



YEAR 9 CITIZENSHIP – TERM 3: The Law

Civil and Criminal Law – the differences	
Civil Law	Criminal Law
Disputes between individuals, groups of organisations	Offences against the community as a whole as decided by parliament
Employment and contract law	Against the person such as: murder, rape and assault
Divorce, child custody and family law	Against the property such as theft, burglary and fraud
Cases of discrimination under the Equality Act	Against the state such as: tax evasion, terrorism and smuggling
Land and property ownership	Assisting another criminal or perceived to be assisting – “joint enterprise”
Accident and injury	

The Equality Act 2010
Designed to protect people against discrimination in relation to any of these specific characteristics:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Marriage and civil partnership • Pregnancy and maternity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race • Religion and belief • Sex • Sexual orientation

UK Courts	
County court	Deals with civil matters eg financial or housing disputes, family issues, personal injury
Crown Court	The court used by the state for the trial of serious crimes eg murder, rape, assault
Supreme Court	Final court of appeal in the UK for civil and criminal cases
Magistrates Court	A court through which all criminal cases pass. 95% of cases stay in this court but the more serious cases move to Crown Court for trial

The purpose of law – protecting rights and promoting freedoms and equalities
During the second part of the 20 th century, governments passed laws to protect people’s rights, promote their freedoms and guarantee equalities by safeguarding people against <i>discrimination</i> .
The two most recent laws to protect equalities in the UK are the Human Rights Act (1998) and the Equality Act (2010)

Rules and Laws - differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules are designed to keep you safe at home or in school or the workplace • Rules are acceptable ways to behave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules are often written down so expectations are clear • Laws are rules that apply in all situations • Laws apply to everyone in society – no one is above the law

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who break laws are treated more consistently than would usually be the case for rule-breakers (and often by the police)
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Key terms	
Discrimination	Unfavourable treatment often based on prejudice
Supreme Court	Final court of appeal in the UK for civil and criminal cases
Defendant	The person accused of an offence
Prosecution	The lawyers who work for the state/crown who try to prove the defendant is guilty
Jury	A group of 12 ordinary people who decide if a defendant is guilty or not
Legal Aid	Financial assistance for people with low incomes so they can have access to justice
Solicitor	A member of the legal profession (lawyer) who often deal with civil cases
Barrister	A member of the legal profession (lawyer) who represent clients in criminal courts
Crown Prosecution Service	CPS considers information from the police on criminal cases and decide whether it should go to court or not
Legislation	Acts or laws passed by parliament
Data Protection Act	Controls how personal information is used by organisations and businesses

Assessment page

Explain the difference between civil and criminal law using an example of each.

Name 3 different types of legislation that helps ensure equality and protection of our rights.

Think of 2 different scenarios and explain whether laws or rules apply.

Create a flow chart that shows the different courts in the UK legal system.

Write a paragraph that links the following words together: Court, defendant, prosecution, jury & crown prosecution service.