



English Legal System

THE FUNDAMENTALS

First Edition

Jo Boylan-Kemp

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ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM—
THE FUNDAMENTALS

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DEDICATION

For Shorty & Spike

PREFACE

If the Law section of any good bookshop is perused then there will be found a number of textbooks that are dedicated to explaining the English legal system to their readers. Some are large heavy tomes that take forever and a day to read but provide the reader with an in-depth and highly intellectual view of the system once they have read it; others aim to explain the basic law but provide little insight into the issues that have arisen or can arise in this area. This textbook aims to be slightly different to those others found as it aims to do ‘what it says on the tin’ (so to speak) and explain the ‘fundamentals’ of the English legal system, whilst also highlighting and addressing the issues that can be found within it. The text is primarily focused towards undergraduate law students but it would be of equal interest to those studying A-level law, ILEX, a law module in another discipline or simply to those who are interested in discovering about the English legal system for personal reasons. To aid understanding there is found within each chapter a number of visual aids (flowcharts, graphs and grids etc.) so that the complex or important information is broken down into a user-friendly format. At the end of each chapter a number of Self-Test Questions will be found so that understanding and retention of information can be evaluated.

It is at this point that I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have helped and supported me in my endeavour to complete this text. My thanks go to those at Sweet & Maxwell, especially Constance Sutherland, who have put up with my rather haphazard approach to deadlines with saint-like patience; to my colleagues and dear friends Rebecca Huxley-Binns and Shani Cassady for all of their advice, support and proof reading (I shall await to return the favour!) and finally to my loving family, especially my husband Robin, who have provided endless amounts of encouragement, tea and love, and managed to keep the children amused whilst ‘mummy wrote her silly book’.

The writing of this text has not been an easy task. The law is not a static creature and the landscape of the English legal system has in parts noticeably changed over recent times; as a result if there are any errors or omissions then I apologise. The law is stated as I believe it to be on May 16, 2008.

