1. Match these bodies of law (1-3) with their definitions (a-c).

1 civil law **2 common law** **3 criminal law**	a) area of the law which deals with crimes and their punishments, including fines and/or imprisonment (also **penal law**); b) 1) legal system developed from Roman codified law, established by a state for its regulation; 2) area of the law concerned with non-criminal matters, rights and remedies; c) legal system which is the foundation of the legal systems of most of the English-speaking countries of the world, based on customs, usage and court decisions (also **case law, judge-made law).**

2. Complete the text below contrasting civil law, common law and criminal law using the words in the box.

based on bound by codified custom disputes non-criminal precedents provisions rulings legislation

The term 'civil law' contrasts with both 'common law' and 'criminal law'. In the first sense of the term, civil law refers to a body of law 1) _____ written legal codes derived from fundamental normative principles. Legal 2) _____ are settled by reference to this code, which has been arrived at through 3) _____. Judges are 4) _____ the written law and its 5) _____.

In contrast, common law was originally developed through 6) _____, at a time before laws were written down. Common law is based on 7) _____ created by judicial decisions, which means that past 8) _____ are taken into consideration when cases are decided. It should be noted that today common law is also 9) _____, i.e. in written form.

In the second sense of the term, civil law is distinguished from criminal law, and refers to the body of law dealing with 10) _____ matters, such as breach of contract.

3. Complete the sentences below using the words in the box.

bill directive ordinance regulations statutes
A bill – (законопроект в парламенте) – draft document before it is made into law; A directive – (предписание, директива) – legal device used by the European Union to establish policies at the European level to be incorporated into the laws of the Member States; An ordinance – (постановление муниципального органа) – law enacted by a town, city or county government; A statute – (государственный нормативный акт, закон) – formal written law enacted by a legislative body; Regulations – (нормативные положения) – rules issued by a government agency to carry out the intent of the law authorized by a statute, and generally providing more detail on a subject than the statute.

1 The Town Council will conduct a public hearing regarding a proposed _____ concerning property tax.

2 According to the _____ concerning working time, overtime work is work which is officially ordered in excess of 40 hours in a working week or in excess of eight hours a day.

3 Early this year, the government introduced a new _____ on electronic commerce to Parliament.

4 A number of changes have been made to the federal _____ governing the seizing of computers and the gathering of electronic evidence.

S The European Union _____ on Data Protection established legal principles aimed at protecting personal data privacy and the free flow of data.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

There are several ways to refer to what a law says. Look at the following sentences:

*The law **stipulates that** corporations must have three governing bodies.*
*The law **provides that** a witness must be present.*
*The patent law **specifies that** the subject matter must be 'useful'.*

These verbs can also be used to express what a law says:

*The law **states / sets forth / determines / lays down / prescribes that ...***

Types of Courts

Courts can be distinguished with regard to the type of cases they hear.

4. Match each of the following types of court (1-9) with the explanation of what happens there (a-i).

1 appellate court *(or* court of appeals, appeals court) **2 crown court** **3 high court** *(or* supreme court) **4 juvenile court** **5 lower court** *(or* court of first instance) **6 magistrates' court** **7 moot court** **8 small-claims court** **9 tribunal**	a) This is where a person under the age of 18 would be tried. b) This is the court of primary jurisdiction, where a case is heard for the first time. c) This is where small crimes are tried in the UK. d) This is where law students argue hypothetical cases. e) This is where a case is reviewed which has already been heard in a lower court. f) This is where cases involving a limited amount of money are handled. g) This is where serious criminal cases are heard by a judge and a jury in the UK. h) This is where a group of specially chosen people examine legal problems of a particular type, such as employment disputes. i) This is usually the highest court in a jurisdiction, the court of last resort.

LIVEWORKSHEETS