

GCSE Law (J485)

Frequently Asked Questions

General

FAQ updated 06/02/12 – Unit B142 computer based testing (CBT) in June 2012 and onwards

In the June 2012 series and onwards unit B142 will be available for assessment either as CBT or a traditional written paper exam. The OCR Admin Guide and Entry Codes booklet for 14-19 qualifications reflects this.

Do I need to be a lawyer or have a law degree to teach this course?

No. The course is designed to be accessible to teachers of other disciplines. It focuses on issues which are part of everyday life and those areas where there is plenty of information available.

I am already teaching law at AS and A-level. Do I need to teach in the same amount of detail for GCSE?

No. The emphasis is on getting students to engage with the study of law, to develop an understanding of its role, to develop critical thinking and decision making skills as well as making them aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Do I need to teach lots of detail about cases?

No. Although you may well want to make cases into examples you use in your teaching there is no need to teach the facts and principles of law in cases as you would at AS and A level as citation is not expected at GCSE level.

What about Acts of Parliament and European Union (EU) law?

It is useful to teach the names and key provisions of major pieces of law as this is an important source of law but there is no need for students to learn statutory provisions. It is a good idea to encourage the learning of important dates to give a sense of time and development in the law.

What are the main skills I need to teach?

Inevitably there is a need to recall, select relevant factual information and then communicate this. Equally important is the skill of applying knowledge to show understanding. Finally it is important to teach the skills of analysis and interpretation so that ideas in the law can be discussed.

Who is this course aimed at?

Everyone with an interest in law and the society in which they live. It offers the opportunity to learn in more detail about some issues covered by citizenship courses or to try a completely new and enormously relevant subject.

Will it be a useful first step for AS and A-level Law?

Yes. It provides grounding in aspects of the English legal system which are covered at AS level.

Will studying this course make AS and A-level Law boring?

No. The topics revisited at AS level are covered in more detail so there is a chance for students to take the interest they have developed at GCSE to a deeper level. The areas of substantive law covered at A level are completely different from those at GCSE.

Why do I need to teach about employment and consumer law?

These two areas were chosen for this specification as they affect everyone in some way and they tend to be issues which are accessible in terms of the information available and the attention which they are given by the media. It also helps prepare people to be good citizens and it gives a good breadth of understanding whether study is continued to AS and A level or not.

GCSE Law J485, unit B141: The nature of law. Criminal courts and criminal processes

Is this a compulsory unit?

This unit is compulsory for a GCSE in Law (J485).

What is this unit worth?

This unit is worth 25% of the GCSE in Law.

What is the entry code for this unit?

The entry code for this unit is B141.

How is this unit assessed?

This unit is assessed by a 60 minute written examination paper. The examination is set and marked by OCR.

Is the test tiered?

No. All candidates take the same examination.

Will candidates be able to re-sit the unit?

Yes. Candidates may re-sit this unit once before entering for certification for a GCSE.

Is there a text book for this unit?

Yes. The recommended text book is OCR Law for GCSE published by Hodder. This book covers all four units of the GCSE in Law (J485).

Is there training available for this unit?

Yes. OCR provides a full programme of training for Law (J485). Details are available on the OCR website.

GCSE Law J485, unit B142: Civil courts and civil processes. Civil liberties and human rights

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FAQ updated 06/02/12 – registering for Connect Plus

Connect Plus is the platform through which CBT is accessed. Information about this can be found in Section 5.13 of the GCSE Law (J485) specification (for unitised assessment) and the CBT page of the OCR website <http://www.ocr.org.uk/eassessment/cbt/index.html>

FAQ added 12/10/11 – practice CBT

A practice CBT, the equivalent of a specimen or past paper, is available to access through Connect Plus. <http://www.ocr.org.uk/eassessment/cbt/index.html>

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What is the entry code for this unit?

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Will candidates be able to re-sit the unit?

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Is there a text book for this unit?

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Is there training available for this unit?

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GCSE Law J485, unit B143: Employment rights and responsibilities

Is this a compulsory unit?

This unit is compulsory for a GCSE in Law (J485).

What is this unit worth?

This unit is worth 25% of the GCSE in Law.

What is the entry code for this unit?

The entry code for this unit is B143.

How is this unit assessed?

This unit is assessed by a 60 minute written examination paper. The examination is set and marked by OCR.

Is the test tiered?

No. All candidates take the same examination.

Will candidates be able to re-sit the unit?

Yes. Candidates may re-sit this unit once before entering for certification for a GCSE.

Is there a text book for this unit?

Yes. The recommended text book is OCR Law for GCSE published by Hodder. This book covers all four units of the GCSE in Law (J485).

Is there training available for this unit?

Yes. OCR provides a full programme of training for Law (J485). Details are available on the OCR website.

GCSE Law J485, unit B144: Consumer rights and responsibilities

Is this a compulsory unit?

This unit is compulsory for a GCSE in Law (J485).

What is this unit worth?

This unit is worth 25% of the GCSE in Law.

What is the entry code for this unit?

The entry code for this unit is B144.

How is this unit assessed?

This unit is assessed by a 60 minute written examination paper. The examination is set and marked by OCR.

Is the test tiered?

No. All candidates take the same examination.

Will candidates be able to re-sit the unit?

Yes. Candidates may re-sit this unit once before entering for certification for a GCSE.

Is there a text book for this unit?

Yes. The recommended text book is OCR Law for GCSE published by Hodder. This book covers all four units of the GCSE in Law (J485).

Is there training available for this unit?

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