Jo Boylan-Kemp

TABLE OF CASES

A v Secretary of State for the Home Department; sub nom. X v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2004] UKHL 56; [2005] 2 A.C. 68; [2005] 2 W.L.R. 8, HL	1.3.2.2, 6 Intro, 9.6.7
Adler v George [1964] 2 Q.B. 7; [1964] 2 W.L.R. 542, QBD	2.9.2
Anderton v Ryan [1985] A.C. 560; [1985] 2 W.L.R. 968, HL	2.3.3
Anns v Merton [1978] A.C. 728; [1977] 2 W.L.R. 1024, HL	2.3.3
Arthur J.S. Hall v Simons [2002] 1 A.C. 615; [2000] 3 W.L.R. 543, HL	4.1.4.5.3
Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corp [1948] 1 K.B. 223; [1947] 2 All E.R. 680, CA	13.4.2
Attorney-General v Associated Newspapers [1994] 2 A.C. 238; [1994] 2 W.L.R. 277, HL	7.6
Attorney-General v Scotcher [2005] UKHL 36; [2005] 1 W.L.R. 1867; [2005] 3 All E.R. 1, HL	7.6
Attorney-General for Jersey v Holley [2005] UKPC 23; [2005] 2 A.C. 580; [2005] 3 W.L.R. 29, PC Jer)	2.3.4, 2.3.5
Attorney-General's Reference (No.4 of 1989) [1990] 1 W.L.R. 41; (1990) 90 Cr. App. R. 366, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.1.1
Attorney-General's Reference (No.5 of 1989) (1990) 90 Cr App. R. 358; (1989) 11 Cr. App. R. (S.) 489, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.1.1
Attorney-General's Reference (No.1 of 1991) (1992) 13 Cr. App. R. (S.) 134; [1991] Crim. L. R. 725, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.1.1
Attorney-General's Reference (No.101 of 2001) [2002] EWCA Crim 86, CA (Crim Div)	12.6
Attorney-General's Reference (No.20 of 2002) (Oliver Alex Birch) [2002] EWCA Crim 1582; [2003] 1 Cr. App. R. (S) 58, CA (Crim Div)	12.6
Broome v Cassell & Co Ltd [1972] A.C. 1027; [1972] 2 W.L.R. 645, HL	2.3.5
Bushell's Case (1670) Vaugh 135	7.1
Callery v Gray [2002] UKHL 28; [2002] 1 W.L.R. 2000; [2002] 3 All E.R. 417, HL	11.3
Campbell v MGN Ltd [2005] UKHL 61; [2005] 1 W.L.R. 3394; [2005] 4 All E.R. 793, HL	11.3
Cheesman v DPP [1992] Q.B. 83; [1991] 2 W.L.R. 1105, QBD	2.7.1.6, 2.9.1
Coke's Case, Coke's Institutes 3 Co Inst 47	1.4.1
Condon v United Kingdom (2001) 31 E.H.R.R. 1; 8 B.H.R.C. 290, ECHR	13.2.2.1
Conway v Rimmer [1968] A.C. 910; [1968] 2 W.L.R. 998, HL	2.3.3
Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service [1985] A.C. 410; [1984] 1 W.L.R. 1174, HL	13.4.2
D & C Builders v Rees [1966] 2 Q.B. 617; [1966] 2 W.L.R. 288, CA	1.4.2.2
Davis v Johnson [1979] A.C. 264; [1978] 2 W.L.R. 553, HL	2.3.5, 2.10.3.1
DPP for Northern Ireland v Lynch [1975] A.C. 653; [1975] 2 W.L.R. 641, HL	2.3.3
Donoghue v Stephenson [1932] A.C. 562; 1932 S.C. (H.L.) 31, HL	2.2.1
Duncan v Cammell Laird & Co [1942] A.C. 624; [1942] 1 All E.R. 587, HL	2.3.3
Earl of Oxford's Case (1616) 1 Rep Ch 1	1.4.2
Elliott v C (a minor) [1983] 1 W.L.R. 939; [1983] 2 All E.R. 1005, DC	2.3.3
Fisher v Bell [1961] 1 Q.B. 394; [1960] 3 W.L.R. 919, DC	2.9.1
Fitzpatrick v Sterling [2001] 1 A.C. 27; [1999] 3 W.L.R. 1113, HL	2.5
Gallie v Lee [1971] A.C. 1004; [1970] 3 W.L.R. 1078, HL	2.3.5
Ghaidan v Godin-Mendoza [2004] UKHL 30; [2004] 2 A.C. 557; [2004] 3 W.L.R. 113, HL	2.5, 2.10.4
Goode v Martin [2001] EWCA Civ 1899; [2002] 1 W.L.R. 1828; [2002] 1 All E.R. 620, CA (Civ Div)	8.4.4
Heydon's Case (1584) Co. Rep. 7a	2.9.3
Hutton v Esher UDC [1974] Ch. 167; [1973] 2 W.L.R. 917, CA (Civ Div)	2.8.2
Lane v London Electricity Board [1955] 1 W.L.R. 106; [1955] 1 All E.R. 324, QBD	2.10.2.1
London & North Eastern Railway Co v Berriman [1946] 1 All E.R. 255, HL	2.9.1

