

WJEC Eduqas GCE AS in
LAW

Component 1 Section A
Statutory Interpretation
Suggested Activities



Component 1 Section A

EXAM LEVEL: AS AND A LEVEL

AREA OF STUDY: Statutory Interpretation

Key Points:

- An understanding of why judges need to interpret statutes and the main aids to interpretation.
- Learners should be able to explain and apply the 4 main rules of statutory interpretation and use legal authority to support.
- Learners should be able to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each of the 4 rules of statutory interpretation.
- Learners should be able to explain and apply intrinsic and extrinsic aids to interpretation using examples to support.
- Learners should be able to explain and apply the impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 and European law on statutory interpretation.

Provides an opportunity to develop the following skills:

- Analysis of legislation by applying the rules and principles of statutory interpretation and analyse case law by applying the doctrine of precedent in order to form a legal argument.
- Analysis of a factual scenario by identification of the key facts and applying the law in order to form a legal argument.
- Analysis, application and evaluation of the legal rules and principles of public and private areas of law.
- Identification and breaking down into constituent parts the relevant legal rules and principles for each area of law and applying those legal principles to a hypothetical scenario.
- Evaluation of the law in order to reach a reasoned conclusion
- construction of clear, concise and logical legal arguments which are substantiated by legal authority, using appropriate legal terminology.

Suggested Activities:

Learners should be presented with a hypothetical scenario in order to develop their skills of application. Past papers could be used for this purpose – an example is provided below. Learners could be placed in groups and asked to explain, with a case, a rule of interpretation and then to apply it to the scenario. Learners could be provided with a graphic organiser consisting of 4 sections (one for each rule) with sub headings: explanation of rule, case example, advantage, disadvantage, apply the rule. Each group to present back to the class and class can formulate a whole answer from the group presentations.

Using your knowledge of statutory interpretation, consider whether an offence has been committed in the situation set out below.

The Prevention of Unwanted Parties (Fictitious) Act 2008

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| <i>Section 1(1)</i> | This Act applies to a gathering on land for a social purpose in which it is likely that alcohol will be consumed and more than 100 people will attend. |
| <i>Section 1(2)</i> | Subject to Section 1(3) it is a criminal offence to organise such gathering without the permission of a local magistrate unless the organiser is an exempt person. |
| <i>Section 1(3)</i> | For this purpose an exempt person means the occupier, any member of his family or his employee or agent of his. |

Sara's best friend Lucy is abroad on holiday. Sara emailed a few friends to attend her 18th birthday party in a disused barn on Lucy's parent's farm land. Sara expected 20 people to attend. However, the email invitation was copied and 1,000 people arrive in a large crowd. Sara has now been arrested for breach of the Act. Advise Sara. [11]