



## **BTEC Applied Law Summer Independent Learning**

Welcome to BTEC Applied Law!

This pack contains various tasks to help you prepare for the start of your course in September.

Please **complete ALL tasks** ready for your first day at New College and bring them with you to your first BTEC Applied Law lesson. Please be aware that you will sit an **assessment** on the knowledge and skills covered in this pack within the first week of you starting at New College. You will have an opportunity to review your Summer Independent Learning and ask any questions on what you have learnt when you meet your teacher in one of the lessons before you sit the assessment. Your completed tasks can be hand written or word-processed.

The BTEC Applied Law course consists of studying two units over the first year and two units in the second year. One unit each year will be assessed through assignment work and the remaining unit will be assessed through an external assessment (exam). Throughout the course, you will be asked to research topics and complete tasks as evidence of your knowledge in your assignments.

The Summer Independent Learning in this pack will focus on **Unit 2 – Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System.**

**Learning Aim C**

**Explore the various legal personnel involved in a criminal trial**

In England and Wales, there are two main groups of people involved in the criminal justice system; these are Legal Professionals and Lay People. This will be the focus of your tasks in this pack. Please ensure you are looking at websites relevant for England and Wales only.

Once you have completed this pack – you will have gained knowledge of the following,

- Lay Magistrates
- Jurors
- Solicitors
- Barristers
- Legal Executives
- Paralegals

## Part 1 – People in law

### Lay People

Lay People are involved in the criminal justice process as **Lay Magistrates** and **Jurors**. They are non-legally qualified people who decide the guilt or innocence of those on trial in the criminal courts.

**Task 1** – Watch the following videos and make notes on the different people within the criminal courts. Your notes must include the following,

- a) You must **identify all of the different people and their roles within the Magistrates Court and the Crown Court**. This could include a diagram of where they would all be located within the courtrooms.
- b) Explanation of at least three main differences between the Magistrates Court and the Crown Court

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeNDacwO5NA> – Magistrates Court

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZYvv\\_s5R-s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZYvv_s5R-s) – Crown Court

**Task 2** – Using the internet, research Lay Magistrates and produce **a leaflet/advert advertising for local Lay Magistrates for Bradford Magistrates Court**, this must include the following;

- Requirements to be eligible to become a Lay Magistrate
- Any key qualities required
- Role of Lay Magistrates
- How Lay Magistrates are different to professional judges
- Advantages and Disadvantages of using Lay Magistrates

**Task 3** – Using the internet, research jurors and answer the below questions:

1. In which criminal court is a jury used?
2. What is the age limit for jurors?
3. What two other basic qualifications are there for jurors?
4. Give two situations in which a person is disqualified from jury service.
5. Can a deaf person be a juror, why or why not?
6. Explain how jurors are selected for jury service?
7. What is meant by a 'majority' verdict?
8. What is meant by a 'unanimous' verdict?

Useful websites

<https://www.gov.uk/become-magistrate>

<https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/who-are-the-judiciary/judicial-roles/magistrates/>

<https://www.magistrates-association.org.uk/About-Magistrates>

<https://www.gov.uk/jury-service>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7180764.stm>

## Legal Professionals

Legal Professionals are also known collectively as 'Lawyers'. They include **Solicitors, Barristers, Judges, Legal Executives** and **Paralegals**. They have legal qualifications and can be involved in criminal cases.

**Task 4 – Legal Professionals Activity – using the internet research solicitors and barristers and complete the below activity**

***You are a Career's Advisor at New College Bradford, students have asked for information on becoming a solicitor or a barrister. As part of your role, you have been asked to create career's information for NCB students on a career as a barrister and a solicitor.***

You can choose how to provide this information, it could be a PPT presentation, a poster, a leaflet, 'A day in the Life of' etc. Your advice **MUST** include the following;

- Qualifications required (different routes to becoming a solicitor and a barrister)
- What training is required for both
- What type of work they do
- What starting salaries are and what they earn on average
- What a typical day might involve.
- Differences between the two professions.
- Advantages and Disadvantages of the two professions
- Other professions or roles that a student could do if they wanted to work within the legal sector but did not want to become a solicitor or a barrister

**Task 5 – Answer the below questions on legal professionals**

1. In which courts do all solicitors have rights of audience?
2. What is conveyancing?
3. What are the names of the four Inns of Court that barristers must be a member of?
4. What is a QC?
5. What is the main advantage for the public in using barristers or solicitors?
6. What is the main disadvantage for the public in using barristers and solicitors?

Useful websites

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/law-level-revision/legal-professionals/solicitor>

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/becoming-a-solicitor/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/solicitor>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/barrister>

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/law-level-revision/legal-professionals/barrister>

## Part 2 – Advice and funding

**Task 6** - Carry out research on **legal advice and funding** in legal cases in England.

Answer the below questions based on **where people can legal advice and funding** for legal cases.

1. What is the difference between criminal law and civil law?
2. What is legal aid, is this available in civil and criminal cases?
3. If a person privately funds/pays for their case, where do you think they get the money to pay for the legal case?
4. Where can people get legal advice from in civil cases?
5. Where can people get legal advice from in criminal cases?
6. Describe what Law Centres are.
7. Describe what 'Pro Bono' schemes are.
8. Explain what 'Citizen's Advice' is.
9. Explain how 'Trade Unions' can provide legal advice.
10. What do Duty Solicitors do?

**Task 7** - Focus your research on **Legal Aid** in England and answer the below questions

1. Which Act of Parliament governs legal aid?
2. Which government department controls legal aid?
3. There is strict testing to get legal aid in criminal cases, describe the tests that a person must satisfy.
4. There are also tests that must be passed to gain legal aid in civil cases, describe them.
5. Explain your thoughts on legal aid, is it good or bad?
6. Explain your thoughts on whether everyone should have access to legal aid without having to pass any tests?

<https://www.gov.uk/legal-aid>