

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW

Module No MODULE TITLE 2015

A101 LAW LAW IN ACTION

COURSEWORK TERM 1 COHORT ONLY

Produce a formal style report which contains at least two sections and details information recorded in relation to the two following preparatory activities, Activity 1 and Activity 2 (see below).

[100 marks] [Contributes 100 % to total module mark]

COURSEWORK GUIDANCE

In relation to this coursework task, compiling a formal report, you will be required to undertake two preparatory activities for the contents of the report:-

1. Directed research activity at the Magistrates Court (Observational exercise/note taking exercise).
2. Undertake research on the role played by laypersons as members of juries and the general operation of the jury system within the English Legal System (textbook/research exercise) Read all the following information detailed below so you are clear what you have to do.

ACTIVITY 1 - GUIDANCE

Reading about the law and how it operates is one thing but there is nothing better than immersing yourself within the real life operation of the English legal system to gain a real appreciation of the system of justice in operation. This first directed study activity requires you to do just that. For some of you this may be your first glimpse of the real operation of the legal system. This is a directed research activity which you can undertake in teams of 2 or on an individual basis - please ensure that you read all the directions listed below. ? Ensure that you have adequate writing materials and paper for all individuals to write notes on observations - RECORDING DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE NOT ALLOWED WITHIN COURT BUILDINGS AND IF FOUND WILL BE CONFISCATED AND STUDENTS WILL BE PROSECUTED FOR ATTEMPTED CONTEMPT OF COURT YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!!

The Coventry Magistrates Court have been informed that students from Coventry University will be attending court sessions and making notes from the public gallery (you do not however have to attend Coventry Magistrates Court any Magistrates Court can be visited by your team providing it is operational).

You are all ambassadors for not only the University but also more importantly yourselves - individuals within the court could potentially be future employers so ensure that you are on your best behaviour. Do not take bags and ensure that mobiles and any other telecommunication devices are switched completely off - you will be searched by court staff so I would suggest that metal objects on your person should be reduced to a minimum - note there is no safe storage place for bags and you will not be allowed to take bags into the court.

Attend the court and go to the reception area usually situated close to the inside of the main entrance of the court building and ask to speak to a court usher - explain to the court usher that you are students from Coventry University and wish to view court proceedings and take notes on those proceedings - S/he will know what is happening in any particular courtroom on that specific day - the usher may direct you to a specific court or give you a choice of courts to visit. The usher will direct you to where you need to sit within the court room - court etiquette requires that you do not talk whilst proceedings are taking place - compare notes after you leave the court room not during court proceedings-when the Magistrate/s enter and leave the room all individuals within the court must rise and sit as and when directed by the court usher (individual wearing the black gown). I would recommend that you sit within the courts for around 2 hours - if you want to stay longer by all means do so - for instance perhaps because the case is of particular interest and you want to see the final outcome.

The court is a formal place and although you do not need to 'dress up' you should make sure that you are dressed appropriately and it is WISE TO DOUBLE CHECK THAT YOUR MOBILE IS SWITCHED OFF (not merely on silent nor on meeting setting etc) before you enter the court room, in order not to disturb the work of the court, it is best to find a seat where directed by the court usher as quickly and quietly as possible. You will find seating within the public gallery usually at the back of the court - sit only where directed to by the court usher.

As mentioned already those present in court must stand when the Magistrates or District Judge enter or leave the court room and whilst in court the public are expected not to disturb proceedings in any way. Ensure that you follow the directions of the court usher at all times (wears a black gown within the court building). Undertake all the following tasks whilst at the court:-

Task 1

Draw a diagram of the court identifying the following clearly:-

- Magistrates Bench - location within the court room where the Magistrate/s sit.
- Clerk of the Court - sits in front of the Magistrate/s
- Witness box
- Location of defendant.

- Location of defendant's solicitor.
- Location of Crown Prosecutor
- Location of the public gallery - the place where you were required to sit within the court room to view proceedings.
- Location of entrance into the court room.
- Court number which your diagram represents

Task 2

Record the following information in your notes:

- Address location of court (including city/town if not attending the Coventry Magistrates Court) - Coventry Magistrates Court is situated at, 60 Little Park Street, Coventry, CV1 2SQ
- Date of visit.
- Start time of visit.
- Total time spent within the court building.
- Total time spent within the court rooms (in total).
- Court number/s visited.

Task 3

Record the following details in your notes for each of the cases that you hear within the court room/s:

- Name of defendant
- Charges against the defendant
- Basic facts of the case - circumstances of the offence in question.
- Witnesses provided for defendant- basic details of evidence given.
- Witnesses provided for the prosecution - basic details of evidence given.
- Highlight the outcome of case - what happened at the end of the trial - was the defendant sentenced? If so what was the sentence given? Length of sentence, level of fine etc? Was a further trial hearing set for the case?
- Highlight how many magistrates heard the case.
- Highlight the form of Magistrate dealing with the case
- Highlight the characteristics of the Magistrate/s that heard the cases in terms of approximate age, ethnicity, sex.
- Length of time taken to deal with each case.

Once you have completed your court visit write up the information you have recorded as the first part of your report - ensure that you include the court diagram as well.

ACTIVITY 2 - GUIDANCE

Research the role played by laypersons as members of juries (both civil and criminal) within the English legal system and the general operation of the jury system (this can include additionally criticisms, reforms etc). You may want to start your research initially by re-reading your lecture handouts which contain basic information on the role played by Juries.

