

Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

October 2018

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in Law (YLA1)

Paper 1: Underlying Principles of Law and the English Legal System

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## Introduction

This was the fourth paper in this 2015 new specification for IAL Law. The new Paper 1 contains 5 questions of 20 marks each. There is no question choice on the paper, candidates are required to answer all questions. The format of the paper is that the first two questions consist of short to medium response questions, the next two questions consist of multi-part, problem-solving questions and the last question on the paper is a problem-solving question. The paper is worth 50% of the total IAL raw marks. The subject content for the paper is selected from the nature, purpose of and liability in Law, and the sources of English law, its enforcement and administration.

Most candidates attempted all questions, although some candidates omitted to answer questions 4a and 4c. This would appear to be because of lack of knowledge, rather than time issues.

Interpretation of questions and their command words need to be improved upon. Candidates must remember that each part of a question is marked in isolation, so if the correct information for part a of a question is put wrongly in the answer to part b of that question rather than in part a, no marks will be awarded for that information.

## General issues

Questions carrying 2 or 4 marks are asking candidates for points based answers which means they could receive a mark for every correct accurate point made in answering the question. Space provided for answers should inform candidates of the length of the required response. Command words such as 'Describe' or 'Explain', gain marks for providing knowledge, description or explanation and providing examples for exemplification of specific legal concepts.

Questions worth 6, 10,12,14 or 20 marks are asking candidates to provide an explanation, assessment, analysis or evaluation of a given legal concept or issue using a combination of appropriate legal knowledge together with an assessment of the issue. Candidates answers are awarded a mark based on the level of response they display.

Questions asking for 'Analyse' require candidates to weigh up a legal issue with accurate knowledge supported by authorities or legal theories and to display developed reasoning and balance. Questions asking for 'Evaluation' additionally require a justified conclusion based on this reasoning and balance.

# Question 1a: (2 Marks)

This question is a points-based one where the candidate needs to briefly state the burden and standard of proof required to prove guilt in a criminal case.

Many candidates could only state either the burden or the standard of proof. This meant they were awarded 1 mark rather than 2 marks as in the example below.



# Question 1b: (6 Marks)

This was marked using a levels-of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptors.

The command word in this question was 'Explain', which was looking for an extended answer, candidates were required to demonstrate understanding of **two** of the three criminal sanctions listed and provide examples of when they should be used.

Candidates' answers often just attempted to describe one of the sanctions listed rather than explaining two. These answers were usually very simplistic and were particularly weak on suspended sentences.

For **level 1** candidates were only able to provide isolated elements of knowledge and understanding.

For **level 2** candidates provided several elements of knowledge supported by some application

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated detailed understanding supported by relevant application.

**Examiner comments** 

This scored 1 mark. It is a very weak answer.

# Question 1c: (12 Marks)

This question was marked using a levels-of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptors.

The command word in this question was 'Assess', which was looking for an extended answer, weighing up how the theories of retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation can be achieved through criminal sanctions. This should have included an explanation of the aims of the three theories and then the impact or effect of the theories on the sanctions / sentences imposed by the courts in criminal cases, together with any problems or criticisms.

For **level 1** candidates gave isolated elements of knowledge.

For **level 2** candidates demonstrated some understanding and began to make connections.

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated accurate understanding and attempts application using examples.

For **level 4** candidates demonstrated thorough and accurate understanding, logical chains of reasoning and good application.

INHEN IMPOSING SENTENCES THE COURTS NOT ONLY CONSIDER
THETYPE OF SENTENCE TO BE IMPOSED, BUT ALSO THE AIM OF
SENTENCING. PETRIBUTION IS GIVEN TO THE OFFENDER
SIMPLY ON THE BASIS THAT HE SHE DESERVES TO BE
PUNISHED BECAUSE OF THE CRIMETHEY HAVE COMMITTED.
RETRIBUTION DOES NOT SEEK TO REHABILITATE THE

DEFENDER IN ANYWAY NOR IS AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE
FROM REDEFENDING IN THE PUTURE RETRIBUTION CAN BE
BUCHIEVED THEOLEH SENTENCING A CUSTODIAL SENTENCE, AIMED
AT PUNISHING THE OFFENDER SIMPLY, OR IT CAN BE ACHIEVED
THEOLEH A COMBINIATION OF A CUSTODIAL SENTENCE AND A
COMMUNITY SENTENCE.