TABLE OF CASES

London Tramways Co Ltd v London CC [1898] A.C. 375, HL	2.3.3
Marshall v Southampton Health Authority (152/84) [1986] Q.B. 401; [1986] 2 W.L.R. 780, ECJ	1.4.5
Mattison Hart (1854) 14 C.B. 357	2.9.2
Maunsell v Olins [1975] A.C. 373; [1974] 3 W.L.R. 835, HL	2.9
Morelle v Wakeling [1955] 2 Q.B. 379; [1955] 2 W.L.R. 672, CA	2.3.5
Moy v Pettman Smith [2005] UKHL 7; [2005] 1 W.L.R. 581; [2005] 1 All E.R. 903, HL	4.1.4.5.3
Muir v Keay (1875) L.R. 10 Q.B. 594	2.10.2.3
Murphy v Brentwood BC [1991] 1 A.C. 398; [1990] 3 W.L.R. 414, HL	2.3.3
Pepper (Inspector of Taxes) v Hart [1993] A.C. 593; [1992] 3 W.L.R. 1032, HL	2.10.3.1
R. v A (complainant's sexual history) [2001] UKHL 25; [2002] 1 A.C. 45; [2001] 2 W.L.R. 1546, HL	2.10.4
R. v Abdroikov [2007] UKHL 37; [2007] 1 W.L.R. 2679; [2008] 1 All E.R. 315, HL	7.3.1
R. v Allen (1872) L.R. 1 C.C.R. 367	2.7.1.3, 2.9.2
R. v Andrews (Tracey) [1999] Crim. L.R. 156; (1998) 95(43) L.S.G. 32, CA (Crim Div)	7.5.3
R. v Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate Ex p. Pinochet Ugarte (No.2) [2000] 1 A.C. 119; [1999] 2 W.L.R. 272, HL	7.5.2
R. v Caldwell (James); sub nom. Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Caldwell [1982] A.C. 341; [1981] 2 W.L.R. 509, HL	2.3.3
R. v City of London Court Judge [1892] 1 Q.B. 273, CA	2.9.1
R. v Cockburn [2008] EWCA 316; (2008) 152(10) S.J.L.B. 29, CA (Crim Div) ...	3.1, 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.1.2, 3.3.2, 3.3.3
R. v Danvers [1982] Crim. L.R. 680, Crown Ct	7.5.1
R. v Davies, Rowe and Johnson [2001] 1 Cr. App. R. 115	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Eccles Justices Ex p. Fitzpatrick (1989) 89 Cr App. R. 324; (1989) 153 J.P. 470, DC	5.8
R. v Ford [1989] Q.B. 868; [1989] 3 W.L.R. 762, CA (Crim Div)	7.5.1
R. v G [2003] UKHL 50; [2004] 1 A.C. 1034, HL	2.3.3
R. v Galbraith [1981] 1 W.L.R. 1039; [1981] 2 All E.R. 1060, CA (Crim Div)	10.3.3
R. v Goodyear [2005] EWCA Crim 888; [2005] 1 W.L.R. 2532; [2005] 3 All E.R. 117, CA (Crim Div)	10.2.1
R. v Hawkins (1985) 7 Cr. App. R. (S) 351; [1986] Crim. L.R. 194, CA (Crim Div)	10.2.4
R. v Hill [2008] EWCA Crim 76, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Howe (Michael Anthony) [1987] A.C. 417; [1987] 2 W.L.R. 568, HL	2.3.3
R. v Howells [1999] 1 W.L.R. 307; [1999] 1 All E.R. 50, CA (Crim Div)	12.8
R. v Ireland; R. v Burstow [1998] A.C. 147; [1997] 3 W.L.R. 534, HL	2.7.1.5, 3.2.1, 3.2.4
R. v James; R. v Karimi [2006] EWCA Crim 14; [2006] Q.B. 588; [2006] 2 W.L.R. 887, CA (Crim Div)	2.3.4
R. v Jenkins [2004] EWCA 2047, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Kansal (No.2) [2001] UKHL 62; [2002] 2 A.C. 69; [2001] 3 W.L.R. 1562, HL	2.3.3
R. v Kennedy (No.2) [2007] UKHL 38; [2007] 3 W.L.R. 612; [2007] 4 All E.R. 1083, HL	3.3.2, 3.3.3
R. v Lambert [2001] UKHL 37; [2002] 2 A.C. 545; [2001] 3 W.L.R. 206, HL	2.3.3
R. v McKenna [1960] 1 Q.B. 411; [1960] 2 W.L.R. 306, CCA	7.1
R. v Mansell (1857) 8 E. & B. 54	7.4
R. v Mansfield Justices Ex p. Sharkey [1985] Q.B. 613; [1984] 3 W.L.R. 1328, QBD	9.6.3
R. v Mason [1981] Q.B. 881; [1980] 3 W.L.R. 617, CA (Crim Div)	7.4.1
R. v Millberry [2002] EWCA Crim 2891; [2003] 1 W.L.R. 546; [2003] 2 All E.R. 939, CA (Crim Div)	12.6
R. v Miles [2006] EWCA 256, CA (Crim Div)	12.7.4
R. v Mirza; R. v Connor [2004] UKHL 2; [2004] 1 A.C. 1118; [2004] 2 W.L.R. 201, HL	7.6
R. v Mullen [2000] Q.B. 520; [1999] 3 W.L.R. 777, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Munks [1964] 1 Q.B. 304; [1963] 3 W.L.R. 952, CCA	3.3.2
R. v Newcombe [2007] EWCA 2554, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Newton (1983) 77 Cr. App. R. 13; (1982) 4 Cr. App. R. (S.) 388, CA (Crim Div)	10.2.4
R. v North West Suffolk (Mildenhall) Magistrates' Court (1997) 161 J.P. 401; [1998] Env. L.R. 9, CA (Civ Div)	13.2.2.1.3
R. v Pendleton [2001] UKHL 66; [2002] 1 W.L.R. 72; [2002] 1 All E.R. 524, HL	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Pigg [1983] 1 W.L.R. 6; [1983] 1 All E.R. 56, HL	7.7

