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college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.



LAW

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“The power of the lawyer is in
the uncertainty of the law.”

JEREMY BENTHAM

Law

Exam Board TBC

What is Law?

Law plays a vital role in society. The law helps define a society's values and also provides a means to solve problems and disputes without resorting to violence. A Level Law enables you to further explore the relationship between Law, Society and the Individual.

What will the course involve and how is it organised?

It is unlikely that you will have studied Law before, but don't worry; the course is designed to remove any feelings of uncertainty and confusion that may arise from taking a new subject.

When you begin A Level Law you will be introduced to the English Legal System as a whole. This will involve looking at how Law is made, who can make Law and how Judges interpret Statutes. Here you will also study the role of legal personnel including barristers and solicitors as well as the role lay people have in the Law (i.e. Juries and Magistrates).

You will study both the theory and application of Criminal Law. This will involve looking at the fatal offences of murder, voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter and non-fatal offences of assault, battery, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, wounding and grievous bodily harm with intent. You will also look at property offences, including theft and robbery as well as the capacity defences of insanity and intoxication, the necessity defences of self defence, duress, and duress of circumstances and the preliminary offences of attempt.

In Tort Law you will study liability in negligence for injury to people and damage to property, occupiers' liability, vicarious liability and you will consider any defences. You will also be asked to look at the Law of Contract OR the Law on Human Rights.

The course will be assessed by examination. There is no coursework.

What will this course prepare me for and where will it lead?

The course encourages you to develop the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying rules and to develop the ability to communicate arguments and conclusions clearly and succinctly. It will help you substantiate arguments and develop an enquiring and critical mind. As such, Law at Carmel provides an excellent background for university and careers not only in law, but also in journalism, local and central government, public relations, teaching, and a range of management and business areas.

Many of our students go on to study Law at the top universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Durham.



Trip to London

Our students say...

Studying at Carmel has given me a great opportunity to become a much more independent person and enabled me to set goals for what I want to achieve in my life.

Studying Law has been one of the best decisions of my life so far. It has consistently provided me with interesting and challenging work whilst also providing opportunities to expand my experience of the law through enrichment such as the Bar Mock Trial or work experience in a well-respected solicitor's firm. All of this has given me valuable knowledge and experience whilst also being incredibly enjoyable. One of the most impressive things about Carmel is the independence that the college gives you which is great as it prepares students more for their time when they leave Carmel. After Carmel, I am hoping to study Law at the University of York from which I hope to progress onto a legal career.



Daniel Kerr-Dando

Wade Deacon

Studying:

Law, Government and Politics, History

What support will I receive?

At Carmel we encourage you to develop as an independent learner. This does not mean however that help is not available. We are committed to supporting all our learners to achieve their personal best. A range of support materials is available both to simplify difficult concepts, and to extend your learning so you should never be without the appropriate support!

What is the department like?

Law is an established and thriving department, with over 200 students. Law is taught in well resourced student bases. The department has its own VLE site to assist student study. Students spend a lot of their free time in the Law department participating in enrichment activities and tutorials. Links have been forged with firms of solicitors, barristers chambers and local law enforcement agencies through the community involvement projects, legal professionals and courts.

Vocational Programme

The Law Department has set up a programme where students are invited to apply for a placement at a Solicitor's firm or Barristers' Chambers for a period of 3-5 days. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students as not only does it give them links to Law firms, and develops their employability skills, it also helps them when applying to study at university.

How can I enrich my Law studies?

Law is such a dynamic subject that you will have many opportunities to enrich your studies such as visiting the Crown Courts in Liverpool and the Houses of Parliament at Westminster in London; attending Higher Education Days; participating in 'A Taste of Law School' with Sheffield University. Other activities may include applying for a place on the Law Vocational Programme or entering the National Mock Trial Competition. Students over the last few years have also had the opportunity to take a trip to New York where they visited a night court and went on tours of the United Nations and NYPD museum. Students will also be able to attend talks in college from Solicitors, Barristers, the CID and universities.

We have a Gifted and Talented Programme for the Law department and as part of this students are encouraged to join the Law Society, which Stretches and Challenges them to analyse legal materials in various areas and work as independent learners.

How successful are Carmel's Law students?

The answer to this question is a simple one, VERY! Since the Law department was established in 2000, academic excellence has been at the core of the department's vision. Each year our students achieve significantly above the national average across all grade boundaries.