DETERBENCE CAN INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL

DETERBENCE WHICH WAS THE AIM OF PREVENTING THE

OFFENDER FROM COMMITTING THE OFFENCE IN THE PUTURE.

THIS CAN CEPTAINLY BE ACHIEVED BY IMPOSING SERIOUS,

LONG-TERM SENTENCES SUCH AS MANDATORY-LIFE

SENTENCES AND SUSPENDED PRISON SENTENCES, WHICH MAY

"NFLICT FEAR ON THE OFFENDER OF FUTURE PUNISHMENT AND

PREVENT THEM FROM REOFFENDING. DETERBENCE CAN ALSO

DETERBENCE

NOLLUPE LENERAL THE AIM OPPENABLIT WHICH IS TO PREVENT

THE PUBLIC OVERALL FROM COMMITTING OFFENCES, THIS

CAN BE ACHIEVED SEVERAL SERIOUS SENTENCES SUCH

AS DEATH PENALTIES FOR MURDERING OFFENCES OR EVEN

A DISCHARGE FROMDERING AFTER CONVICTION FOR PECKLESS

PREPARELESS DRIVING PEHABILITATION IS AIMEDTOWARDS THE
REFORM OF THE INDIVIDUALS PESPERSONALTY AND THIS CAN BE
RHIEVED BY SENTENCES THAT KEEP THE OFFENDER WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY, THIS CAN BE ACHENED BY PASSING SEVERA C
COMMUNITY SENTENCES TO HELPTHE OFFENDER IN STRUCTURING OF
HIS PERSONALTY, IN CONCLUSION, SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED
ON CRIMINALS ALMOST ALWAYS FLIFTLE SOME SORT OF AIM?
AND CERTIFIN AIMS OF SENTENCING BECOME EVIDENT WITH
THE ONSCAUGHT OF PUNISH MENT THAT THEY CARRY WITH THEM.
SOTHE FEAR OF BEINGRUNISHED IF OFFENDERS REOFFENDERN

#### **Examiner comments**

This scored 8 marks and illustrates a good band 3 answer.

## Examiner tip

Try and identify the key issues/cases to enhance your mark. This will mean your answers will be more concise and focused.

# Question 2a: (4 Marks)

This question is a points-based one where the candidate needs to explain the role of the European Court of Justice. There were up to 2 marks for an accurate definition and up to 2 additional marks for each linked example or expansion, up to a maximum of 4 marks in total for the question.

The command word is 'explain' which requires candidates to provide an extended answer, including examples or expansion.

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#### **Examiner comments**

This is a good answer and scored 3 out of 4 marks. It needed another example /expansion for full marks.

# Question 2b: (4 Marks)

The command word here is also 'explain' which requires candidates to explain the differences between Regulations and Directives.

This question is a points-based one where the candidate needs to explain the meaning of both terms and then also the differences between them. There were up to 2 marks for each term's definition and an example, and then there were 2 marks for further explanation of their differences.

Candidates did well on this question.

A regulation passed by the European Communion to generally applies to all citizens and firms within the EV. It gives more flezibility to member states flow a directive does to make their own primary legislate. Directives on that matter have to still be binding, while it rather sets the standards on which the domestic law has to be made. Such UK law that has made to comply to an EV directive on product liability was the Consumer Protection Act 1951. Regulations are somewhat stricter, coming into three immediately regarded of conflicting national legislation. Re sachagraph the Commission V the Ur is authority to to this

**Examiner comments** 

The example script above scored full marks for this question.

# Question 2c: (12 Marks)

This question was marked using a levels-of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptions.

