

A level LAW

Pre course TASK

Research / make / bring / present

Within the new AQA specification we study criminal law; the law of negligence (tort) and human rights. There are a number of landmark cases that have changed the law and hit the headlines. In all three A level papers you will be expected to write essays with themes including fault, law and justice, law and morals or balancing competing interests. These cases and issues provide material for those titles.

Research at least one of the following criminal cases **and** one of the listed civil law or Human rights issues;

make a powerpoint (or similar) you can present to the class;

bring it to the first lesson in September and **present** to the class

Criminal

- R v Martin (Anthony) [2002] (Tony Martin who shot the burglar – BBC / You Tube film ‘to kill a burglar’)
- R v Ahluwalia (Battered wife who killed her husband - there is a You Tube film called ‘Provoked’)
- R v Clegg (British soldier who opened fire on car of joyriders in N Ireland)
- The Guildford four or The Birmingham six (IRA bombing convictions later declared unsafe)
- The murder of Stephen Lawrence (Nelson Mandela even stepped into this can of worms)
- Sally Clark (tragic mother convicted of murdering her babies on questionable forensic evidence... this one has a very sad ending)
- DPP v Pretty and DPP v Purdy (google Diane Pretty and Debbie Purdy) on Assisted Dying /Euthanasia – you might also choose to watch Terry Pratchett on You Tube in the documentary – *Choosing to Die* (graphic).

Civil Law and Human rights

- Hillsborough Stadium disaster (inquests, reviews, compensation, injustice... you might find the important cases of R v Bland and Alcock, you will find the use of a jury outside the normal role in the Crown Court)
- Gillick v West Norfolk & Wisbech Area Health Authority (a mother with five daughters under the age of 16 who sought a declaration that it would be unlawful for a doctor to prescribe contraceptives to girls under 16 without the knowledge or consent of the parent - she lost. Debates right of the child... lead to the concept of Gillick competency)
- BREXIT and the implications of article 50 – Google the effect of leaving the EU on parliamentary sovereignty. You should include information about the fishy case of Factortame in this issue.
- Donoghue v Stephenson – the snail in the ginger beer and the birth of the law of tort
- Mary and Jodie in 2000 – the conjoined twins and the legal battle to allow doctors to sacrifice the weaker twin to save the stronger, against the Catholic parents’ wishes.
- Privacy, super-injunctions, human rights, Article 8 and 10 ECHR and the Ryan Giggs sex scandal in 2011
- Immigration, deportation, The Human Rights Act 1998 and Theresa May

Many of these cases led to changes in the law... if you dig deeper online you will find this out... you might find the new partial defences to murder in the Coroner’s and Justice’s Act 2009 or perhaps the setting up of the Criminal Complaints Review Commission...

This is all interesting and useful stuff... so spend some time online looking into it. You need to decide quickly in Year 12 if the subject is for you; and having researched some legal issues will give you a better idea of where the subject leads over the two years. I have asked you to look at two of the issues... but if you are keen you will look at more – because they are fascinating...

Have a good Summer and congratulations on choosing Law - Miss Bennett