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A-LEVEL  
LAW  
(7362)

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# St Mary's College

LAW – A LEVEL AQA

Pre-course reading and guidance





# A LEVEL LAW

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE LAW?

Studying Law gives students an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. All these skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers.

## WHAT IS THE COURSE STRUCTURE LIKE?

The course is a two year course. It is assessed by **three 2-hour exams (criminal law, tort law and contract law)**. All exams will be taken at the end of your second year.



# A LEVEL LAW

## **Paper 1 – The Criminal Law & English Legal System**

In this paper, you will study a range of criminal offences and defences to crimes:

Murder, Manslaughter, the non-fatal offences against the person, theft, robbery, self-defence, intoxication, insanity, loss of control, diminished responsibility, automatism, duress.

You will also study some English legal system topics:

The Judiciary, Solicitors, Barristers, Judicial precedent, statutory interpretation, Juries, Magistrates, Funding.



# A LEVEL LAW

## **Paper 2 – The Law of Tort and The English Legal System**

In this paper, you will study a range of ‘Torts’ (an area of civil law)

Negligence, Psychiatric harm, Pure economic loss, Occupiers’ Liability, Private Nuisance, Rylands v Fletcher, Vicarious Liability

You will also study some English legal system topics:

The Judiciary, The civil courts, The Law Commission, Parliamentary Law-making, Funding, Alternative dispute resolution.



# A LEVEL LAW

## **Paper 3 – Contract Law and The English Legal System**

In this paper, you will study a range of elements of Contract Law:

Offer, Acceptance, Consideration, Intention to Create Legal Relations, Misrepresentation, Economic Duress, Consumer Rights Act 2015, Exclusion clauses

You will also study some English legal system topics:

The Judiciary, The civil courts, Funding, The rule of law, European Union law, Delegated Legislation



# A LEVEL LAW

## The AQA 'A' Level Law specification (click for link)



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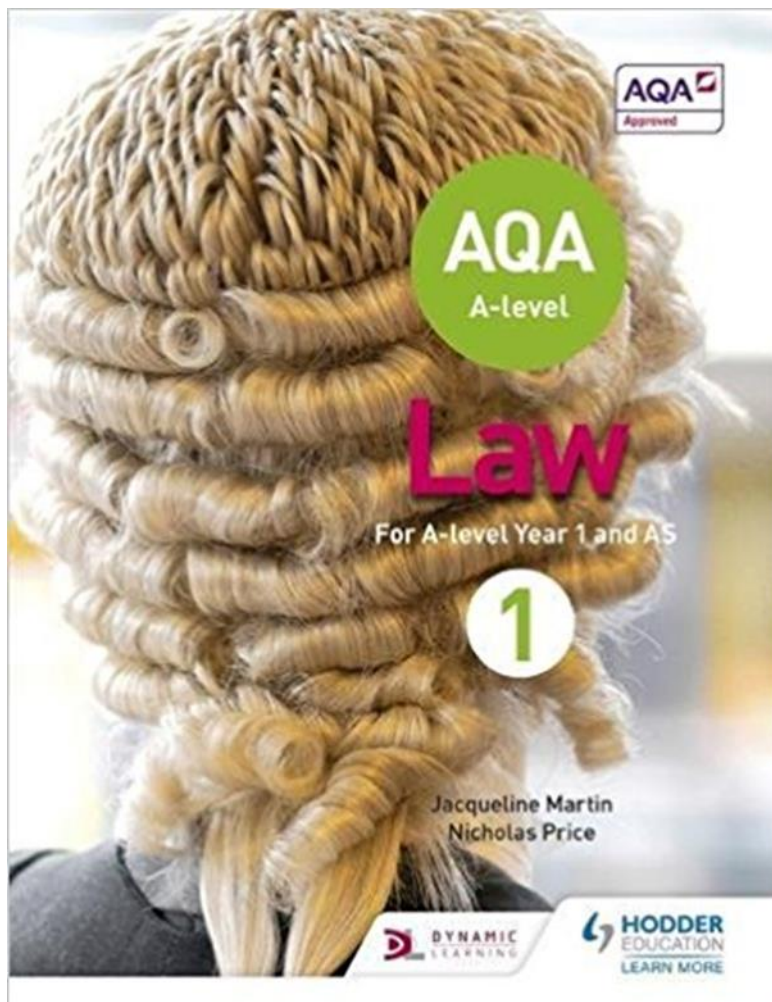
A-LEVEL  
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# Textbook Suggestions (not an essential purchase)



