

AREAS OF LAW

Exercise 1

Look at the words in the box and decide if they come from **civil** law or **criminal** law.

a robbery	☐ criminal	☐ civil	e litigation	☐ criminal	☐ civil
b contract	☐ criminal	☐ civil	f sue	☐ criminal	☐ civil
c partnership	☐ criminal	☐ civil	g business	☐ criminal	☐ civil
d prison	☐ criminal	☐ civil	h prosecute	☐ criminal	☐ civil

Exercise 2

Look at the categories of civil law and match them with the very simple definitions provided.

☐ Maritime law	☐ I.T. law
☐ The law of tort	☐ Intellectual property law
☐ Business and company law	☐ Family law
☐ Contract law	☐ Employment/labour law
☐ The law of equity & trusts	☐ The law of real property/conveyancing

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>a The law that deals with the protection of the rights of inventors (who might invent a new drug or machine) or artistes (who might write a book or a song).</p> <p>b The law that deals with situations where someone has control of property for a period of time and must look after it for the benefit of someone else.</p> <p>c The law that deals with events such as divorce and the custody of (the right to look after) children.</p> <p>d The law that deals with everything connected with information and how it is passed between people, especially by means of the Internet.</p> <p>e The law that deals with land, including transferring the ownership of buildings or land from one person to another.</p> | <p>f The law that deals with private agreements between people or companies and tries to make sure that no one suffers a loss if an agreement is broken.</p> <p>g The law that deals with every citizen's responsibility not to harm other people in any way, even if it is not a contractual or criminal situation.</p> <p>h The law that deals with people's rights, pay or conditions in the workplace.</p> <p>i The law that deals with the way businesses are set up (created) and run (operated) and how they must work in relation to each other and the general public.</p> <p>j The law that deals with everything connected with the sea or ships.</p> |
|--|---|

Exercise 3

Look at the situations below and decide which area of civil law is relevant.

- a** Anna agreed to pay Paul £4000 to landscape the garden at her new house. Paul has now finished the work but Anna says she is not satisfied with it and she has refused to pay him.

The area of law is _____

- b** Caroline and Susan want to start a business together. They need a solicitor to draft an agreement for them about how they will share all the responsibilities of the business.

The area of law is _____

- c** Daniel wants his two year old grandson, Wayne, to have his house when he dies. However, if Daniel dies before Wayne is 21 years old Daniel wants his friend, Harry, to look after the house until Wayne reaches 21 years old.

The area of law is _____

- d** Emily has been in hospital and has been very ill after an operation. She thinks that the doctor was negligent and that he has made her illness worse by his actions. She wants to claim damages.

The area of law is _____

- e** Bill has been married to Ruth for 14 years. However, he now wishes to leave Ruth and live with Jane. Bill and Ruth cannot decide how to share their property between them.

The area of law is _____

- f** Phillip has received an offer to buy his house, but there is a problem with the exact position of the boundary. The buyer's solicitor must check this before the contract is signed.

The area of law is _____

- g** Elisabeth's company transports goods from South America to England by ship. However, there was a bad storm at sea last week and the ship carrying the goods sank off the coast of France.

The area of law is _____

- h** David has been using the Internet to send a lot of private emails at work and his boss says that this is an abuse of the time for which he is paid. David has been sent home from work on full pay because his boss is investigating the situation.

The area of law is _____

Collocation bank

- to **pass** information
- to **suffer** a loss
- to **set up** a business
- to **run** a business
- to **draft** an agreement
- to **claim** damages

Preposition bank

- to pass information **between** two people or **among** a group of people
'Once the confidential information had passed **between** the two of them, it was known **among** the whole group in the office in just a few days.'
- to be married **to** someone
'She has been married **to** Peter for seven years.'
- to be **on** full pay
'The company suspended him from work **on** full pay.'

Exercise 1

Diana Williams has received this letter from a student at the school where she gave her talk. The words that have been underlined are too informal. Complete the same letter on the next page by choosing a better word or phrase from those in the box.

6 The Gate
 Chatsworth
 CH15 2MM
 24 April 20XX

Miss Diana Williams
 Chester and Pelton, Solicitors
 227 Gallowgate
 Chatsworth
 CH1 4NG

Dear Miss Williams

Your talk at Chatsworth Hill School last week

Thank you very much for the talk that you gave to our class on Tuesday. It was very interesting. I am thinking very seriously about becoming a lawyer and I hope that you can answer some questions about one or two things that were not included in your talk.

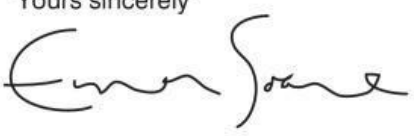
(a) In the first place, I am a little worried about the process of (b) using the civil court to start off a legal process. I am thinking of getting a claim form and some leaflets to try to find out more. If I go to the County Court in Chatsworth, will I be allowed to pick up a claim form just to look at? Also, could you tell me a little more about (c) writing more complicated legal documents such as contracts? I am very nervous about this part of the work. My mother and father bought a new house recently and the solicitor who did the (d) real estate transfer of ownership seemed to do a lot of very difficult paperwork. What happens if I make a mistake? Can the client (e) start a case in the court if I give them (f) wrong advice?

Also, you said that in the future there is going to be a lot of (g) discussing problems with someone who can help find an agreement between clients instead of going to court so often. This worries me a little. Does it mean that there will be less work for lawyers and some firms may think about making people (h) out of work?

(i) Last, you said that lawyers usually work in partnership and are rarely (j) lawyers who work alone. What will happen if I join a partnership about (k) getting the usual pay from my law firm when I am ill, or when I have a baby and I need to take (l) some time away from work to look after him or her?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely



Emma Soame

- mediation
- drafting
- maternity leave
- sick pay
- Finally
- conveyancing
- Firstly
- negligent
- sue
- redundant
- issuing a claim
- sole practitioners

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Thank you very much for the talk that you gave to our class on Tuesday. It was very interesting. I am thinking very seriously about becoming a lawyer and I hope that you can answer some questions about one or two things that were not included in your talk.

(a) _____, I am a little worried about the process of (b) _____. I am thinking of getting a claim form and some leaflets to try to find out more. If I go to the County Court in Chatsworth, will I be allowed to pick up a claim form just to look at? Also, could you tell me a little more about (c) _____ more complicated legal documents such as contracts? I am very nervous about this part of the work. My mother and father bought a new house recently and the solicitor who did the (d) _____ seemed to do a lot of very difficult paperwork. What happens if I make a mistake? Can the client (e) _____ if I give them (f) _____ advice?

Also, you said that in the future there is going to be a lot of (g) _____ between clients instead of going to court so often. This worries me a little. Does it mean that there will be less work for lawyers and some firms may think about making people (h) _____?

(i) _____, you said that lawyers usually work in partnership and are rarely (j) _____. What will happen if I join a partnership about (k) _____, or when I have a baby and I need to take (l) _____?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely



Emma Soame