundaries for the qualification.

Until certificates are issued, results are deemed to be provisional and may be subject to amendment.

A learner's final results will be recorded on an OCR certificate. The qualification title will be shown on the certificate as 'OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Law'.

## 4e. Post-results services

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A number of post-results services are available:

- **Enquiries about results**  
If you are not happy with the outcome of a learner's results, centres may submit an enquiry about results.

- **Missing and incomplete results**  
This service should be used if an individual subject result for a learner is missing, or the learner has been omitted entirely from the results supplied.
- **Access to scripts**  
Centres can request access to marked scripts.

## 4f. Malpractice

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Any breach of the regulations for the conduct of examinations and non-exam assessment work may constitute malpractice (which includes maladministration) and must be reported to OCR as soon as it is detected.

Detailed information on malpractice can be found in the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments: Policies and Procedures*.

## 5 Appendices

### 5a. Overlap with other qualifications

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There is no significant overlap between the content of this specification and that for other Advanced GCE specifications. There is a small degree of overlap

between the content of this specification and those for other AS Levels and A Levels in Business and AS Levels and A Levels in Politics.

### 5b. Accessibility

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Reasonable adjustments and access arrangements allow learners with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment and show what they know and can do, without changing the demands of the assessment. Applications for these should be made before the examination series. Detailed information about eligibility for access arrangements can be found in the JCQ *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*.

The A level qualification and subject criteria have been reviewed in order to identify any feature that could disadvantage learners who share a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act 2010. All reasonable steps have been taken to minimise any such disadvantage.

## 5c. Levels of Assessment

	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>	<b>AO3 extended response</b>
Excellent	Excellent knowledge and understanding of the English legal system, rules and principles. The response is accurate, fully developed and detailed. There will be excellent citation of fully relevant statutes and case law, where appropriate to the question.	Excellent application of legal rules to a given scenario. Excellent presentation of a legal argument which is accurate, fully developed and detailed. Fully appropriate legal terminology is used.	Excellent analysis and evaluation of a wide range of legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. The response is wide ranging and has a well sustained focus on the question. The key points are fully discussed and fully developed to reach a valid conclusion, where appropriate to the question.	<i>There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.</i>
Good	Good knowledge and understanding of the English legal system, rules and principles. The response is detailed, but not fully developed in places. There will be good citation of mostly relevant statutes and case law, where appropriate to the question.	Good application of legal rules to a given scenario. Good presentation of a legal argument which is detailed but not fully developed in places. Appropriate legal terminology is used.	Good analysis and evaluation of a range of legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. The response has a mainly consistent focus on the question. Most of the key points are well discussed and well developed to reach a valid conclusion, where appropriate to the question.	<i>There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.</i>
Basic	Basic knowledge and understanding of the English legal system, rules and principles. The response may lack detail in places and is partially developed. There will be some reference to statutes and case law, where appropriate to the question.	Basic application of legal rules to a given scenario. Basic presentation of a legal argument which may lack detail in places and is partially developed. Some appropriate legal terminology is used.	Basic analysis and evaluation of legal rules, principles, concepts and issues. The response is partially focused on the question. Some of the key points are discussed and partially developed to reach a basic conclusion, where appropriate to the question.	<i>The information has some relevance and is presented with basic structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.</i>
Limited	Limited knowledge and understanding of the English legal system, rules and principles. The response will have minimal detail. Citation of statutes and case law is limited, where appropriate to the question.	Limited application of legal rules to a given scenario. Limited presentation of a legal argument which has minimal detail and is unstructured and/or unclear. Minimal legal terminology is used.	Limited analysis of legal rules, principles, concepts and/or issues. The response has limited focus on the question. Discussion of any key points is minimal.	<i>The information is limited and communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear.</i>

## Summary of updates

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Date	Version	Section	Title of section	Change
May 2018	1.1	Front cover	Disclaimer	Addition of Disclaimer
February 2021	1.2			Update to specification covers to meet digital accessibility standards







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# YOUR CHECKLIST

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*Our aim is to provide you with all the information and support you need to deliver our specifications.*

- Bookmark [OCR website](#) for all the latest resources, information and news on A Level Law
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-

## Download high-quality, exciting and innovative A Level Law resources from [ocr.org.uk/law](https://ocr.org.uk/law)

Resources and support for our A Level Law qualification, developed through collaboration between our Law Subject Advisors, teachers and other subject experts, are available from our website. You can also contact our Law Subject Advisors who can give you specialist advice, guidance and support.

### Contact the team at:

01223 553998

[law@ocr.org.uk](mailto:law@ocr.org.uk)

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