

Independent Study Booklet

Summer 2021



Name: _____

Welcome! If you would like to explore Law either in anticipation of studying Law in Autumn, or just for fun, then this is one place to start.

There are a variety of tasks for you to have a go at and explore some of the key ideas and aspects of law that we will explore during the next couple of years. You can submit this by email, or bring it with you in the autumn term for a little Law Prize! I will be on email if you would like to ask any further questions, or links aren't working.

You will also find, at the end, a suggested 'watch list' of documentaries and films which are relevant to law (and some that are just great fun!)

Task No.	Outline	Completed Please date	Comment on your response	R	A	G
1	Reflection on current sentencing practice					
2	Operation of the Supreme Court					
3	Case study on the operation of the Criminal Justice System & Young Offenders					
4	Evaluation of the Appeals Process					
5	Changing the Law: Double Jeopardy					
6	Case Study: You be the Judge (Sentencing)					

Task One: Reflection on Sentencing

Why do prisoners only serve half their term? (bbc.co.uk)

Using a range of the information on in the source (linked in the title), produce a summary of the current operation of sentencing in England and Wales in the space below. You may present the information in any format you like, but it must cover the questions below and must not simply be copy and paste.

What influences the sentence the judge hands down?	What type of sentences may a judge hand down?	Why do most offences offer a range of options?	How does a judge decide which tariff to hand down for murder?	When are most offenders released and what happens to them?
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Challenge: Why do you think that people are often upset or confused by the sentences handed to offenders?

Task Two: Supreme Court

What is the UK Supreme Court? (bbc.co.uk)

and watch this documentary available on [youtube](#):

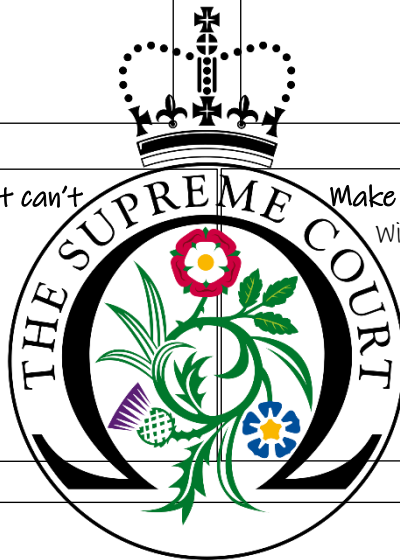
Using a range of the information on in the source, complete each of the information boxes below. Remember to include relevant legal terminology accurately used.

Name and Location:

Sum up the kind of cases and decisions that it has made over the last years:

What powers does it have (and what can't it do?):

Make up of the court: What issues do you see with who is on the court (pros and cons)?



Exploring a Case:

Pick one of the cases which the article or documentary highlights. Summarise the facts, question and decision by the court. End with a critical comment on your view of the case and decision:

Critical Response:

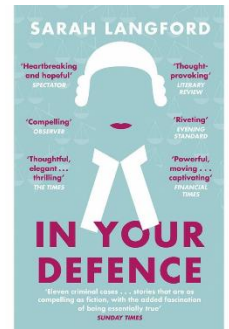
Task Three: Operation of the Legal System

Sarah Langford: In Your Defence

Langford is a practising defence barrister and wrote this book to highlight some of the key issues within the law that she saw. It is very readable, and uses 11 cases to illustrate different issues within the law. Each chapter begins with the 'action' of the case, and then switches to the case and her role and perception of the issues within it.

You are going to read **Case 1: Dominic**.

<https://www.ashfielddocs.co.uk/hap/myfiles/#S\SUBJECTS\Social%20Studies\Law>



Particulars of the first offence (what happened):	Prior Offending history:	
What concerns did Langford have about representing him in the Magistrates Court?	View of the police:	
What was the judgement of the court on the first offence and why?	<i>Critical Response:</i> how far do you agree with Langford on the outcome for this first offence?	
Particulars of the second offence (what happened):	What issues surrounding sentencing and remand are raised in this section?	
What sentence was handed down to Dominic for this first case and why did that cause issues for both Sarah and Dominic?		

Critical Thinking: How would you address the issues brought up by this chapter?

The Courage of Our Convictions: Appeals

The Secret Barrister is a blogger and practicing Criminal law Barrister. Last year, he collated a number of issues into a book: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken. It's a great read and very hard hitting – essentially it covers most of what we do in the English Legal System.



You are going to read **Chapter 11** -

<https://www.ashfielddocs.co.uk/hap/myfiles/#S\SUBJECTS\Social%20Studies\Law>

. This focuses on appeals, their operation and the consequences of winning an appeal (it's not all roses and happiness!)