The command word in this question was 'Assess', which was looking for an extended answer, weighing up the effect on the sovereignty of the United Kingdom Parliament of leaving the European Union. This should have included an explanation of the impact of leaving on Parliament and UK law and then an assessment of the impact together with a discussion of relevant authorities together with any problems/criticisms, advantages / disadvantages.

For **level 1** candidates gave isolated elements of knowledge.

For **level 2** candidates demonstrated some understanding and began to make connections.

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated accurate understanding and attempts application using examples.

For **level 4** candidates demonstrated thorough and accurate understanding, logical chains of reasoning and good application.

The assessment in many candidates' answers was very simplistic, often unbalanced and without any examples or authorities for justification.

The Uk joined the EU in 1973 by compliance to abiding its overriding legislation. A.V. Dicey's theory on the Jovereignty of the parliament was, thus, intruded when the Uk parliament could not be guestioned by the courts, the church or any other body; the EU intruded this concept by passing regulations and directives to after domestic legislation by Laudhority vested in 520, and 5204) of the European Communities Act

with the Uk to leave the EU by March 2019, the intention behind the referendum of 2016 is sparked over and over on regaining power. No longer will the Uk have to abide the directives and regulation of the EU. This would then not allow EU citizens to have a say on the Uk Acts. The Merchant Shipping Act 1984 had to be replaced when some spanish fishermen could not go fishing in English without a livence. The sovereignty of the Uk parliament will not then be guertioned.

However, most regulations and directives that prompted to parliament to comply to EU law for decades will still apply as the most smooth transition is ensured by the Great Repeal will, which would still be effective. This consists of many European legislation Let has been incorporated into domestic law, hindering parliamenting.

Sovereignty. Moreover, should the Chequer's plan succeed, most rules on customs will remain to exist within the common market This is unlikely however since the European Commission disagrees on the proposed term of restraining the free movement of labour.

The Human Rights Act 1995 that was passed by the Labour

government to incorporate the European Convention on Human & Right plan of the UK parliament of the fact that thould this continue to remain over after the UK parliament of the fact that thould this continue to remain over after the UK has left, by 319 a government minister would have to read the compatibility of the relevant bill. Hint v the VK Italia as authority to what also may happened thould the UK remain. In such an instance, European Human light law that has not been incorporated into the HRA could be disregarded, allowing the UK to not be turned down by the courts on not complying with the ECHR

#### **Examiner comments**

This scored 8 marks and is an example of a good band 3 piece of work. It assesses advantages and disadvantages, discusses authorities, but justification and balanced comparisons need a little more for top band marks.

## Examiner tip

Make sure you read and understand the command word in a question and the marks allocated. Check your answer regularly to make sure you stick rigidly to this.

# Question 3a: (2 Marks)

The command word is 'describe' which requires candidates to provide an accurate description of the role of a solicitor. One mark is awarded for the definition of a role and a further mark for expansion or example.

# Examiner comments The example below spends too much time on qualification rather than role and was therefore awarded 1 mark rather than 2. A solicitor is a legally qualified individual who passed the UPC Clegal practice course) and completed 2 years of training in a solicitor is firm. The UPC which provides training in the skills of advoctint interviewing dients, drafting contracts

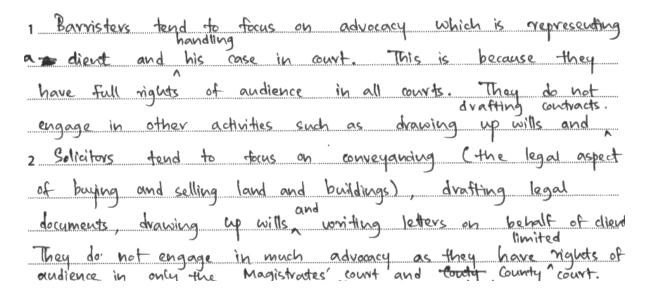
# Question 3b: (4 Marks)

The command word in this question was 'Explain', which was looking for a detailed answer proving **two** ways that a barrister's role differs from that of a solicitor.

draw up wills

This question is a points-based one where the candidate needed to explain **two** ways that a barrister's role differs from that of a solicitor for up to 2 marks, and then explanation/examples for the 2 further application marks.

