

Welcome to Applied Law at Macmillan Academy Post 16.

We are thrilled that you have chosen to embark upon this fascinating subject.
We hope that you enjoy this bridging project.

There are 4 units that are studied over your 2-year course. This project includes introductory tasks for each unit. Complete as much as you like and send anything completed to r.dent@macademy.org.uk.



Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law



In this unit you will explore how civil disputes are resolved, both in the courts and by alternative means. You will examine the principle of precedent and its application in the law of negligence.

We all need to be aware of how civil disputes are settled and where to seek advice when things go wrong. This unit uses the law of negligence and the way in which claims, such as damage or losses resulting from a car crash or causing injury to another person, are dealt with in English law. In this unit, you will learn about the courts that deal with civil law disputes, in addition to alternative methods of resolution. The basic principles of the law of negligence are considered and applied, together with sources of advice, funding, resolution and remedies. You will develop legal skills in research and will use these research skills to investigate the way in which the law is applied. You will learn how to reference legal sources and how to communicate professionally with colleagues and clients.

1. Create a visual representation of the court hierarchy structure in the UK
2. What is the difference between civil negligence and criminal negligence?
3. Research the case of *Donoghue v Stevenson* (1932) – you can watch a summary here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgEYzgrNvy0> – advise the client in this case whether you think they may have a successful claim against Nando's: Taylor went for a meal at Nando's. When her meal arrived, she tucked in straight away. However, halfway through her chicken wrap she noticed the chicken was not cooked properly, but she still ate the rest of it. Afterwards, she complained of a sore stomach and felt sick.
4. List 4 other ways a civil dispute can be settled without going to court
5. Research a business that has been taken to court over a claim of negligence and create a case file on your findings.

Unit 2: Investigating aspects of criminal law and the legal system



In this unit you will research how laws are made and interpreted, who advises and decides on the outcome of criminal cases and the punishments that can be imposed if laws are broken. You will then present advice to clients on non-fatal offence case studies.

Everyone must live and operate within the law; punishments can be imposed for breach of the law. This unit will enable you to understand how laws are made and used, particularly criminal laws, and where advice on those laws can be obtained. In this unit, you will develop the skills to investigate and research how different laws are made both inside and outside Parliament and then interpreted in courts. You will use these research skills to investigate the way in which the law is developed and applied. You will investigate who decides the outcome of criminal cases and where advice and representation can be obtained and how it can be paid for. You will apply and present this information professionally to clients with the aid of non-fatal offence case studies. This unit will give you an understanding of the way the criminal justice system works in the United Kingdom.

1. Create a job advert including a job description and person specification for a judge working in the crown court. You will need to research the qualifications, personal qualities, skills and knowledge required for the role of a judge.
2. You be the judge. Go to <http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/> and note down the factors you consider in each case and the sentence you give compared to the actual result. Are you too harsh or too lenient?
3. Research the case of Ireland and Burstow (1997) – How did this change the law regarding non fatal offences? Can you find a case that has been decided since then that has applied this decision too?
4. One influence on the laws made in the UK are pressure groups. These groups pressure the government to pass laws that align with their beliefs. Research what a pressure group is and find an example of one. Once you have found your example create a campaign poster that persuades the audience for a change in the law that the pressure group would pressure the government for.
5. ‘To what extent should juries be used in the decision making in criminal trials?’ – create a response to this question.

Unit 3: Applying the law



In this unit you will examine the law related to specific crimes, including homicide and offences against property. They will explore the police procedures for dealing with such offences.

Crime has an enormous impact on society and particularly on those directly involved in a case. In this unit, you will be encouraged to consider the impact and consequences of crime. You will examine homicide offences, including murder, voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter. You will examine crimes against property such as theft, robbery and burglary. You will also examine the law relating to arrest, detention and searching people and property. Criminal law applies to everyone and it is important that you keep up to date with changes in the law. In this unit, you will examine case law relating to real-life crimes. You will need to be aware of specific Acts of Parliament that relate to criminal offences and police procedures. You will develop problem-solving skills and legal research skills. You will use these research skills to investigate the way in which the law is developed and applied.

1. Watch this BBC documentary on the Hillsborough disaster <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdt7oQV3NYc> (The Hillsborough disaster was a fatal human crush during an association football match at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, on 15 April 1989) Your task is to decide whether David Duckenfield should be guilty of gross negligence manslaughter. To do this, you need to research the facts of what happened at Hillsborough and what David Duckenfield did. You also need to find what arguments were put forward at his recent trial. You then need to decide whether you would prosecute him or defend him and create an opening speech that you would use to open the case in at the beginning of a new trial as a barrister.
2. Go to <https://www.police.uk/> and investigate the crime in your area. Create a newspaper article reporting on this and suggest what should be done to reduce it.
3. Look into the powers of police of arrest, detention and stop and search. Create a training manual for new police officers. You must cite the relevant legislation that the powers are held in.
4. Find 3 Acts of parliament that have been enacted in the past year and explain how they will impact society.
5. 'To what extent should assisted suicide entail criminal liability?' create a critical and analytical response to this question.
6. Looking at the Theft Act 1968, what is the difference between theft, burglary, robbery and fraud?

Unit 4: Family law



In this unit you will explore the requirements of a valid marriage and civil partnership, the laws governing the breakdown of relationships, as well as how disputes over children are resolved by the courts.

Family law is an area of law that deals with some of the most important and sensitive aspects of our lives, with the courts mainly getting involved only when there are disputes that need to be resolved. This unit will give you an understanding of the laws governing parenthood and parental responsibility and will examine how the courts resolve disputes regarding children. There are various legal regulations governing our family lives and the formation of adult relationships. This unit will enable you to understand the distinction between marriage and cohabitation and their legal consequences. You will examine the key requirements for the formation of a valid marriage and civil partnership and how these relationships may become either void or voidable. You will investigate how individuals may terminate their adult relationships and the financial consequences of a relationship breakdown.

1. Research statistics on marriage and divorce in the UK
2. Assess how the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the Civil Partnership Act 2004 and the Same Sex Marriage Act 2013 changed the law regarding marriage in the UK.
3. Research what is meant by the term surrogacy. Discuss how parental responsibility works in the case of a surrogate child.
4. What are the legal rules around divorce in the UK? Research how a divorce is obtained and the reasons for a divorce. Create an information pack for couples that might require this information. You should try your best to also include legal cases in your information.
5. What are the restrictions on marriage in the UK?