

There are two possible ways to complete this worksheet:

OPTION A (more difficult): watch the video and make notes before you look at the following questions. Then try to answer the questions using the notes you have made.

OPTION B (easier): Read the following questions before you watch the video. Then close the question book, watch the video and make notes. Finally, re-open the question book and try to answer the questions using the notes you have made.

FOR BOTH OPTIONS, YOU SHOULD FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE
VOCABULARY BELOW BEFORE YOU WATCH

Key Vocabulary

Doctrine – a principle

Statutory – consisting of laws which have been formally written down

Interpretation – explanation of what something like a law means

Shades of meaning – forms of interpretation, different understandings of words

Bye-law – a law which is made by a local authority or council and which applies only in their particular area

Conveyance - vehicle (an old fashioned use)

Legislator / legislate – law maker /to pass a new law

Mischief – behaviour that is intended to cause trouble for people

Promulgate – announce publicly and make widely known (a formal word)

Coerce – persuade someone forcefully to do something that they do not want to

Legal certainty – no doubts at all in law

Equity – the quality of being fair and reasonable in a way that gives equal treatment to everyone

Solicit / solicitation – to ask someone for something / the act of asking for something

Statutes – laws

Bound to (interpret) – a duty or responsibility to (interpret)

Substantive – concerned with real issues or real effects

1. The lecturer begins with: (circle one answer)
 - a. a joke
 - b. an anecdote
 - c. an overview of the lecture
 - d. none of the above
2. The title of the lecture is 'An Introduction to Law,' but what is the theme of the first part of the lecture?
3. Why is the answer to Question 1 so important?
4. Which bye-law is a good example of this?
5. Name three examples the lecturer gives of 'wheeled conveyances,' which were probably not intended to be covered under the law in Question 2?
6. If the dictionary definition of a word is not explicit enough to understand a law, where would one look next? Why?
7. The lecturer explains that laws 'aren't made in a vacuum,' but arise because of the problems in society. Which two problems does he give as examples?
 - a.
 - b.
8. The lecturer mentions two ways in which new laws are formed, what are they?
 - a.
 - b.
9. What are the two most important factors in creating the 'coercive impact of the law'?
 - a.
 - b.
10. What are the three rules of statutory interpretation?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

11. Which three words, in the case of Queen vs. Harris, does the lecturer quote to illustrate the literal rule?
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
12. Which is the most general of these words and why?
13. What did the Court say about this sort of mixture of general and specific words?
14. Why was Harris found not Guilty?
15. Why was Fisher found not guilty of offering a flick-knife for sale?
16. When McGuinness was arrested for possession of marijuana, what mistake did he make? Why did this make the situation worse?
17. The McGuinness case is unusual because it is an example of when the literal rule _____ the scope of criminal law, whilst usually (as in Queen vs. Harris), it _____ the scope of criminal law.
18. In the case of Queen vs. Brown, was the police officer found guilty or not guilty? Why?
19. How does the golden rule operate?
20. Name two important pieces of legislation which help to define UK statutes i.e. help in the interpretation of the law.
- a.
 - b.

ANSWERS

1. d. none of the above
2. The doctrine of statutory interpretation
3. Because language is not simple – it is complex
4. Vehicles are prohibited in the park
5. Any 3 of the following: pram, rollerblades, skateboard, tricycle
6. Look at the records/minutes of the council meeting because it is important to find out the intention of the legislature
7. a. drugs
b. guns
8. a. by judges
b. by legislatures
9. a. certainty
b. consistency
10. a. literal rule
b. golden rule
c. mischief or purpose law
11. a. stab
b. cut
c. wound
12. Because it does not need an instrument
13. The general word has to be understood in terms of the more specific preceeding words.
14. Because he did not use an instrument
15. Because displaying it in the shop window was not the same as 'offering' – it was 'an invitation to treat'
16. He said he was holding the drugs for his friend. This is worse because supplying is more serious than personal possession
17. The McGuinness case is unusual because it is an example of when the literal rule **EXPANDS** the scope of criminal law, whilst usually (as in Queen vs. Harris), it **RESTRICTS** the scope of criminal law.
18. Not guilty because he accessed the information, but it could not be proved that he passed it on or put it to 'unlawful use'
19. You give interpretation to the meaning least likely to lead to absurdity
- 20 a. Communities Act of 1972
b. Human Rights Act of 1998