



Queen Mary's College

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## FAQs – Law

**Q: *Should I study Law at QMC if I want to study law at university?***

**A:** Both the A Level and BTEC courses enable you to look at a whole range of interesting legal topics. As a result, studying Law at QMC gives you a good foundation in law and will help you decide whether it is a subject that you enjoy. The current A level course was designed in conjunction with university Law Departments and is now regarded as a preferred subject by universities such as LSE, UCL and Sheffield. Recently, our Law students have gone on to study Law at universities such as Cardiff, Exeter, and Bristol. Our current A Level students have offers to study Law at Oxford, Leeds, Nottingham Trent, and Southampton to name but a few.

Having said that, you do not have to study Law at college to study Law at university. You will normally be expected to have studied at least one essay writing subject.

**Q: *Which other subjects go well with Law?***

**A:** We have students studying Law with a wide range of other subjects. It's important to study subjects that you are interested in and will enjoy. A traditional combination is to study Law with English (or modern foreign language) and History. However, as a subject that is about society and how relationships within that society are governed, it also goes well with other subjects in the social sciences department such as Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Geography and Criminology. We have also found that students who enjoy Maths are often very good at analysing legal problems. Arts subjects, particularly Drama, also go well.

**Q: *What do your Law students go on to do after the course?***

**A:** A whole range of things. Many go on to university to study Law. However, they also go on to study other subjects such as History, Business Studies, International Relations, Economics, Psychology, Criminology and Policing. Others go into employment in Law or Business related fields. Some go on to pursue a career in the police force, or areas of social work.

**Q: *What is the difference between A Level and BTEC?***

**A:** The main difference is the method of assessment, but there are some differences in content too:

A level Law is assessed by three exams in the May/June of your second year. The papers are as follows:

1. The Legal System and Criminal Law

- 2. Law Making and Tort Law
- 3. Nature of Law and Contract Law

BTEC Law is assessed by two exams and two coursework units, which are spread out across the two years of the course. Our students take the following units:

Terms 1 and 2 Unit 2 - Coursework- Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System

Term 2 and 3 Unit 1 Exam- Dispute solving in Civil Law

Term 3 and 4 Unit 3 Exam - Applying the Criminal Law (crime and police powers)

Term 5 and 6 Unit 7- Coursework- Further tort law.

The BTEC Law course is an extended certificate rather than an extended diploma, taking up one timetable slot, meaning that you can take two other subjects with it.

Both courses carry UCAS points and many of our A level and BTEC students go on to university or into apprenticeships.

We will discuss which course is the most suitable for you, taking into account your strengths and your ambitions. You may also want to think about your overall programme. Some students like to do a BTEC course alongside 2 A levels to reduce the pressure at the end of the second year a little.

A Level Grade	BTEC Grade	UCAS Points
A*	D*	56
A	D	48
B		40
C	M	32
D		24
E	P	16



## Applied Law

BTEC Nationals in Applied Law are unique qualifications in the legal sector, providing an excellent introduction to law and giving learners an edge when progressing to higher education and employment.

A range of universities have expressed their support for BTEC Nationals in Applied Law as a route for progression into higher education.

For example:

- ⊙ Edge Hill University
- ⊙ Leeds Beckett University
- ⊙ University College Birmingham
- ⊙ University of Huddersfield
- ⊙ University of South Wales
- ⊙ University of the West of England

### Find out more

For **Teaching support** see page 12  
 For **Assessment** see page 20  
 Download your **specification** at:  
[quals.pearson.com/BTECNatsLawGuide](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECNatsLawGuide)



## Applied General

### Certificate 180 GLH

Same size as 0.5 A level  
 Applied General

**Total units: 2**  
 2 Mandatory Units

**Purpose:** this qualification is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and to progress to:

- ⊙ Higher education (for example, BA in Law (LLB) or BA in Business and Law)
- ⊙ Employment

It aims to give a basic introduction to study of the legal sector. In addition to legal content, the qualification will enable learners to develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers.

### Extended Certificate 360 GLH

Same size as 1 A level  
 Applied General

**Total units: 4**  
 3 Mandatory Units  
 PLUS 1 Optional Unit\*

**Purpose:** this qualification is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and to progress to:

- ⊙ Higher education (for example, BA in Law (LLB) or BA in Business and Law)
- ⊙ Employment
- ⊙ An Advanced Apprenticeship (eg. Legal Services)

It can be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels and provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in the legal sector.

\*please see specification for details of all Optional Units available.  
 Information correct at time of publication – please see specification for latest information.

*The skills to succeed – the confidence to progress*

### **Q:** Do you offer any extra curricular activities?

**A:** We participate in the National Bar Mock Trial competition and the Kingsley Napley Legal Apprentice competition. We also run trips to courts including the Old Bailey and Winchester Crown Court. The University of Law in Guildford have also run courses for our students both at QMC and virtually.

### **Q:** What makes a good Law student?

**A:** Good law students need to be able to understand the law, analyse problems and apply the law to those problems. For example you might be presented with a fictional legal case and be asked what offence is involved and whether there are any defences. In order to do this, you need to be able to work out what information in the case is relevant and explain how the law applies to that information. You might have seen lawyers doing something similar in legal dramas. You will be assessed on how you can present your case in writing, but we will also debate cases and possible outcomes in class. There is rarely one 'correct' answer.

Good law students also need to be interested in whether the law that we have is fair and works well or whether there are changes that could make it better. For example, we think about whether it is right that people who kill out of compassion can be convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. A level Law students also need to enjoy thinking about issues such as justice and morality and how these are reflected in the law. This involves looking at topical debates.

All law units are assessed in writing, so good law students do need to be able to write coherently. Good law students are also interested in reading about and researching the law.

**Q:** *What law or other careers are there if I don't want to be a solicitor or barrister?*

**A:** Police Officer  
Detective  
Civil Service Researcher  
Politics  
Customs Officer  
Probation Officer  
Arbitrator  
Chartered Legal Executive  
Diplomacy  
Human Resource Manager  
Lecturer  
Journalism  
Advice work such as with the Citizens Advice  
Accountancy  
Social Services