



## AS and A Level Law

### Introduction

AS and A Level Law are being reformed in Wales for first delivery from September 2017. The reformed AS and A Level Law will be developed by WJEC and will be the only version of the qualification available to learners on state funded programmes in Wales, as no other exam board has decided to develop this qualification for use in Wales. As part of the reform process, the public are consulted in regards to content, structure and assessment of the reformed qualifications.

We have developed the proposals in this questionnaire through consultation with a number of stakeholders including the WJEC, school and college practitioners, universities and the Welsh Government. The outcomes of this questionnaire will help inform the development of design criteria for the qualifications: AS and A Level Law. The approval criteria will be reflected in the specification and sample assessment materials of the reformed AS and A Level Law.



## AS and A Level Law

### Subject aims and content

The current subject criteria for A Level Law can be found at the link below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/371170/11-10-18-gce-law.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/371170/11-10-18-gce-law.pdf)

A Level Law is also being reformed in England. Stakeholders consulted in Wales were mindful of the reform to ensure the reformed qualifications in England and Wales are comparable. The subject criteria for the reformed A Level Law qualification in England can be found at the link below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/496377/Law\\_AS\\_A\\_Level\\_subject\\_content.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496377/Law_AS_A_Level_subject_content.pdf)

#### Subject aims and objectives

The current subject criteria for A Level Law stipulate that AS and A Level specifications in Law should encourage students to:

- develop and sustain their enjoyment of, and interest in, the subject;
- develop knowledge and understanding of selected areas of the law of England, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- develop an understanding of legal method and reasoning;
- develop the techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems by applying legal rules;
- develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions with reference to appropriate legal authority;
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of law in society.

Stakeholders consulted in Wales suggested the current subject aims are appropriate for the Level of study, but that they could be improved by including the development of critical awareness and legal argument skills as further aims. We therefore propose retaining the current subject aims for the new A Level Law qualification with addition of the following:

Students must:

- develop the ability to communicate persuasive legal arguments by reference to appropriate legal authorities
- be able to demonstrate critical awareness of the influence and operation of the law in society

**Q1: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the proposed subject aims and objectives for A Level Law in Wales?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Law

### Subject content

We asked our panel of stakeholders in Wales to consider the content requirements being introduced in England.

Broadly the content in England stipulates that specifications must require students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the nature of law and the legal system of England and Wales;
- private law (law of contract or law of tort);
- public law (criminal law or human rights law);
- and for A Level, a second of one of the two areas of law listed above for private and public law.

The stakeholders consulted considered the content to be appropriate and that it would offer students a breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of law and the legal system. It was noted, however, that aspects of 'Welsh Law', that is primary and secondary legislation produced by the Welsh Assembly, should also be included in the reformed A Level Law in Wales.

We propose that the subject content for the reformed A Level Law in England should be adopted for the reformed AS and A Level Law in Wales with the following alterations and additions:

- the inclusion of primary and secondary legislation produced by the Welsh Assembly through their devolved authority, including the legislative basis on which the authority is granted;
- law relating to the bilingual nature of Wales;
- references made to the English legal system will be replaced with the legal system of England and Wales.

**Q2: To what extent do you agree/disagree with the proposed subject content for A Level Law in Wales?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Law

### Assessment objectives

The following table shows the assessment objectives and weightings for the current A Level Law qualification:

| Objective | Requirements   | Weighting |          |             |
|-----------|--|-----------|----------|-------------|
|           |  | AS Level  | A2 Level | A Level     |
| AO1       | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles by selecting and explaining relevant information and illustrating with examples and citation | 45–55%    | 35–45%   | 40–50%      |
| AO2       | Analyse legal material, issues and situations, and evaluate and apply the appropriate legal rules and principles.  | 30–40%    | 45–55%   | 37.5– 47.5% |
| AO3       | Present a logical and coherent argument and communicate relevant material in a clear and effective manner using appropriate legal terminology.                     | 5–15%     | 5–15%    | 5–15%       |

The following assessment objectives will apply to the reformed A Level Law in England:

| Objective | Requirements   | Weighting |         |
|-----------|--|-----------|---------|
|           |  | AS Level  | A Level |
| AO1       | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles  | 40-50%    | 30-40%  |
| AO2       | Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology | 25-35%    | 25-35%  |
| AO3       | Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues  | 20-30%    | 30-40%  |

Stakeholders consulted felt that the proposed assessment objectives and weightings for A Level Law in England would be appropriate for the reformed qualification in Wales.

It is proposed that the following assessment objectives and weightings should apply to the reformed A Level Law:

| Objective | Requirements   | Weighting |          |         |
|-----------|--|-----------|----------|---------|
|           |  | AS Level  | A2 Level | A Level |
| AO1       | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal rules and principles  | 40-50%    | 30-40%   | 30-40%  |
| AO2       | Apply legal rules and principles to given scenarios in order to present a legal argument using appropriate legal terminology | 25-35%    | 25-35%   | 25-35%  |
| AO3       | Analyse and evaluate legal rules, principles, concepts and issues  | 20-30%    | 30-40%   | 30-40%  |

**Q3: To what extent do you agree/disagree that the proposed assessment objectives and weightings should apply to the reformed A Level Law in Wales?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Law

### Non examination assessment (NEA)

In reformed qualifications in Wales, non examination assessment is only used where it is the most suitable form of assessment, for example, to carry out a field study or a musical performance. Non examination assessment is therefore only used when written examinations cannot provide valid assessment of specific skills or knowledge. Currently A Level Law is fully assessed through written examinations. We propose that the reformed A Level Law in Wales should continue to be assessed entirely through written examinations.

#### **Q4: To what extent do you agree/disagree that A Level Law should be fully assessed through written examinations?**

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree
- I don't know

Comments (we would encourage you to make a comment, particularly if you disagree with the proposal)



## AS and A Level Law

### Continuing professional development/resources

**Q5: What support and resources do you feel centres and teachers may require to achieve maximum readiness to deliver the revised specification?**

**Please provide comments**



## AS and A Level Law

### Equality impact

The Equality Act 2010 states that public bodies must have 'due regard', when making decisions, to ensure there is no discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals or groups, to ensure equality and to foster good relations in relation to protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and sexual reassignment).

**Q6: With this in mind, please highlight below if you feel any of this proposal has the potential to have a positive or negative impact on individuals with protected characteristics and whether any of the proposal would cause accessibility issues for learners in Wales.**



## AS and A Level Law

### Personal details

**Participants under the age of 16 are requested NOT to fill in this section.**

If you supply contact details, we may contact you for clarification of your answers. Qualifications Wales (QW) will not share these details, or details of your answers with any third party.

#### Personal details

Name

Company

Email Address

**Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of your organisation?**

- Individual
- Organisation

**Please select the type of organisation or choose 'not applicable' if responding as an individual**

- School
- College
- University
- Qualification Awarding Body
- Government (Local, National, UK or EU)
- Non-Applicable
- Other (please specify)

**Are you a: (please select as appropriate)**

- Teacher
- College Lecturer
- University Lecturer
- Student
- Parent
- Other (please specify)