

WJEC Eduqas GCE AS in LAW

Component 1 Section B Civil Courts Suggested Activities



Component 1 Section B

EXAM LEVEL: AS and A LEVEL

AREA OF STUDY: Civil Courts

Key Points:

- Learners should be able to explain and evaluate the civil courts including their structure, powers and appellate functions.
- Learners should be able to explain and evaluate the civil process.
- Learners should be able to explain and evaluate the development, role and control of tribunals.
- Learners should be able to explain and evaluate arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution including mediation and conciliation both within and outside the court system.

Provides an opportunity to develop the following skills:

- Analysis of data by identifying the key issues 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:

1. Learners are to draw a civil court hierarchy indicating the direction of appeals. This can be displayed in the form of a wall chart.
2. Learners are to complete the following table which indicates the type of case, composition of each court and any appeal route.

Court	Type of Case	Composition	Appeal route
County Court			
Family Court			
High Court: Queen's Bench Division			
High Court: Family Division			
High Court: Chancery Division			
High Court: Queen's Bench Divisional Court			
High Court: Family Divisional Court			
High Court: Chancery Divisional Court			
Court of Appeal (Civil Division)			
Supreme Court			

3. Learners can investigate the Civil Procedure Rules and complete the following table:

Term	Meaning
The Overriding Objective	
Small Claims Track	
Fast Track	
Multi-Track	
Pre-action protocols	

4. Learners could take part in a class discussion in which they consider the advantages and disadvantages of the following types of alternative dispute resolution:

- Arbitration
- Conciliation
- Mediation.

In particular, learners could consider the types of case where each might be useful.

5. Although the main types of alternative dispute resolution are arbitration, conciliation and mediation, learners can benefit from an awareness of other types of ADR (such as Expert Determination or Neutral Evaluation) or bodies which may offer ADR such as ombudsmen and industry regulators.

Learners can investigate the work of bodies such as OFCOM then report back to their peers and explain their work. Another group of learners can investigate what is meant by Expert Determination and Neutral Evaluation and also report back with their findings to members of their class.

6. Learners could make a list of:

- Four types of case dealt with by the First-tier Tribunal
- Four different chambers of the Upper Tribunal and for each one explain the type of appeal it deals with
- Four tribunals outside the First-tier Tribunal and for each one indicate the type of case it deals with.

7. Learners are to access the latest available annual report from HM Courts and Tribunals Service. In the section 'Our Performance' learners are to identify any ways that the civil courts and tribunals claim to have seen an increase in their performance.

8. Learners can draft an essay on the following question:

Evaluate the use of juries in civil trials.

Points to consider include:

- The types of case juries can hear
- The composition of a jury in civil cases
- The awarding of damages by the jury
- The advantages of juries in civil trials
- The disadvantages of juries in civil trials.

Useful Websites:

Civil Procedure Rules: <https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/part01>

HM Courts and Tribunals Service: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service>

The Courts and Tribunals Judiciary: <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/>

ACAS: <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

Family Mediation Council: <https://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk/>

CI Arb: <http://www.ciarb.org/>

National Conciliation Service: <https://www.nationalconciliationservice.co.uk/>

OFCOM: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/>

There are many chambers of barristers and firms of solicitors that provide ADR such as neutral evaluation and their websites provide information about their services.