

The Nature of the Law



Part A: The Legal Environment

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Requirements...

- Turn off your mobile phone
- You should have read and précised Part A of the booklet or read chapter 1 of *GCSE Law* by Jacqueline Martin
- Take notes (annotate your pdf slides)
- Please raise your hand if you have a question.

What is the law?

'the body of principles recognised and applied by the state in the administration of justice.'
 (Sir John Salmond)

...but what does this *mean*?



Write your *own* definition of what you think 'law' is and be prepared to share it with the class.

Why do we have law?

- What would the UK be like *without* any law?
- I could ignore traffic lights if late for work...
- Take anything I want...assault or kill anybody...
- Would you want to live in that kind of society?



Why do we have law?

If you were shipwrecked on a desert island, would you need law?



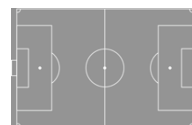
If law is "a set of special rules governing behaviour"

- Who makes rules in your family?
- Who makes the rules at school/college?
- Who makes the rules at work?
- Who makes the rules governing society?

Aims of the law

Law and its aims in the UK is like the rules of a football match...

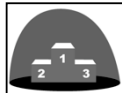
- If a football player commits a foul, s/he can expect a punishment depending on the seriousness of the foul.



The Aims of the Law

Activity: Page 1 of your Booklet

- In pairs, write down and rank the aims of law in order of importance.
- Your tutor will invite a member of each group to explain their choice.



Law and Morality

- Our law is based on the moral values of our society.
- However, some acts classed as immoral (e.g. adultery) are no longer illegal
- Should behaviour in public *not* be punished by the State?

Law and Morality

Activity: Read page 3 of booklet

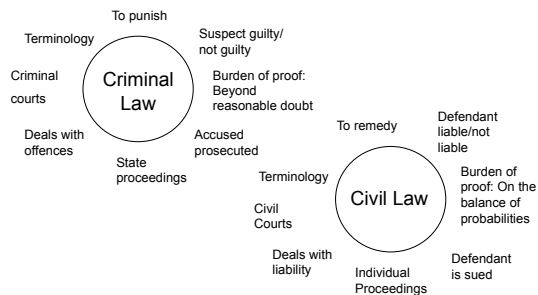
R v Brown – agree/disagree with the court’s decision? Why?

Re A (Conjoined Twins) - agree/disagree with the court’s decision? Why?

Public and Private Law

- Re-produce and colour a diagram (from Fig 2 in the booklet) which explains public and private law.
- In you group discuss what each box/term relates to and be prepared to explain to the class each of the box/terms.

What is the difference between civil and criminal law



Undertake the Quiz

- In class, do the quiz on page 10 of the booklet.