Candidates often failed to give two examples, and there was a lot of misunderstanding, with statements made such as 'solicitors cannot appear in court'.



## **Examiner comments**

The example above was a good answer and was awarded full marks.

# Question 3c: (14 Marks)

This question was marked using a levels-of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptions.

The command word in this question was 'Evaluate', which was looking for an extended answer with examples of the advantages and disadvantages of the two legal professions.

Candidates were expected to set out the advantages and disadvantages, draw on evidence and then to justify their argument. Candidates needed to weigh up the relevant issues and provide a conclusion.

Most candidates made general statements or comments about the two professions rather than providing an evaluation and conclusion.

For level 1 candidates demonstrated isolated elements of knowledge

For **level 2** candidates demonstrated some understanding and began to apply their knowledge to the question, albeit sometimes applied inappropriately.

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated accurate understanding of the question demonstrated accurate understanding supported by relevant examples and attempted to balance reasoning and evaluate with a conclusion.

For **level 4** candidates demonstrated thorough and accurate understanding and an awareness of competing arguments with balanced interpretations, reasoning and a sound conclusion.

The fusion of the two separate branches of the legal
profession & emerged as a debate in de latter half of the 19601 The
Practice direction made by the chancellar's Advisory Council in 1969 say
much about the need for favor on the grounds of the small number
at barristers being in practice to the number of solicitors. The ratio
stends at 15,000 to 180,000 currently,
The Law Jociety document, The lawyers and the courts: Time
to make some changes, looks at how firstly, there is the duplication

A work. In most commonwealth countries, the issue does not arise as there is are no two professions, only lawyers in general. On top of how the training for both professions are to same, after the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, their duties began to be similar with solicitors receiving extended rights of audience. While golicitors no longer hold the monopoly for conveyancing.

Anoder duadvantage as enlightened further by legal scholor Michael Zarder, to expenses for legal cases are higher due to the prevalence of five professions. A client would have to pay both to barrister and the solicitor when the solicitor has to clarify on certain legislation. This fells as a drawback to the entire legal system when switce is strained by the need of sufficient finances.

However, the bar council would love its independence and specialization if the two professions were joined. To set back in history to one profession not only breaks the traditions, but also the freedom to specialize when it is needed in a growing legal system. Lat resolves disputes through the courts and the afternative dispute resolution.

Although the Cab Rank rule' could be attacked by such a move.

Soliciters already have some components of it. Nevertheless, it
reduces to peace of mind that barristers value.

A disadvantage said to be seen is that he two lanes of being eparetely trained would lead to a waste of telent it a berrister realises that he could have been better in advocacy. This is untrue is he said similar training already present allows bette soliciters and engage in alternative business that it work on advocacy and even (Total for Question 3 = 20 marks) structure

#### **Examiner comments**

The answer above scored 9 marks – it is a good level 3 answer. It evaluates, but a justified conclusion is missing.

## Examiner tip

For an evaluate question there needs to be a balance between displaying a thorough understanding and application of the question topic and the need to show analysis and evaluation skills to justify a conclusion.

# Question 4a: (4 marks)

The command word is 'describe' which requires candidates to provide an accurate description, using examples, of the role of the Law Commission in developing English Law.

This question is a points-based one where candidates were expected to describe both the composition and its role. There were up to 2 marks in total available for these descriptions. Then there was another two marks available in total for an example or expansion of the two knowledge marks.

This question was badly answered. There was a lot of confusion and many candidates answered the question wrongly, thinking it was about the European Commission.

the Law Commission is separately run, to that has 5 law Commission ners. The row of the law Commission is to simplify and modify law through consolidation and additional because there is a law dating back from the 18th century and so Criminal and Lomicide Act has through to the government for stungle there a year and a day has changed to contitute as myrder. Miscus of computers the needs to be changed a certifine as the the law commission also a vertice to break to be changed a certified as the law commission also.

