



Law Reading List

AQA Published Textbook

AQA Year 1

Authors: Jacqueline Martin, Nicholas Price

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AQA Year 2

Authors: Jacqueline Martin, Nicholas Price and Richard Wortley

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A Level Law Review Magazine – Phillip Alllen

Websites

- British and Irish Legal Information Institute: www.bailii.org
- Law website including lecture notes and cases on AQA units: www.e-lawstudent.com
- St Brendan's Sixth Form College www.stbrn.ac.uk/other/depts/law/index.htm
- The English Law Website of Asif Tufal: www.a-level-law.com
- The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk
- The Times www.thetimes.co.uk

You may also like to read the BBC's website [Law in Action](#), and download their podcasts. Other recommendations are the [Guardian's law pages](#) and the [Counsel magazine](#).

Research videos:

- [Research led to Supreme Court ruling on removal of UK employment tribunal fees](#)
- [Tackling Adolescent to Parent Violence](#)
- [Research in Westminster: Human Rights law and the treatment of rape victims](#)

Law and Politics

You must have, or gain, some idea of the workings of the British political system before studying Constitutional Law. You should read a good-quality "broadsheet" newspaper (such as *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, or *The Guardian*), and listen to topical political programmes such as *The Today Programme* and *Newsnight*. We would certainly recommend that you take a keen interest in the political issues of the day, especially constitutional debates which are in the news regularly (e.g. relations between politicians and judges, especially in human rights cases; reform of the House of Lords; proposals for a referendum on EU membership; Scottish independence). If you feel completely ignorant of all of this, you should try to do some of the introductory Constitutional Law reading.

Law in Action

You might perhaps like to get some feel for the law in action, for example by observing a local court in session. You could visit your local Magistrates' and/or County Courts (or regional equivalent, such as the Sheriff Court in Scotland). Even the very highest and grandest courts, such as the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand and the Supreme Court (Parliament Square), are open to the public.

Further Reading

Glanville Williams, *Learning the Law* (14th edition by ATH Smith, 2010)

This is a popular introductory book. It will *not* give you any specific, substantive legal knowledge, but it *will* provide you with useful information ranging from how to read cases to what the abbreviations mean.

"This is not a textbook, and it is not a book that is likely to be prescribed in any examination syllabus. It is, I hope, a book that the law students will read voluntarily," writes Williams at the very beginning of the book and of course is being read by a large majority of law students globally, which is proved by the fact that it has gone through its 14th edition since its birth in 1945.

***The Paper Chase* by John Jay Osborn**

This iconic law school novel was published in 1971 by real-life Harvard Law School graduate John Osborn. 'The Paper Chase' revolves around a fictional law student who attends Harvard Law School and is forced to contend with the towering professor, Charles Kingsfield, and his equally-demanding but irresistible daughter.

The book was made into a movie directed by James Bridges. But, be warned, the film includes scenes of Professor Kingsfield employing the Socratic method that might make you question your decision to attend law school.

***Law School Confidential* by Robert H. Miller**

Law School Confidential is quite possibly the most comprehensive book written on the law school experience. The book begins by addressing readers who are thinking about applying to law school and ends with a discussion about the bar exam. *Law School Confidential* provides a blow-by-blow account of the law school experience and is the sort of book you will return to time and time again as you make your way through the next 3 years.

***About Law* – Tony Honoré**

This is the first book I read when I decided I wanted to study Law. It's also the only one I put on my personal statement when applying to Oxford. I think it proves that it's better to read and enjoy a small number of high-quality books than to show off with hundreds of things you don't understand.

About Law is probably the most basic introduction to law that you can get. Tony Honoré is a very well-renowned legal academic, who has managed to condense his knowledge to provide an introduction to the law that is both simple and interesting. He discusses all kinds of topics, for instance, the purpose of law, how it works (in simple terms) and he also gives a basic introduction to the English legal system.

It is strongly suggested that you read this book first, and read it even if you read nothing else on this list. It starts at the basics, and is a short book, but by the time you've finished it you'll know far more than when you started.

***Letters to a Law Student* – Nicholas McBride**

This is a collection of 'letters' to a fictional student about what it's like to study Law, and it also gives some basic explanation of the legal system.

The main focus is on telling you how to study effectively, and the advice it gives is pretty good. McBride gives all kinds of sensible and useful advice, from general topics like how much work you should be doing, to more specific things like how to make notes on a case.