

Independent Study Booklet

Summer 2020



Name: _____

Welcome! If you would like to explore Law either in anticipation of studying Law in Autumn, or just for fun, then this is one place to start...

There are a variety of tasks for you to have a go at and explore some of the key ideas and aspects of law that we will explore during the next couple of years. You can submit this by email, or bring it with you in the autumn term for a little Law Prize! I will be on email if you would like to ask any further questions, or links aren't working.

You will also find, at the end, a suggested 'watch list' of documentaries and films which are relevant to law (and some that are just great fun!)

Task No.	Outline	Completed Please date	MAH Comment on your response	R	A	G
1	Reflection on current sentencing practice					
2	Operation of the Supreme Court					
3	Case study on the operation of the Criminal Justice System & Young Offenders					
4	Evaluation of the Appeals Process					
5	Changing the Law: Double Jeopardy					
6	Extra revision-documentary					

Task One: Reflection on Sentencing

Why do prisoners only serve half their term? (bbc.co.uk)

Using a range of the information on in the source (linked in the title), produce a summary of the current operation of sentencing in England and Wales in the space below. You may present the information in any format you like, but it must cover the questions below and must not simply be copy and paste.

What influences the sentence the judge hands down?	What type of sentences may a judge hand down?	Why do most offences offer a range of options?	How does a judge decide which tariff to hand down for murder?	When are most offenders released and what happens to them?
---	--	---	--	---

Challenge: Why do you think that people are often upset or confused by the sentences handed to offenders?

Task Two: Supreme Court

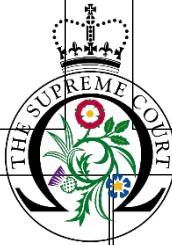
What is the UK Supreme Court? (bbc.co.uk)

Watch this documentary available on [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZtYENfNa7k): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZtYENfNa7k>

Using a range of the information on in the source, complete each of the information boxes below. Remember to include relevant legal terminology accurately used.

Name and Location:

Sum up the kind of cases and decisions that it has made over the last years:



What powers does it have (and what can't it do?):

Make up of the court: What issues do you see with who is on the court (pros and cons)?

Exploring a Case:

Pick one of the cases which the article or documentary highlights. Summarise the facts, question and decision by the court. End with a critical comment on your view of the case and decision:

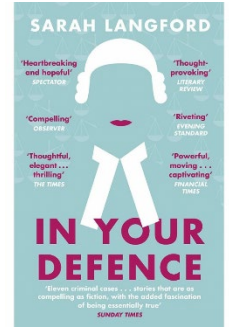
Critical Response:

Task Three: Operation of the Legal System

Sarah Langford: In Your Defence

Langford is a practising defence barrister and wrote this book to highlight some of the key issues within the law that she saw. It is very readable, and uses 11 cases to illustrate different issues within the law. Each chapter begins with the 'action' of the case, and then switches to the case and her role and perception of the issues within it. You will find a copy of this book in any public library.

You are going to read **Case 1: Dominic**.



Particulars of the first offence (what happened):	Prior Offending history:	
What concerns did Langford have about representing him in the Magistrates Court?	View of the police:	
What was the judgement of the court on the first offence and why?	<i>Critical Response:</i> how far do you agree with Langford on the outcome for this first offence?	
Particulars of the second offence (what happened):	What issues surrounding sentencing and remand are raised in this section?	
What sentence was handed down to Dominic for this first case and why did that cause issues for both Sarah and Dominic?		

Critical Thinking: How would you address the issues brought up by this chapter?

The Courage of Our Convictions: Appeals

The Secret Barrister is a blogger and practicing Criminal law Barrister. Last year, he collated a number of issues into a book: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken. It's a great read and very hard hitting – essentially it covers most of what we do in the English Legal System.



You are going to read **Chapter 11**. This focuses on appeals, their operation and the consequences of winning an appeal (it's not all roses and happiness!) You need to complete the grid in as much detail as you can.

Impact of prison on offender and their family:	What does he think of the current appeals system and why?
Do you think he is right to say that to most people the Court of Appeal is "everything"?	Case Study: Victor Nealon Impact of maintaining innocence on sentence: Facts: Charge: Grounds of appeals and outcomes: Outcomes of appeals: Issues with compensation:
Key facts and figures on appeals in the Court of Appeal (including leave):	
Bridgewater Four: What issues with the operation of appeals are brought out by this case and the enquiries?	What happens to D after a successful appeal?

Task Five: Changing and reforming the law

Double Jeopardy

Watch the episode on **BBC iPlayer: Catching Britain's Killers: The Crimes that Changed Us (Episode 2)** Warning: there may be details which are upsetting.