## **Examiner comments**

The answer above is a rare example of full marks for this question.

# Question 4b: (6 marks)

This question was marked using a level- of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptions.

The command word in this question was 'Explain', which was looking for a detailed answer with examples on how political parties can influence law making.

The question was badly answered, most candidates provided vague and often confused answers.

For level 1 candidates were only able to provide isolated elements of knowledge.

For **level 2** candidates provided several elements of knowledge supported by a few examples.

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated detailed understanding supported by relevant examples.

A POLITICAL PARTY IS A GROUP DE PEOPLE CAMPRIGNING

FOR COMMON ELECTORAL RIGHTS AND INFLUENCING GOVERNMENTS

ANDLAW REPORM BIDIES BY CREATING PRESSURE AND OPPOSITION.

SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES CANUTUZE PEOPLE'S POWER AND

PUBLIC SUPPORT TO HIGHUGHT CERTAIN POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR

PRESSURE

WHICH THEY CAMPRIGN AGAINST. THIS CAN CREATE FURTHER ON THE

FYISTING GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE AND IMPLEMENT LAWSTO SATISFY

PUBLIC APPROVAL POLITICAL PARTIES CAN PUSD INFLUENCE

LAW MAKING PROCESSES BY PIN POINTING DEFECTIVE FAMS OR

LANSTO WHICH THEY DISAGREE WITH AND BY ARRANGING

RALLIES AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS CAN ACTIVELY PROTEST

FORTHE CHANGE OF LAWS OR REMOVAL OF EXISTING LAWS BY

CREATING PRESSURE. LASTLY, POLITICAL PARTIES CAN USE DEFECTIVE

LAW MAKING AS A TROTIC FOR THEIR OWN ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND

IN BEING

FHI THUS CAN MAKE CHANGESTOLAN MAKING IF THEY SUCCEED ELECTED

# **Examiner comments**

The answer above is an example of one of the better answers provided for this question.

This question was marked using a levels-of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptions.

The command word in this question was 'Assess', which was looking for an extended answer using examples. Many candidates did not understand what the question was asking and provided confused answers on internal and external aids to interpretation, rather than internal and external influences on law reform. Therefore, this question was often unanswered or if it was attempted it was done very badly.

For level 1 candidates demonstrated isolated elements of knowledge

For **level 2** candidates demonstrated some understanding and began to apply their knowledge appropriately to the question.

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated accurate understanding of the question supported by relevant authorities.

For **level 4** candidates demonstrated thorough and accurate understanding exemplified with appropriate, well explained and applied authorities.

#### **Examiner comments**

The answer below is a top band 3 answer. It distinguishes between internal and external and provides examples and application.

## Examiner tip

Try and identify the key issues/cases to enhance your mark. This will mean your answers will be more concise and focused.

Law reform can come in many forms. Internally it an come from judicial reform and parliamentary reform Externally, If can come from gressive groups political parties, the toward Con inquirtes Indictal reform comes from the match of new case law to overrule old laws. For example, in the race of RVR (1991) where through the court rully mariful rape was considered a crine. Hovever, in practice, retorms wely and from the Indicion as the it consists of uneleable people. tartionerlay reform can come in the form where it repeals old laws, consolidate existing laws are codify laws and existing into statutes, such as the Comminal Cordena Act 1984. Such as making internal dealthys an offerce in the Companies Act, and codify con laws Ato Statutes, 1/ke the Commel Ewilina Ket (984. Most substantial reforms come from the Parliament or they are elected by the people and will more power due to the doctrine of Parliamentary Soverlynty. External influences such as those Inflower pressure groups also have an import on law eform. Generally the bigger the group, the signer the influence However sheer persistance also gets the job done. The For example, the orthor of child porning uphy could (Total for Question 4 = 20 marks) mostly be credited to the work of one woman.

