

# AS/A2 (A-Level) LAW

## The OCR Board

Students at Cambridge Tutors College are prepared for the OCR AS/ A2. It is the most interesting A-level Law course available. Students study for two papers: the AS component is on the English Legal System and the A2 component is on the Law of Contract. The specifications are very similar to the old A-level course which the College has run very successfully for over 25 years. The College uses the Contract Law A2 option because Contract Law is the foundation of commercial and land law, and is therefore the most important substantive body of law that any law student will ever study.

A-level Law requires a good command of factual detail and the ability to examine the law critically. It provides a good foundation for those who intend to study Law at university, or those contemplating a course or career in business or commerce or simply those wanting an additional AS or full A-level subject.

It is important to be aware of new developments through the regular reading of newspapers. Class discussion and debate is encouraged on the way the English Legal System and the Law of Contract operates. The course involves visits to the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court in Croydon.

No previous knowledge of Law is expected, but the ability to express oneself well and write reasonably quickly is important.

If you would like to do some preparatory reading before the course begins, we recommend 'The English Legal System' by Jacqueline Martin (the former OCR chief examiner), published by Hodder and Stoughton.

## *Computer and IT-based learning*

The Law Department has made extensive use of the College computer system and the Internet and has multiple-choice exercises on each A2 Contract topic with sound effects and recorded scores.

## *The specifications and the new four-unit examination*

The AS examination is based on aspects of the English Legal System including a documentary paper. The A2 examination is based on aspects of the Law of Contract, including a synoptic paper (no coursework).

From September 2006 the AS GCE is made up of two units and the A2 GCE is made up of two units. Therefore Law is one of the first subjects to have a four-unit (not a six-unit) course. There are therefore four unit examinations for a full A-level, comprising a total of six hours and 30 minutes of examination sessions.

Unit 1 (AS) requires four answers from seven questions in a two-hour examination.

Unit 2 (AS) is a documentary-style paper when students choose one from two questions in a one-hour examination.

Unit 4A (A2) requires three answers from eight questions, comprising one essay, one problem answer and one evaluation answer in a two-hour paper.

Unit 4B (A2) is a compulsory three-question synoptic paper based on a pre-studied special study booklet to be answered in 90 minutes.

AS Unit 1: The *English Legal System* and AS Unit 2: *Sources of Law* concentrate on various aspects of the English Legal System, including the courts; alternative methods of dispute resolution; police powers; principles of sentencing; the judiciary; the legal profession; provision and funding of legal services; lay magistrates; juries; the doctrine of precedent; Acts of Parliament; delegated legislation; statutory interpretation; European Union law.

A2 Units 4A and 4B (The *Law of Contract*) cover the formation of a contract; contents of a contract; exemption clauses; privity of contract; vitiating factors of misrepresentation, mistake, restraint of trade clauses, duress and undue influence; discharge of contracts.