P.S. the other two episodes are excellent as well... take a look!

1. What issue was raised by the case of Donald Hume?
2. What were the facts of the case of Julie Hogg?
3. What evidence was there that Dunlop may have been responsible for it?
4. What did the jury decide at the trial and what impact did this have?
5. What was the aim of the double jeopardy law?
6. What impact did the Stephen Lawrence report (McPherson Inquiry) have on double jeopardy?

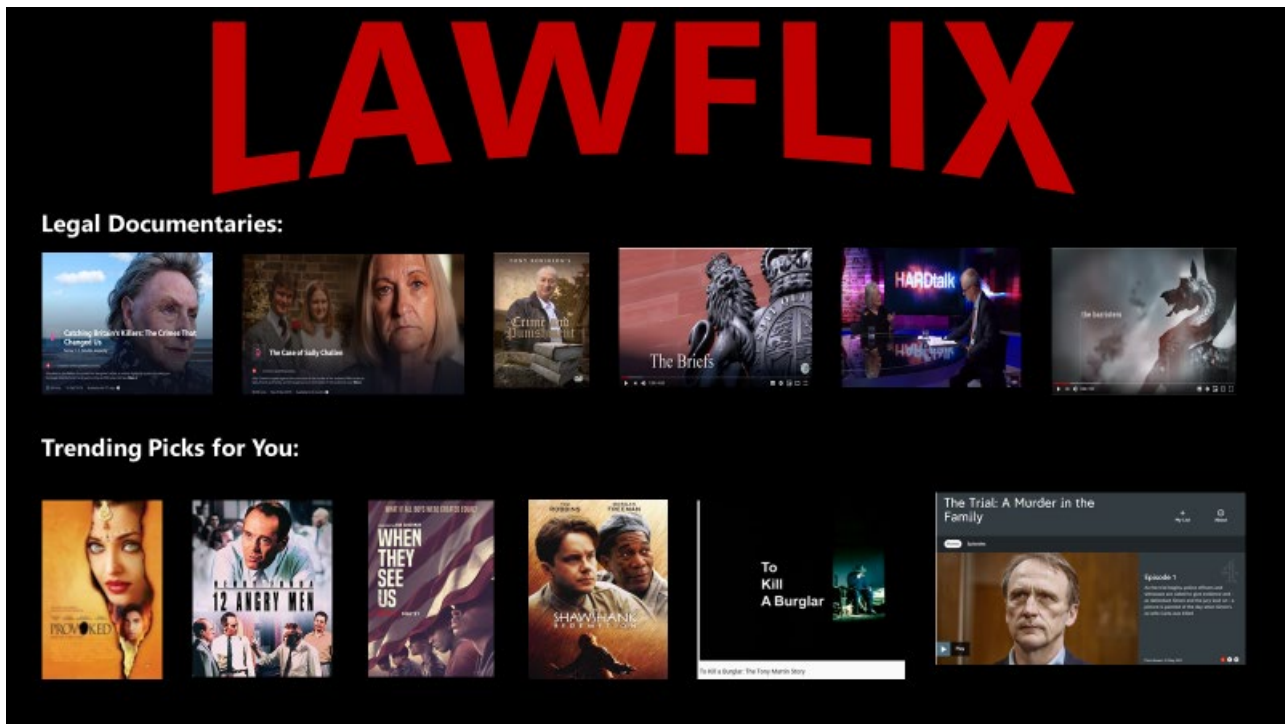


7. What further charges did Billy Dunlop face and what was the evidence to support them? What sentence did he receive?
8. How does this case illustrate lobbying by both individuals and MPs/Peers?
9. What other legal principle would be affected by the change to the law on double jeopardy?
10. Why was Julie Hogg's mother still apprehensive following the White Paper?
11. What are the criteria for double jeopardy to be set aside?
12. Explain one of the further cases affected by double jeopardy change.

Below are a range of documentaries and legally linked films...

The original PowerPoint slide you have access to contains all of the links to any open access sources – just click on the **image**.

In case you need them, the suggestions and their origins are below.



Title	Origin	Link (if available)
Catching Britain's Killers	iPlayer (BBC)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009dz2/catching-britains-killers-the-crimes-that-changed-us-series-1-2-double-jeopardy
The Case of Sally Challen	iPlayer (BBC)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000c65v/the-case-of-sally-challen
Crime and Punishment (History of the Law)	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gdZMLtrk
The Briefs	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWTcg8Ye6fl
HARDtalk interview with Lady Hale	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1VozJR_jC8&t=414s
The Bar	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d78ROXCPgl
To Kill a Burglar	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BemcOAg53eM
The Trial: Murder in the Family	All4	https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-trial-a-murder-in-the-family