# Question 5: (20 marks)

This question was marked using a levels-of-response based mark scheme. The candidates' answers were assessed in their entirety and allocated a level based on where this best fitted the level descriptions. This is the question candidates need to spend some time on, due to the fact that there are no subsections to the question and therefore the total question marks of 20 are based around a single answer.

The command word in this question was 'Evaluate', which was looking for an extended answer. Candidates were expected to evaluate the effectiveness of the different methods of civil dispute resolution available in the English Legal system. Candidates were expected to illustrate their answers and justify an argument and their conclusion.

Some candidates omitted this question completely, it is thought through lack of time management, as this is usually a topic that is well known.

For **level 1** candidates demonstrated isolated elements of knowledge relating to different methods of civil dispute resolution

For **level 2** candidates demonstrated some understanding and began to apply their knowledge appropriately to the question.

For **level 3** candidates demonstrated accurate understanding of the question supported by relevant examples.

For **level 4** candidates demonstrated thorough and accurate understanding exemplified with appropriate, well explained and applied examples to reach a justified conclusion on the effectiveness of the different methods of civil dispute resolution.

## **Examiner comments**

The answer below is a good band 3 answer. It covers the range of methods and is supported by examples. A stronger conclusion and application of further examples would have taken it to top band.

Civil dispute resolution comes in informal and formal forms.

Informal forms of airl dispute resolution include arbitration, and

regotiation, conditioning conciliation and mediations and forms believe than the stress going to the courts or

tribunals.

Arbitration offers a quick oblation to disputes. The disputing partles are also free to choose an arbitrator to help then come to a decision which is billing to both parties. Both parties do not have to spend as much time discourse arguing it out. Negotiation is a more private my and ever chaper may to come to a common indertanding between disputing parties. Parties are free to discuss with one another to reach a common grand. However the negotiation is not legally bonding on soch parties. To add in to arbitration, if the parties are not pleased with the outcome, more more her to be spent on going to court for a new decision to be made making # an originally chape splice more expensive than going to court alone. Conciliation and mediation Involves bringing in a 3d a third party usually a legally qualified person like a solition to quide the disputing parties to a common understanding. A mediator would not give snygertions on the dispoted matter and would ask queetions to gyick, with the help of a third party.

If there is a dispute on a certain area of and the amount of damages disputed does not corre a certain thes threshold, the parties can Swy M up to a tribural For example a dispute on employment contact terms can be brought to the Employment Tribund. Tribunds offer a chaper alterative then joby to court. They The adjudically leach is chand by two experts on the relivant area and a lay tribunal. There need not be any light representation to go to a tobarel. However, if one party has the advantage of legal regregariation, then the scales would be tipped in bis favour. The decision made are also legally bholing. It may take a leng the honever, because tobards handle a let of cases at any gover of Disputes with public ladres and such as malad whother can be bought up to the onlydenan services where they will deem to lauch as mucrigation towards that public body. The deessons made by the omlindering is however subject to judicial

The most effective way to end a dispute would be to tile on action in the courts. The cost of going to court is high as it shoolings the serving of solkcolors and lawriters. Parties are legally represented by professionals and the dispute will be hard by qualified judges. All the decisions will also be legally binding. The However, as some filing on would note the dispute adversarial as the objective is to wi

In conclusion, informal mays of civil dispute resolution would give disputing parties more freedom and choice, it costs lesser and also falces up lesser time atthough short are not legally bilding.

Formal methods of civil dispute resolution costs more, taken more time, but is legally bilding.

# **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Read the questions and pay careful attention to what the command words are asking you to do. This will mean your answers will be more focused.
- Look at the marks allocated to the question and spend only the appropriate amount of time on the question based on the marks.
- In a question with several parts, read all the parts and decide what information to put in each part before starting part a.
- Use examples to illustrate definitions or points made in the short answer questions and additionally relevant case law and legislation to illustrate longer answers.
- Provide balanced answers when asked to provide advantages and disadvantages.
- Provide a conclusion for 'evaluate' questions.