

APPLIED LAW

EDEXCEL

BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Entry Requirements	GCSE English Grade 4 GCSE History Grade 4 desirable
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Brief introduction to subject:

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law provides opportunities in education to achieve a nationally recognised Level 3 vocationally-specific qualification, to enter employment in the legal sector or to progress to higher education vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher National in Business (Law) or a Foundation Degree in Business and Law or on to a law honours degree. Learners will develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life and to allow access to employment opportunities in the legal sector. It presents Law as an exciting, relevant and challenging area of study.

Progression to Career/ University Courses:

Career: Progression to employment or an apprenticeship. Legal profession, Local Government, Business and Police Force

University courses: Law, Management, Business, Criminology and Sociology

Key Points:

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law is a 4-unit qualification that is equivalent to 1 'A' Level. The course is studied over a two year period and is practical in nature. The qualification is continually assessed throughout the year through a variety of methods including case studies, assignments, projects and performance observation. There are two external examinations.

It is essential that prospective learners are motivated, organised and can take responsibility for their own learning. Learners should also have a good KS4 attendance record which should be maintained during this course to ensure optimal success.

Learners will have the opportunity to visit the Local Magistrates Court and The Houses of Parliament during the two year course.

Year 12

Unit 1 Dispute Solving in Civil Law - Mandatory unit and externally assessed

The aim of this unit is to give learners an understanding about the courts that deal with civil law disputes, in addition to alternative methods of resolution. The basic principles of the law of negligence are considered and applied, together with sources of advice, funding, resolution and remedies. You will develop legal skills in research and will use these research skills to investigate the way in which the law is developed and applied through precedent. You will learn how to reference legal sources and how to communicate professionally with colleagues and clients.

Unit 2 Investigating aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System - Mandatory unit and internally assessed

The aim of this unit allows learners to develop the skills to investigate and research how different laws are made both inside and outside Parliament and then interpreted in courts. You will use these research skills to investigate the way in which the law is developed and applied. You will investigate who decides the outcome of criminal cases and where advice and representation can be obtained and how it can be paid for. You will apply and present this information professionally to clients with the aid of non-fatal offence case studies.

Year 13

Unit 3 Applying the Law - Mandatory unit and externally assessed

The aim of this unit is to give learners an understanding of Criminal law and how this applies to everyone. In this unit, you will examine case law relating to real-life crimes. You will need to be aware of specific Acts of Parliament that relate to criminal offences and police procedures. You will develop problem-solving skills and legal research skills. You will use these research skills to investigate the way in which the law is developed and applied. You will have the opportunity to apply the relevant law to a scenario involving a crime. You will develop your decision-making and communication skills, as you may have to decide how to advise clients or how the police should respond to a particular situation. You will also develop analytical and critical-thinking skills.

Unit 4 Aspects of Family Law - Optional unit and internally assessed

The aim of this unit is to give learners and insight into Family law. It deals with some of the most important and sensitive aspects of our lives, with the courts mainly getting involved only when there are disputes that need to be resolved. This unit will give you an understanding of the laws governing parenthood and parental responsibility and will examine how the courts resolve disputes regarding children. There are various legal regulations governing our family lives and the formation of adult relationships. This unit will enable you to understand the distinction between marriage and cohabitation and their legal consequences. You will examine the key requirements for the formation of a valid marriage and civil partnership and how these relationships may become either void or voidable. You will investigate how individuals may terminate their adult relationships and the financial consequences of a relationship breakdown.

Information regarding Assessment:

BTEC Nationals are assessed using a combination of *internal assessments*, which are set and marked by teachers, and *external assessments* which are set and marked by Pearson:

- mandatory units have a combination of internal and external assessments
- all optional units are internally assessed.

Learners will be prepared for external assessment by the time they undertake it. Learners may have one resit of an external assessment to obtain either a pass or to seek to gain a merit or distinction. If a learner has two attempts then the better result will be used for qualification grading.

Key features of the external assessments will include:

• Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law

This unit gives learners the opportunity to acquire skills to research the law and gain knowledge and understanding of the process of civil dispute resolution, civil courts and the making of precedent. Learners will learn about negligence and will apply these principles to give advice using professional communication methods.

• Unit 3: Applying the Law

Learners investigate the law in relation to homicide, offences against property and police powers. They will research the law relating to given legal scenarios, then apply their knowledge and understanding of the law and give advice based on relevant legal principles. They will apply, analyse and evaluate legal information and present information in a professional manner.

Key features of internal assessments will include:

The format of internal assessments is an assignment taken after the content of the unit, or part of the unit if several assignments are used, has been delivered. An assignment may take a variety of forms, including practical and written types. An assignment is a distinct activity completed independently by learners that is separate from teaching, practice, exploration and other activities that learners complete with direction from, and formative assessment by, teachers.

The assessment criteria for a unit are hierarchical and holistic.

For example, if an M criterion requires the learner to show 'analysis' and the related P criterion requires the learner to 'explain', then to satisfy the M criterion a learner will need to cover both 'explain' and 'analyse'.

When a learner has completed all the assessment for a unit then the assessment team will give a grade for the unit. This is given simply according to the highest level for which the learner is judged to have met all the criteria.

Therefore:

- to achieve a Distinction, a learner must have satisfied all the Distinction criteria (and therefore the Pass and Merit criteria), these define outstanding performance across the unit as a whole
- to achieve a Merit, a learner must have satisfied all the Merit criteria (and therefore the Pass criteria) through high performance in each learning aim
- to achieve a Pass, a learner must have satisfied all the Pass criteria for the learning aims, showing coverage of the unit content and therefore attainment at Level 3 of the national framework.