You need to complete the grid in as much detail as you can.

Impact of prison on offender and their family:	What does he think of the current appeals system and why?
Do you think he is right to say that to most people the Court of Appeal is "everything"?	Case Study: Victor Nealon Impact of maintaining innocence on sentence: Facts: Charge:
Key facts and figures on appeals in the Court of Appeal (including leave):	Grounds of appeals and outcomes: Outcomes of appeals: Issues with compensation:
Bridgewater Four: What issues with the operation of appeals are brought out by this case and the enquiries?	What happens to D after a successful appeal?


Task Five: Case Studies

You Be the Judge

Task: go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP1-dogWIGk>. You will need sound as you are going to work through two cases, completing the questions below as you go. **Burglary & Threatening Behaviour.** You will need to watch certain sections of the clip and pause it to answer the questions as you go through. Please note: there are other cases you can have a look at, but these two you must complete for this task!



For Case One please watch from the beginning to 8.05 (pause it at 6.11 if you want to work out the sentence before the judge gives it).

Offender

NAME: Alexander Jackson
AGE: 26
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: Two for domestic burglary
OFFENCE: Burglary

Defendant One: Alexander Jackson

What did he do?

What was the plea?

Which court was it heard in and why?

Who determines sentencing for the defendant?

Relevant information from the police officer:	Relevant information from the Victim:

Will the fact that the victims were at home at the time of the break-in affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Do you think the fact that an item of sentimental value was taken is significant?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Mitigating Factors	Aggravating factors

Would a genuine commitment from Alex to come off drugs affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

What other circumstances might be relevant in sentencing:

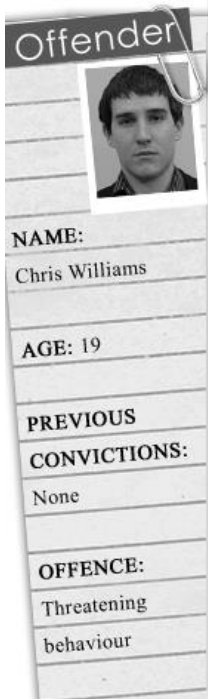
Sentence choices:

1. Prison: 2.5 years (1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community)
2. Prison: 3.5 years (1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community)
3. Prison: 4.5 years (1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community)
4. Prison: 6 years (1/2 in custody + 1/2 monitored in the community)

I would chose option _____ because...

He was actually given option _____ because...

What is the **purpose** of sentencing Alex? *Link to the aims of sentencing – which do you think was uppermost in the judge's mind*



For Case Two please watch from 38.15 to 45.35 (pause at 43.13 to decide the sentence before the court does)

Defendant Two: *Chris Williams*

What did he do?

What was the plea?

Which court was it heard in?

What is the relevant evidence from the victim?	Relevant information from the defendant?

Will the fact that Mrs Dixon is elderly influence your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Do you think the fact that Chris was provoked is significant?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Mitigating Factors	Aggravating factors

Will the fact that Chris pleaded guilty from the start affect your sentence?

Yes

Not sure

No

Judge's response:

Sentence choices:

1. Fine: £300
2. Community sentence: 80 hours unpaid work + £100 compensation + £90 costs
3. Community sentence: 200 hours unpaid work + weekly supervision meetings with a probation officer for 2 years
4. Prison: up to 3 months (½ in custody + ½ monitored in the community)

I would chose option _____ because...

He was actually given option _____ because...

What is the **purpose** of sentencing Chris? *Link to the aims of sentencing – which do you think was uppermost in the Magistrates' mind.*

Below are a range of documentaries, legally linked films and podcasts

Title	Origin	Link (if available)
The Babes in the Wood	iPlayer (BBC)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0by3pfh/the-prosecutors-the-babes-in-the-wood-murders
Catching a Killer	All4	https://www.channel4.com/programmes/catching-a-killer/episode-guide
The Briefs	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fl
HARDtalk interview with Lady Hale	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VozJR_jC8
The Bar	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d78ROXCPgl
To Kill a Burglar	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BemcOAg53eM
The Trial: Murder in the Family	All4	https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-trial-a-murder-in-the-family
Law In Action (146 episodes available)	Podcast - BBC	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1/episodes/player
UK Law Weekly	Podcasts, videos and articles	http://uklawweekly.com/

If you require more information about A Level or BTEC Law at Ashfield School, please contact Mrs Fraser at amelia.fraser@ashfield.notts.sch.uk