

We're delighted you're thinking about studying at Brunel University London.

Our lecturers have put together the following information to help you prepare for your course. This will give you a snapshot of the materials and reading list you'll be using. You'll get a full breakdown of information before you enrol.

On our website you can also [find out more about your modules](#) and [chat to a current student](#).

If you have any more questions, [please get in touch](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to Brunel.

Sample lecture/coursework questions

Murder or Manslaughter?

The **actus reus** of murder consists of the “unlawful killing of a human being in the Queen’s peace”.

The **mens rea** of murder is “malice aforethought”, which has been interpreted by the courts as meaning an “intention to kill or to cause grievous bodily harm”.

What principle(s) of law, i.e. murder or manslaughter, should be applied to the following material facts?

- a) A tram takes a sharp bend at speed and runs off the tracks, killing seven people.
- b) A bin lorry mounts the pavement killing six people and injuring fifteen. The driver fell asleep at the wheel.
- c) A lorry mounts the pavement running over and killing a 12 year old boy.
- d) A man aims a sawn-off shotgun at another man at point blank range and fires four shots into him.



Reading list

Essential reading

- Moore, I & Newbery-Jones, C. The Successful Law Student: an Insider's Guide to Studying Law (OUP 2018) - ISBN 9780198757085
- Embley, J, Goodchild, P & Shephard, C. Legal Systems and Skills: Learn, Develop, Apply (4th edition OUP 2020) Chapters 5 & 7 - ISBN 9780198834328

Further reading

- Elliott, C & Quinn, F. English Legal System (20th edition, London: Pearson 2019)
- Finch, E & Fafinski, S. Legal Skills (7th edition, OUP 2019)
- Foster, S. Legal Writing Skills (5th edition, Pearson 2019)
- Gillespie, A. The English Legal System (7th edition, OUP 2019)
- Holland, J & Webb, J. Learning Legal Rules (10th edition, OUP 2019)
- Knowles, J. Effective Legal Research (4th edition Sweet & Maxwell 2016)
- McBride, N. Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law (4th edition Pearson 2017)
- Wilson, S. Rutherford, H. Storey, T. Wortley, N & Kotecha, B. Learning the Law (4th edition OUP 2020)

Websites

- [UK Justice website](#) - recent reforms and research as well as government departments and courts.
- [UK Parliament website](#) - parliament and the law-making process
- [All statutes in force in the UK since 1267](#)
- [Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service](#)
- [Judiciary of England and Wales](#)
- [Law Commission](#) - reforming the law
- [Law Society](#) - for solicitors
- [Bar Council](#) - for barristers
- [European Court of Human Rights](#) - human rights
- [European Union](#) - information on EU Law
- [Law in Action - Radio 4](#)

Indicative content

Students will explore key building blocks of the English legal system including:

- Introduction to the Study of Law
- Sources and Classification of Law
- Common Law and the Doctrine of Precedent; finding and applying case law
- Legislation and Statutory Interpretation
- European Law (ECHR & EU) and its impact on the English legal system
- The Legal Profession(s)
- The Civil Justice System (Courts and Processes)
- The Criminal Justice System (Courts and Processes)

Students will also familiarise themselves with key legal skills and methods:

- Maximising your success as a law student
- Legal research methodology; using electronic databases and the library
- Academic writing & integrating materials
- Referencing
- How to construct a bibliography
- Legal reasoning and critical thinking skills
- Career skills
- How to adopt a professional attitude and perform efficiently in an interview and/or assessment centre(s).

