

Task 1 - frequently asked questions from the supporting webinar

On 6 February 2019, we hosted a webinar to support students who are participating in the Legal Apprentice competition. Students who watched the webinar live were able to submit their questions to the panel of lawyers who were taking part, and we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions below.

If you missed the webinar, you can catch up on it by [listening to the recording here](#).

Where can we find the fact sheets?

They can be found on the Legal Apprentice website, on both the student portal and teacher portal: <https://www.kingsleynapley.co.uk/the-legal-apprentice>.

What if we don't know much about the law?

Do not worry, even lawyers can feel like this sometimes. Fortunately for entrants, all the information about the law you need to know for this competition is provided on our website (in the fact sheets and other materials provided).

How do we structure our response for question 2 of task 1?

Once you have read the fact sheets / materials, we would advise answering 2(a) and 2(b) separately. In respect of both parts (a) and (b), we would suggest breaking down the answer as follows:

1. Identify the relevant law and break it down into manageable chunks / key elements. Use the fact sheet as your guide;
2. Apply the relevant law to the facts you have been provided with, and work through the fact sheets carefully. The information contained in the fact sheets is set out in the order in which you need to apply it;
3. Based on the above, draw a conclusion, and explain clearly and concisely why you have reached that conclusion.

If you wish, use headings to make it easier for the reader to follow your argument. If you would like more details on structuring your answer, please see the webinar.

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What if our answer is different from the right answer?

There is very rarely a 'right answer' to a legal problem. There are always two sides to every argument and marks will be given for the reasoning you apply, regardless of the conclusion, even if it differs from ours. That is why it is so important to show your reasoning.

When you say, 'show your logic', what do you mean?

We mean that you should show us the steps you have taken in order to reach your conclusion. In other subjects this may be referred to as showing your 'working out' or your 'method'. The principle is the same here – we want to see your reasoning and perhaps you may even change our minds about what we think the 'right answer' should be!

Are there any useful websites that could help us?

Each fact sheet contains links to websites which contain more information which we think you might find useful or interesting. Please feel free to conduct wider research, and don't be afraid to mention any ideas you may have as a result - but the marking scheme is designed around the information available in the resources we have provided.

General Practice Questions

What if your client refuses to answer any questions?

There may be a whole range of reasons behind why a client might not be comfortable or may not want to answer a lawyer's questions. It may be an intentional attempt to hide information, or it may be that they are simply scared and embarrassed. Part of the skill of a good lawyer is getting clients to open up, and to be a reassuring and comforting presence. If the client still won't provide important information then you can only act on the instructions (i.e. the information) you have been given. Lawyers have an overriding duty not to mislead the court and so in the most extreme of cases you may have to decline working with the client any further (although this is incredibly rare in practice).

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What if you don't want to defend someone who's wrong or someone who commits a crime that you don't believe is right?

Although this is a very common and valid question, a lawyer's personal views about a client's conduct or alleged conduct is not relevant. It is not a lawyer's role to make a judgment: this is for the judge or jury. We all naturally have a personal view when we are presented with a set of facts however; it is a lawyer's role to protect the legal rights of their client, regardless of the facts (one of the most important rights being that every person should receive a fair trial). Protecting those rights is an integral part of the legal system and, don't forget: just because something is alleged to have happened, it doesn't mean that it actually has.

Where did Chris get his tie from?

Thank you for your compliment on the tie! It was a gift from a grateful client and has giraffes, zebras and lions on it. He really likes animal ties.