Part 2 of your report will detail the information you have obtained in relation to the above research activity - imagine you are writing this document for fellow students whom are not on the A101 Law module and have no knowledge of this area. Ensure that you support your answer with relevant legal authority cases/statutes to support your points where applicable. **SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME:** Wednesday December 9th 2015 11.55PM (23.55) This assignment must be submitted **ONLINE ONLY** before 23.55 (11.55 PM) on the date of submission as highlighted above via the **FINAL COURSEWORK** submission link on the Moodle page for this module. Please note:

1. All work submitted after the submission deadline without an approved valid reason (see below) will be given a mark of zero. (This is not the same as a non-submission, as a late submission counts as an attempt and a mark of zero may allow you to resit the coursework.).
2. Extensions must be applied for on or before the submission date. You can apply for a short deferral by submitting an Examination/ Coursework Deferral Application Form. Application Forms along with the supporting evidence should go to the relevant Student Support Office on the ground floor of GE Building and contact Kin Kundi/Lewis Holmes. For a longer delay in submission a student may apply for a (long) deferral. Students **MUST** keep a copy and/or an electronic file of their assignment. Your assignment may be used to enable checks to be made using anti-plagiarism software and approved plagiarism-checking websites. Word Length Maximum 1600 words (plus 10% allowance) Any penalties for not complying with word limits will be in accordance with University and Faculty policy - you should aim to write between the minimum of 1600 words and the maximum of 1760 words for this assignment. Learning Outcomes Assessed The following module learning outcomes will be assessed; M1, M2, M3 and M4 (For full breakdown see the module descriptor) Assessment Criteria When marking the coursework (the report) particular regard will be given to the following:

- Identification of relevant issues;
- Selection of relevant material;
- Knowledge of relevant subject
- Ability to support points with relevant, statutory provisions and case law (highlighting facts and decision of case) etc where applicable
- Appropriate structure
- Evidence of understanding;
- Application;
- Proficient writing;

- Use of relevant legal terminology;
- Appropriate referencing;
- Bibliography of sources;
- Information from activities written up in essay format
- Independent research
- Ability to write within set word limits (see above).

Return of Marked Work Marked work will no longer be returned in class. You can expect to have your marks normally available ONLINE by 3 teaching weeks after the submission date subject to final approval/agreement of both internal and external moderators.

PLAGIARISM WARNING ! - Assignments should not be copied in part or in whole from any other source, except for any marked up quotations, that clearly distinguish what has been quoted from your own work. All references set must be given, and the specific page number used should also be given for any direct quotations, which should be in inverted commas. Students found copying from the internet or other sources will get zero marks and may be excluded from the university.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON TURNITIN, PLAGIARISM AND COURSEWORK- A NOTE FOR STUDENTS Turnitin is a service that helps both lecturers and students to check if a piece of coursework contains sections that are identical to work submitted or published elsewhere. However, you should note that:

Not all sources found by Turnitin are necessarily plagiarised

Work may be plagiarised even if Turnitin does not find any overlaps

Nevertheless, it is still a very useful tool to help detect if plagiarism may be present. PLAGIARISM - A REMINDER OF THE UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS The rules on Plagiarism are very simple. Everything you put in an assignment must be written in your own words. If you copy what others have written this is plagiarism, unless you clearly mark up the quoted section in inverted commas so that there is no mistake as to where your own work stops and the quoted work begins and ends. Just listing references used at the end is insufficient to mark up a quotation. You are normally expected to use information from other sources, which should be referenced correctly, but you should not just copy what others have written. Marks are awarded for your own analysis and application of this material. TURNITIN REPORTS When you view your Turnitin report via the link on your module web you will see a small coloured box with your Turnitin "score", which indicates the percentage of your work that matches other sources. If you click on this box you should be able to view the full report for the whole of your coursework. Turnitin highlights any sections overlapping with other sources, colour codes them and puts them in boxes with a reference number that corresponds to the list of sources that Turnitin has found. It will therefore pick up the titles of sources used in reference lists and commonly used phrases, and properly marked up quotations. The university would not

pursue a case of plagiarism against a student where these were the only overlaps highlighted. However, if other sources are found to have been directly copied this may lead to a case of plagiarism being brought.

Turnitin scores are useful to give a quick indication of where plagiarism may be present, but it is not possible to give a precise cut off score for when a case of plagiarism will be pursued or not. One student may have a 20% score because they have copied a large chunk from one particular source, which is plagiarism, while another student may have a 20% score because they have got a long reference list or they have frequently repeated a longish phrase that is relevant to the topic but which Turnitin keeps picking up, eg “Baumol’s sales revenue maximising theory of the firm”, which would not be considered plagiarism. Overlaps with work submitted at other universities - sometimes students may see a section of their work highlighted as “Submitted to University of XXX”. Although this may signify that you have actually copied work that a student at this other university has submitted, this is unusual (although it does sometimes happen). What this usually means is that you have both copied from the same source (such as a book, a bought essay, or perhaps an on-line source that is now no longer on the web) and so Turnitin has picked up the other student’s work rather than the original source. You should be aware that essay banks sometimes sell the same essay to different students (even if they say it is especially written for the purchaser) and the essays they produce are sometimes plagiarised. Overlaps with work submitted at Coventry University - sometimes students may see a section of their work highlighted as “Submitted to Coventry University”. This normally means that these sections are identical to another student’s work or to work you have submitted yourself for another module. (Overlaps with your own drafts that have been submitted on the same module web should not be picked up by Turnitin.)