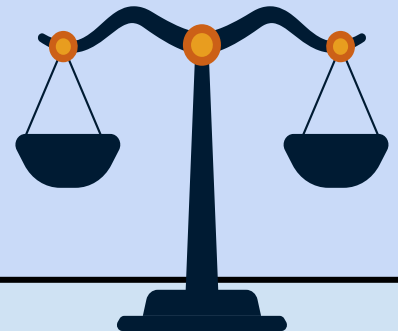


# HOW WOULD YOU APPROACH THIS LEGAL SCENARIO?

**Darcie** breaks into **Emma**'s house **intending to steal** her new gas boiler. She tries unsuccessfully to remove it from the wall but in the process she **damages the main gas supply pipe**. This causes a gas leak in the house. When Emma returns home she can **smell the leaking gas**. Worried, Emma goes into the living room and calls the fire brigade on her mobile phone. While she is on the telephone, she nervously **lights up a cigarette**. This ignites the gas which causes an **immediate explosion, killing Emma** instantly.

Advise whether Darcie is criminally liable for manslaughter.



# LAW A LEVEL: CONTENT OVERVIEW

## Paper One: Legal System and Criminal Law

Criminal and civil courts,  
legal profession, juries,  
sentencing, mediation,  
legal aid

Non-fatal offences  
Fatal Offences  
Property Offences  
Defences

## Paper Two: Law Making and Tort Law

Parliament, delegated  
legislation, judicial  
precedent, statutory  
interpretation, EU law

Negligence  
Occupiers Liability  
Torts against Land  
Vicarious Liability

## Paper Three: Legal Concepts and Human Rights Law

Theories of morality,  
justice, social control  
mechanisms and  
balancing interests

Protection of ECHR rights  
e.g. fair trial, protest,  
freedom of expression,  
privacy and liberty



# How are students assessed?

Two knowledge based essays (8 and 12 marks) then...

Amir is a newly qualified driver. He has recently purchased a used car. It is bigger and older than the car he learned to drive in. Amir is approaching a pedestrian crossing where pedestrians have priority. He brakes too late and without sufficient force. The car fails to stop in time and he knocks Beth over. She breaks her arm in the fall and has to take eight weeks off work. She also develops a fear of going outdoors.

Jack owns 'The Dancing Rat' pub. He hires a team of specialist cleaners to give the kitchen a deep clean. One of the cleaners, Eve, suffers some burns from the strong cleaning chemicals she used to clean the oven. Jack also hires Kareem, an out-of-work electrical contractor to repair the faulty lighting in the women's toilet. Jack hires Kareem without checking his qualifications because he is cheap. The day after the repair, Layla, a customer, is injured when she falls over in the dark because the light was still faulty.

5 Advise Beth whether she will be successful in suing Amir in negligence and, if so, which remedies she would be most likely to be awarded. [20]

6 Advise **both** Eve **and** Layla whether they would be likely to succeed in a claim against Jack under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. [20]

## Essay question on the law of tort

7\* Discuss whether vicarious liability is unfair on employers. [20]

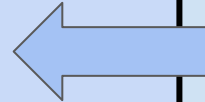
Scenario-based essays

Evaluation essay

# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

**Darcie** breaks into **Emma**'s house **intending to steal** her new gas boiler. She tries unsuccessfully to remove it from the wall but in the process she **damages the main gas supply pipe**. This causes a gas leak in the house. When Emma returns home she can **smell the leaking gas**. Worried, Emma goes into the living room and calls the fire brigade on her mobile phone. While she is on the telephone, she nervously **lights up a cigarette**. This ignites the gas which causes an **immediate explosion, killing Emma** instantly.

Advise whether Darcie is criminally liable for manslaughter.



You'd need knowledge of the law on manslaughter in order to 'solve' the scenario...

- Unlawful act?
- Dangerous?
- Factually and legally causes a death?
- Nothing intervenes to break the chain of causation?
- Intends the unlawful act?



# What does this look like in practice?

Wizzarround Go-Karts have owned and operated a children's go-kart track since 2010. It is located in the countryside and they have planning permission to operate the track during daylight hours at weekends. In 2018, Leo purchased a bungalow which is located about 1000 metres from the track. A year later in 2019, Wizzarround extended their operation to include floodlighting and bigger noisier adult go-karts. They are now open during the week and at night. The noise and lighting are making Leo's life a misery and he cannot sleep.

