



Year 12 Summer Independent Learning – Law

Part 1: Compulsory Content

The tasks in Part One are compulsory and must be completed for the first lesson. The Initial Assessment at the beginning of the year will test your knowledge from these tasks. Please bring your completed tasks to the first lesson.

Elements of a crime

In order to be guilty of a criminal offence, the defendant must commit the **actus reus** and **mens rea**:

Actus Reus (AR) – Physical element (doing something or failing to do something)

Mens Rea (MR) – Mental element (guilty intention)

Task 1

Using the above two terms (AR and MR) define what you think they are for each crime below:









Crime	Actus Reus (AR)	Mens Rea (MR)
Theft		
Robbery		
Murder		
Assault		
Battery		

Task 2

Although most people are guilty for physically doing a crime, sometimes people can be guilty of a criminal offence where they fail to act e.g. failing to stop at traffic lights. This is known as being **liable by omission** (LBO). Use the following links to research the area of omissions and detail the case examples (next page) that you will use in exam questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOM7vNPYW-s>

<http://thestudentlawyer.com/2014/01/02/liability-for-omissions/>

Area of Omissions	Explanation	Case examples
Contractual Duty 		R v Adomako (1994)
Public Duties 		Dytham (1979)
Acceptance of Care 		Stone and Dobinson (1977)
Duty Via Relationship 		Gibbins and Proctor (1918)
Creation of a danger 		Miller (1983)
Omission under Statute (Parliament) 		Road Traffic Act (1988) – Give examples of when you will be LBO:
Good samaritan rule 		We don't have this in the UK so you can technically walk past someone in danger and not be liable by omission e.g. child drowning in a lake.
Doctors terminating care 	Doctors can terminate care and not be liable by omission as long as it is in the best interests of the patient.	E.g. Switching off a life support Bland (1993)

Task 3

Go through each scenario below and decide if they can be liable by omission or not and why, linking it to the relevant category/categories above.

Make your notes around each scenario.

Morgan is an anaesthetist at Pinderfields hospital. One shift she is tired and whilst she is meant to be checking the oxygen levels of the patient, Cuthbert, she doesn't. He goes into cardiac arrest from lack of oxygen and dies. She is now charged with gross negligence manslaughter.

Jack is in the habit of looking after his elderly auntie Edna. He is tired one morning and decides rather than going to help her he is going to go for a weekend away. When he comes back he sees that Edna has died from malnutrition. He is now charged with manslaughter.

Andy is out partying celebrating his university results. He gets back to his house at 4am and decides he is hungry. He cooks chips but falls asleep with the hob on. The chip pan catches fire and sets the house on fire. When he wakes up and notices he decides to leave the property instead of ringing 999. He is now charged with Arson.

Jade and Chloe are best friends. They were walking from Pontefract to Xscape when they saw someone drowning in Pontefract park lake. Because they were rushing to watch a film at Xscape they walked past. The victim died.

Task 4

For many crimes the element of causation will apply. This is used to prove that the defendant caused the end outcome (e.g. murder – must prove the defendant caused death). Use the following link to research the two-part test for causation:






<http://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/Causation-in-criminal-liability.php>

1. Factual cause –

2. Legal cause –

Once the two-part test above is proven the defendant will be guilty because they caused the end outcome. However, there are a number of ways a defendant could try to argue that an intervening act broke the chain of causation making them not fully responsible or not liable.

Complete the table below to show ways to break the chain so you could get a lesser charge or not guilty verdict.

Area that can break the chain of causation	Explanation (when will it break the chain?)	Case examples
Eggshell conditions / thin skull rule 		R v Blaue (1975)
Escape of the victim 		R v Roberts (1971)
Self-treatment and refusal of treatment 		R v Holland (1841)
Third Parties 		R v Jordan (1956)
Life support machines 		Malcherek and Steel (1981)
Unpredictable events e.g natural disasters		R v Hart (1986)

Task 5

Complete the mini scenarios below to decide if the defendant will be guilty or if the chain of causation will be broken. Apply the following:

1. Factual cause
2. Legal cause
3. Any of the intervening acts that can break the chain of causation e.g. eggshell / escape etc.
4. Conclude

Ben is having a shootout with the police and in order to protect himself, moves his friend in front of him. The police shoot and a bullet hits his friend straight through the chest, killing him instantly.

Tim stabbed Jane during an argument. Jane was taken to hospital and placed on life support. A few days later medical staff confirmed that Jane could not survive without the life support as there was no activity in her brain stem cells and so life support was switched off.

Natasha and David are having a fight when Natasha stabs him in the back with a kitchen knife. When the ambulance arrives the crew drop him on the floor twice, and when he is in hospital they do not check his medical records and give him 4x antibiotics that he is allergic to. David has an allergic reaction and dies.

Ranjeet assaulted Amrita on the pier by the harbour and left her unconscious. During the night there was a terrible storm and Amrita was dragged out to sea. It was confirmed that cause of death was drowning.

Task 6

You have now looked at the first two areas of criminal law (omissions and causation). Please create some revision resources to show your teacher that you will use to revise from for assessments.



Examples of revision resources you can create:

- 1) Poster
- 2) Brochure / leaflet
- 3) Mind map
- 4) Revision cards
- 5) Quizzes
- 6) Apps – any revision apps you can use e.g. Quizlet

These tasks are compulsory. You must complete them for the first lesson. Please bring them in with you.



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Part 2: Strongly Recommended Content

The tasks in Part 2 are not compulsory but we strongly recommend that you complete these tasks to support your development of subject knowledge. These tasks explore some of the areas that we will cover during the first year of your law A-level.

1. Introduction to Law

Watch this video from the Open University introducing law, this is a free online course, however you will need to create an account:

<https://mediaplayer.open.ac.uk/popup/pod/3908/9b9dfcb1c0#t=00m12s&play=1>

How would you define a law?

What role does law play in society?

2. The Legal Profession

Use the link to answer the following questions

<https://www.thelawyerportal.com/careers/difference-between-solicitor-and-barrister/>

1. What does a solicitor do?

2. What does a barrister do?

3. What is the main difference between a solicitor and a barrister?

3. Research Project: The Hatton Garden 'Heist'



Research this crime using the resources below and others you find from your own research, making sure that your resources are from **reliable sources** – e.g. national news networks, academic articles, **not** personal blogs or Facebook pages.

Create a dossier about this crime, making sure that your research project answers the questions below.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/23/one-last-job-inside-story-of-the-hatton-garden-heist>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-35126667>

'One last job' Sky One documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIqZCNzt00A>

- What type of crime was it?
- What was unusual about the offenders?
- What prison sentence did the offenders receive?
- Do you think they should have received this sentence? Why?
- Do you think that there were any factors that the judge should have taken into account before sentencing them?