AS/A Level Law

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

This specification provides grounding in the main principles of English and Welsh law and their development. It enables candidates to develop knowledge, understanding, and critical awareness of the structure, personnel and functions of the English Legal System.

What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?

• The redeveloped specification is based on consultation which took place during Spring 2005 between QCA, senior OCR Law examiners and a number of existing centres.

• To reduce the assessment burden on students the number of units has been reduced to four units (two at AS, two at A2). Overall examination time is reduced by one hour.

• Simple, straightforward assessment, with no coursework.

• Unique to OCR’s GCE A Level Law specification candidates are required to demonstrate a high level of legal skills throughout the assessment of this specification. The assessment of the English Legal System and the chosen area of substantive law through single units allow for a more integrated approach to teaching and learning.

• This new specification gives excellent preparation for those students wishing to progress to degree level study through encouraging candidates to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules and to develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly.
How is this qualification assessed?

All units are assessed through a timetabled written examination. Within each option, one of the A2 units has a set of pre-released 'Special Study' source materials on which candidates base their responses. The sources can be extracts from judgements, articles or Acts of Parliament. Candidates demonstrate their knowledge of the chosen area of substantive law and the development of that area using legal methods and reasoning to analyse legal materials, select legal rules in order to draw conclusions. Examinations series are available every January and June.

Dates of first examinations

AS
First examination available from January 2009.

A2
First examination available from January 2010.

What support will I receive?

Training
A series of events run annually to support new teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations.

Publishers
Hodder Murray will publish resources to support this specification.

Resources
All of the following resources are available to download from the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk.

• Specimen candidate answers are available for both AS units in the AS level Teacher Support Materials.
• Specimen answers for A2 level will be available from at both A2 and A2 level.
• A scheme of work for each unit.
• Past papers which can be used on exemplar classroom exercises at AS level.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998, or visit www.ocr.org.uk to join the A Level Law e-community.