

GCE

LAW: EUROPEAN LAW

SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR TEACHING/LEARNING



SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teacher/Lecturer:	
Unit:	Component One: The Nature of Law and the English Legal System
Ref. to specification:	Parliamentary and European Law Making
Suggested time allocation:	3 – 8 hours

Course:	AS and A Level Law
Topic:	European Union Law (Post-Brexit)
Session:	

Aims and Objectives: At the end of these sessions the student will be able to:

- Explain the **historical development of the European Union**
- Explain the **role of EU institutions prior to Brexit**
- Explain the **sources of EU law**
- Explain **direct applicability and direct effect**
- Explain the **principle of supremacy of EU law**
- Evaluate the **impact of EU membership on parliamentary sovereignty**
- Explain the **impact of Brexit and retained EU law**
- Apply legal knowledge to examination-style questions

Main Teaching and Learning Activities

IMPORTANT CONTEXT FOR TEACHING (POST-BREXIT)

Although the UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020, EU law remains on the specification because:

- It explains the historical development of UK constitutional law
- It explains limits placed on parliamentary sovereignty
- It explains the background to retained EU law
- It remains highly examinable

Students must understand that:

- EU law no longer applies directly
- EU institutions no longer have authority over the UK
- EU law remains relevant as historical and contextual knowledge

Teacher/Lecturer Activities:

Introduce the topic by explaining the historical relationship between the UK and the EU

Use questioning to establish prior knowledge:

- When did the UK join the EU?
- Why was the EU originally formed?
- What was Brexit?

Explain that EU law is now studied:

- Historically
- Constitutionally
- For examination purposes

Introduce the four main EU institutions:

- European Commission
- Council of the European Union
- European Parliament
- Court of Justice of the European Union

Explain the functions of each institution, including:

- Law-making
- Enforcement
- Judicial interpretation

Use case law to illustrate institutional power:

- Commission v UK (Re Tachographs)*
- Van Gend en Loos*
- Costa v ENEL*

Explain the sources of EU law:

- Treaties
- Regulations
- Directives
- Decisions

Explain:

- Direct applicability
- Direct effect (vertical & horizontal)
- Supremacy of EU law

Introduce key cases:

- Van Gend en Loos*
- Marshall*
- Francovich*
- Factortame*

Lead a discussion on:

- Parliamentary sovereignty
- Impact of EU membership
- Constitutional implications

Explain Brexit and:

- Repeal of the European Communities Act 1972
- End of supremacy
- Creation of retained EU law

Student Activities:

- **Starter task:**
- “What do you already know about the EU and Brexit?”

- **Group task:**
- **Research one EU institution and feedback to the class**
- **Table activity:**
- **Before Brexit vs After Brexit**
- **Case law matching exercise:**
- **Match cases to principles (direct effect, supremacy, etc.)**

- **Discussion task:**
- **“Has Brexit restored parliamentary sovereignty?”**
- **Exam practice:**
- **Short explanation questions**
- **Essay planning**
- **Evaluation questions**

Suggested links / resources:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Student handout
- Case law summary sheets
- Eduqas past paper questions
- Timeline of EU membership
- Brexit summary handout

Assessment

During the lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Questioning <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Case law analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher-led questioning
Subsequent to lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Produce revision mind maps on what you have studied.

KEY EXAM FOCUS

Students must be able to:

- Explain EU institutions
- Explain direct effect and supremacy
- Use case law accurately
- Evaluate constitutional impact
- Discuss Brexit clearly and accurately

SUMMARY

Although the UK has left the European Union, EU law remains a vital part of legal education.

It provides essential understanding of:

- The development of constitutional law
- The limits of parliamentary sovereignty
- The role of courts
- The legal impact of Brexit

