



Year 11 to 12 Transition Tasks

Summer 2026

Name:

HOD: Mrs Wilcox

Deadline:

	Tick when completed
Task 1	
Task 2	
Task 3	
Task 4	
Task 5	
Task 6	

Task 1

There are two main classifications of law: criminal and civil. Read the articles below and find 5 things about criminal law that are different to civil law. Take a look in the example in the first box to help you.

You could think about the following: courts, legal personnel that work in each classification and/or the work they complete.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8mpmnb/revision/3>

<https://www.claims.co.uk/knowledge-base/legal-system/difference-between-civil-criminal-law>

<https://www.britannica.com/story/what-is-the-difference-between-criminal-law-and-civil-law>

CRIMINAL LAW	CIVIL LAW
• Aims to punish the person who committed the offence.	• Aims to compensate the person who has lost in a civil trial.

Task 2

Using the Sentencing Council's guidance on their website (link below), research the 10 criminal offences below and add which court they would be heard in and the possible sentence.

<https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/going-to-court/which-court-will-a-case-be-heard-in/>

OFFENCE	PLACE OF TRIAL	POSSIBLE SENTENCE
Murder		
Theft		
Speeding		
Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)		
Rape		
Possession - Cannabis		
Criminal Damage		
Burglary		
Dealing Class A drugs		
Driving without insurance		

Task 3

Sentencing is perhaps one of the most contentious areas in law. Read the article below and answer the questions*.

*The last question requires your own evaluation.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49886053>

1. What changes to sentencing have been suggested?

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2. How are prison sentences decided?

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3. What influences the sentence given by a judge?

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4. What type of sentences may be given by a judge?

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5. Why do most offences offer a range of options?

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6. What is a life sentence?

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7. When are most offenders released and what happens to them?

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8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of custodial (prison) sentences? You may wish to undertake further research to help you to answer this question.

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Task 4

In many crimes there are two elements that must be present in order for there to be a completed crime.

The parts are known as the **actus reus** and the **mens rea**.

The actus reus is the PHYSICAL part of the crime what the defendant has done or failed to do.

The mens rea is the MENTAL element of the crime committed – what the defendant is thinking when the actus reus is performed.

1. List three actions that could lead to an unlawful killing:

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Using E-Law Resources - <https://www.e-lawresources.co.uk/The-law-of-murder.php>
- complete the table below with any relevant information about the actus reus and mens rea of murder.

MURDER	
Actus reus	Mens rea

2. In what circumstances may killing be deemed to be lawful?

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Task 5

Read the blog below and summarise how the mens rea, sentences and available defences for murder and manslaughter are different.

<https://www.jdspicer.co.uk/site/blog/crime-fraud/murder-vs-manslaughter-whats-the-difference#:~:text=In%20summary%2C%20then%3A,or%20cause%20grievous%20bodily%20harm>

Murder
vs.
manslaughter

Task 6

Explore statistics relating to various aspects of fatal offences. This could include the most common method of killing or the most common victims and perpetrators (age groups).

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