	2014			2015			2016		
	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E	A*-B	A*-C	A*-E
A2	71%	88%	100%	74%	91%	98%	70%	88%	100%
AS	60%	78%	97%	59%	80%	92%	64%	78%	93%

Almost all of our Lawyers gained entry to their first choice of university and many have decided to develop their study of Law further either through Higher Education or Vocational Training.

Our students say...

Carmel College is an extremely supportive and caring environment, which enables you to reach your full potential.

I particularly love studying Law as it is a highly engaging and exciting subject, which pushes you academically. Within the Law Department I have been able to participate in amazing extra-curricular activities such as the National Bar Mock Trials, the Law Society and a visit to Liverpool Crown Court, which has facilitated my studies and enhanced my university applications. After Carmel, I hope to study Law at university with the aspiration of working on miscarriages of justice in the future. I would highly recommend Law to anyone who wants to study an interesting but challenging subject.



Ciara Rohan
St Gregory's

Studying:

Law, History, Geography

Law students participating in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition at The Old Bailey in London.



Our students say...

Studying Law at Carmel has been an amazing experience.

The course is really interesting and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. My tutor has been excellent in providing me with all the support I needed with regards to writing my UCAS application, preparing for my Oxford interview and sitting my Law National Aptitude Test. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend an Oxford Law Day and the Cambridge Sixth Form Law Conference, both of which were great opportunities to get involved with. Outside of the classroom, I participated in the National Bar Mock Trial, I had brilliant experiences acting as a barrister in court. I had work experience at a solicitors' firm through the Carmel Law Vocational Programme, which gave me a good insight into the everyday workings of being a solicitor and confirmed my ambition to be a lawyer.



Andrew Dixon
Wade Deacon

Studying:

Law, Government and Politics, History

Ten Reasons to choose Law at Carmel

1. **Law is relevant** to all aspects of everyday life. At Carmel, real life scenarios are used to contextualise complex issues.
2. **Improves critical thinking skills.** At Carmel we encourage you to challenge the validity of the law and its institutions.
3. **Improves problem solving skills.** Three out of the four modules we study at Carmel focus on problem solving skills from identification of offences, through to sentencing. Problem solving skills are required in every aspect of life and can be transferred to any other subject.
4. **Knowledge of how and why law changes** is useful background knowledge for a whole range of subjects including Psychology, Sociology, History, Business and Politics. At Carmel, we encourage cross curricula links and encourage learners to bring knowledge from other subjects into their work.
5. **Improves communication skills.** All lawyers need to be able to formulate a strong argument. At Carmel, we encourage you to take part in many debates, presentations and role plays to develop your ability to 'think on your feet'.
6. **Learning not to take everything at face value** is a useful skill. At Carmel, we encourage you to develop analytical skills by questioning decisions in cases, and developing a 'friendly critical eye'.
7. **In many situations it helps to be able to distinguish the important issues** from the unimportant issues, especially when debating or presenting an argument. At Carmel, we encourage you to take part in the National Mock Trial Competition, which will enable you to distinguish between different types of evidence.
8. **Knowledge of current affairs** is developed by reference to issues reported in the news. At Carmel we encourage you to keep a legal journal recording articles from the Times Law Reports each Tuesday.
9. **Going to court** is not just an activity for offenders and lawyers, but an activity for all of our Carmel learners. Visits to the Crown Court and Magistrates Court are integrated into the delivery of the course.
10. **To study Law at university** you do not need A Level Law – **BUT IT HELPS.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Do universities accept Law A Level? I have been told that they don't!

This is a common question and the simple answer is YES they do! All universities accept Law A Level, in fact some prefer you to have it. A Level Law is not offered in all Sixth Form Colleges/ Schools. They do not require you to have Law A Level, but it can't be denied, it helps!

What subjects should I choose to complement Law?

It links particularly well with English, Psychology, Business Studies, Sociology, Politics and History. However, through Law's literate and logical aspects, it complements virtually any subject.



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What are the entry requirements for Law?

You will need grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Meet the Tutors

Vicky Bryant

Head of Faculty / Head of Department

Karl Reid

Subject Tutor

Nicola Newton

Subject Tutor
Head of Gifted and Talented

More Information

Contact any member of the Law team in person, or email: vickyb@carmel.ac.uk