Leo

(Q) Advise Leo whether he would be successful in suing Wizzarround in private nuisance and if so the likely remedies he would be rewarded

Remedies: damages, injunctions

Handwritten notes and annotations:

- less than 20 years
- defendant
- locality → quiet peace
- propriety interest
- more useful to a nuisance
- defence → planning permission
- malicious x
- sensitive x
- not relevant
- occasional x
- moving to the nuisance
- interference
- indirect interference
- noise (Cheshire v Barry)
- unreasonable duration, time of day
- continuous
- can sue
- X

## Planning a legal argument

Occupier - Company

↑  
→ 'in control'

↑  
premises

Adrenalin owns a popular amusement park which consists of rides and gardens. One rainy day, Latisha pays to enter the park. Latisha goes on one ride that has recently been safety-checked by RideFixerz, a well-known national company. One of the bolts on the ride had not been properly tightened and the ride collapses causing Latisha to suffer serious head injuries.

Roy is unwilling to pay to enter the park and so sneaks in through a gap in the fence which seems to have been well-used. In the gardens there are some steep steps. A notice at the bottom of the steps tells people to take care when using the steps and to use the handrail. Despite the rain, Roy runs down the steps. He trips and falls, breaking his arm and his watch.

expect in vicinity.  
contributory negligence - obvious danger.

A party of young children is also visiting the park. The gardens have a number of trees with colourful but poisonous berries. Signs below the trees warn people not to eat the berries. Jacob, one of the children, wanders to the trees and eats a berry, causing him liver damage.

Advise whether Latisha, Roy and Jacob may make any claims against Adrenalin under the Occupiers' Liability Acts.

- trespasser
- 1) Amusement park aware of danger?
  - 2) In vicinity?
  - 3) Expect precautions? + defences.
- aware of danger → ineffective warning

## statute

### AO1 Plan

Occupiers Liability Act 1957.

General:

Occupier - anyone with control over the property (Wheat v E Lacon)

Premises - 'fixed or moveable structures including vehicles and vessels'  
→ s1(3)

## cases

s2(2)

Lawful visitors DOC:

- Invitees
- Licensees
- Contractual permission
- Statutory rights

owed a duty of care

- take reasonable care to keep their visitors safe (Laverton v Kiapasha Takeaway).
- children can be less careful = more precautions (Glasgow Corp. v Taylor).
- trespassers - owed a duty of care

# WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR FROM AN IDEAL LAW STUDENT?

Logical approach to solving problems and scenarios

Hardworking and motivated to consolidate work independently

Good at writing extended essays

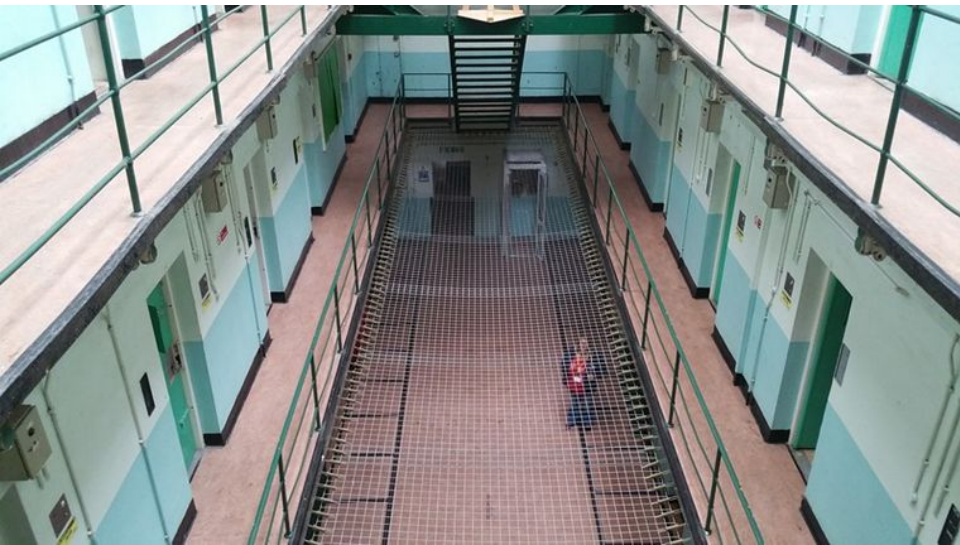
Formal entry requirements:  
**Grade 6 in English Lit or Lang**

Curious and eager to learn by questioning *everything*.

Strong memory - *there are around 600 case names to memorise!*









# FAQs

- How big are the Law classes?
- Is there any coursework?
- Do people generally do well?
- What are common post-18 destinations for Law students?
- Do I need a Law A Level to get on to a law degree or pursue a legal career?
- Isn't Law seen as an 'easy' subject by universities?



**ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?**

*Thank you for  
listening, and  
good luck with  
your GCSEs!*

