



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 22 May 2025 – Afternoon

A Level Law

H418/01 The legal system and criminal law

Time allowed: 2 hours



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer **five** questions in total:
 Answer **one** question from Questions 1 and 2 and **one** question from Questions 3 and 4 in Section A.
 Choose **one** Part in Section B. Answer the **three** questions for that part.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

The legal system

Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2. Then answer Question 3 **or** Question 4.

Answer Question 1 **or** Question 2.

1 Describe the different sources of funding for civil cases. [8]

2 Explain the community sentences available to an adult offender. [8]

Answer Question 3 **or** Question 4.

3 Discuss the disadvantages of the judiciary. [12]

4 Discuss the benefits of using the civil courts to solve a dispute. [12]

SECTION B

Criminal law

Choose **Part 1** or **Part 2**.

Part 1

Answer the **three** questions.

The first two questions are about the scenarios. The scenarios are **not** related.

Heidi and Casey have been married for ten years when Heidi tells Casey she is divorcing him and going to live with another man. Casey is very upset and decides to get his revenge on Heidi. He goes to a hardware shop planning to buy some acid to throw at Heidi. While standing at the checkout with the acid, he notices a CCTV camera and realises he is being filmed. He leaves quickly without buying the acid. He asks his friend, Felix, a chemistry teacher, to get some acid for him. Casey tells him he needs it to unblock a drain. Felix can see that Casey is very upset and he is suspicious about why he wants the acid. He gives Casey a bottle of harmless liquid instead. Casey goes to Heidi's work and when she exits the building, he throws the contents of the bottle over her. Heidi is unharmed.

Beth is over eight months pregnant and is due to give birth in two weeks' time. Her sister, Jane, is very jealous of Beth because of the attention she is getting from their family. One day, Jane is helping Beth to look for a new flat. When they are both standing on the staircase, Jane pushes Beth from behind. Beth falls to the bottom of the stairs and is seriously injured. She is taken to hospital. While in surgery, Beth gives birth prematurely to a baby boy. The surgeons are unable to save Beth, and she dies during the operation due to her injuries. The baby is breathing independently but is in a critical condition. He is quickly taken to another operating theatre on a trolley by a hospital porter. However, the porter is going so fast that the trolley crashes into a patient. The baby falls to the floor and dies instantly.

- 5 Advise whether Casey is criminally liable for any attempted crimes.
Do **not** discuss the specific crimes. [20]
- 6 Advise whether Jane has the required *actus reus* for the murder of Beth and of the baby.
Do **not** discuss the *mens rea* of murder. [20]

Essay question on criminal law

- 7* 'The current law relating to assault occasioning actual bodily harm, charged under s47 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 is easily criticised and needs to be reformed urgently.'

Discuss the extent to which this statement is accurate. [20]

Part 2

Answer the **three** questions.

The first two questions are about the scenarios. The scenarios are **not** related.

Amos is waiting in a fish and chip shop when he notices that Ben, the owner, has left the cash till open. He decides to steal some money from the till and goes behind the counter. However, as he approaches the cash till, Ben returns from the storeroom and sees Amos behind the counter. Amos panics and runs out of the shop. Ben shouts after Amos, "Don't you come back in here! You're banned!" Later, Amos realises that he has left his wallet on the counter of the fish and chip shop. He goes back and as he can't see Ben, goes inside. He cannot see his wallet, but in front of the counter is a fridge. He decides he will take a bottle of water from the fridge and leave without paying for it. However, when he tries to open the fridge he finds that it is locked.

Rishi's hobby is playing video games. He wants to buy the latest instalment of his favourite game, but he has no money to pay for it. He decides to steal a copy from a video games shop. Rishi is nervous about stealing the game so drinks several beers to overcome his fears. Rishi does not realise how strong the beer is. He goes into the shop and puts a copy of the video game under his shirt before walking out without paying. Felix works in the shop. He suffers badly with anxiety. His doctor has prescribed a sedative drug to help with the anxiety. On this occasion, the drug has had an unusual side effect which makes Felix feel confused and angry. When he sees Rishi walk out the shop without paying for the video game, he chases after him. Felix punches Rishi and knocks him to the ground, breaking his pelvis. Felix cannot remember anything about the incident.

8 Advise whether Amos is criminally liable for burglary. [20]

9 Advise whether Rishi and Felix can avoid liability for any offences using the defence of intoxication. Do **not** discuss the specific crimes. [20]

Essay question on criminal law

10* 'The current law relating to assault occasioning actual bodily harm, charged under s47 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 is easily criticised and needs to be reformed urgently.'

Discuss the extent to which this statement is accurate. [20]

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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