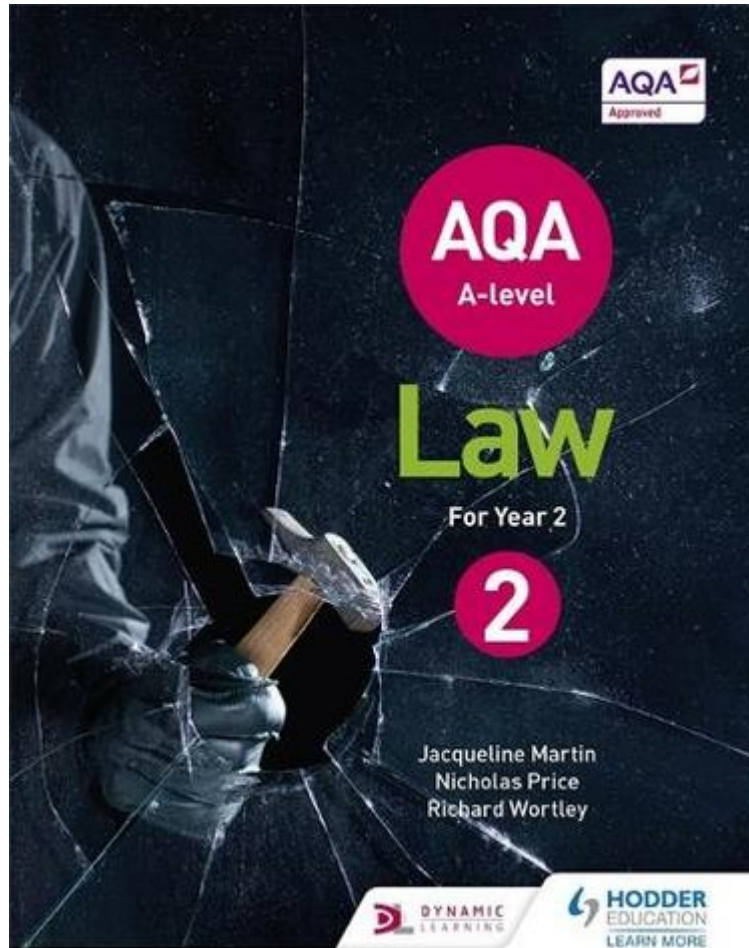
AQA Law Book 1  
by Jacqueline Martin and  
Nick Price (2017)

Hodder Education  
Approx. £25

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# Textbook Suggestions (not an essential purchase)



AQA Law Book 2  
by Jacqueline Martin,  
Richard Wortley and Nick  
Price (2018)

Hodder Education  
Approx. £25





## Other Useful Resources - Books

- The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken
- Winning Arguments – Jay Heinrich
- To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
- The Rule of Law – Tom Bingham
- About Law – Tony Honore



# Other Useful Resources - Websites

**The Exam Board – AQA**

**Course Guide - SMC**

**The Supreme Court**

**Parliament**

**Law Reports**

**The Law Society – Solicitors**

**The Bar Council – Barristers**

*(Click on the text for the link)*



## Other Useful Resources - Television

- The Murder Trial
  - › <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0005ywg/murder-case-series-1-2-the-search-for-julie-reilly>
- Drama based on real events – A child on trial for murder
  - › <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000cff1/responsible-child>
- The Trial: Murder in the family – A fictional murder trial (using real lawyers etc)
  - › <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-trial-a-murder-in-the-family>

**If you can find them – other quality legal based TV dramas - Silk, Kavanagh QC**



## Other Useful Resources - Films

- Twelve Angry Men (Henry Fonda)
- To Kill a Mockingbird (Gregory Peck)
- A Civil Action (John Travolta)
- A Few Good Men (Jack Nicholson)
- Erin Brockovich (Julia Roberts)
- The Firm (Tom Cruise)
- The Pelican Brief (Denzel Washington)



## Other Useful Resources - Podcasts

You can find the podcasts on BBC Sounds or the Podcast app.

- Serial (series 1 is the classic story of a possible miscarriage of justice, series 3 investigates the criminal justice system in the US)
- Law in Action – BBC Radio 4
- Law Pod UK – (Human Rights)
- The Hearing – (Interviews)



# Any further questions?

Contact details for the Law teachers:

[murding@smchull.org](mailto:murding@smchull.org)

Mr M Urding

[ghancock@smchull.org](mailto:ghancock@smchull.org)

Mrs G Hancock

We also offer The BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Law. Please see the relevant pre-reading guidance for further details.