R. v R (rape: marital exemption) [1992] 1 A.C. 599; [1991] 3 W.L.R. 767, HL	2.4.2
R. v Registrar General Ex p. Smith [1991] 2 Q.B. 393; [1991] 2 W.L.R. 782, CA (Civ Div)	2.9.4
R. v Secretary of State Ex p. Anderson [2002] UKHL 46; [2003] 1 A.C. 837; [2002] 3 W.L.R. 1800, HL	12.8.1
R. v Secretary of State for Employment Ex p. Equal Opportunities Commission [1995] 1 A.C. 1; [1994] 2 W.L.R. 409, HL	1.4.5
R. v Secretary of State for the Environment Ex p. Rose Theatre Trust Co [1990] 1 Q.B. 504; [1990] 2 W.L.R. 186, QBD	13.4.1
R. v Secretary of State for the Home Department Ex p. Venables and Thompson [1998] A.C. 407; [1997] 3 W.L.R. 23, HL	12.8.1
R. v Secretary of State for Transport Ex p. Factortame (C-221/89) [1992] Q.B. 680; [1992] 3 W.L.R. 288, ECJ	1.4.5
R. v Sheffield Crown Court Ex p. Brownlow [1980] Q.B. 530; [1980] 2 W.L.R. 892, CA (Civ Div)	7.4.1
R. v Shivpuri [1987] A.C. 1; [1986] 2 W.L.R. 988, HL	2.3.3
R. v Simpson [2003] EWCA Crim 1499; [2004] Q.B. 118; [2003] 3 W.L.R. 337, CA (Crim Div)	2.3.6
R. v Smith (Morgan) [2001] A.C. 146; [2000] 3 W.L.R. 654, HL	2.3.4, 2.3.5
R. v TS [2008] EWCA Crim 6, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Thomas (1989) 88 Cr. App. R. 370, Central Crim Ct	7.5.3
R. v Thompson [1962] 1 All E.R. 65; (1962) 46 Cr. App. R. 72, CCA	7.6
R. v Taylor [1950] 2 K.B. 368; [1950] 2 All E.R. 170, CCA	2.3.6
R. v Togher [2001] 3 All E.R. 463; [2001] 1 Cr. App. R. 33, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Turner [1970] 2 Q.B. 321; [1970] 2 W.L.R. 1093, CA (Crim Div)	10.2.1
R. v Wang [2005] UKHL 9; [2005] 1 W.L.R. 661; [2005] 1 All E.R. 782, HL	7.1
R. v Williams [2001] EWCA Crim 932; (2001) 98(19) L.S.G. 36; (2001) 145 S.J.L.B. 86, CA (Crim Div)	13.2.2.2.1
R. v Wilson (1996) 8 Admin. L.R. 1; [1995] Crim. L.R. 952, CA Crim Div	7.5.2
R. v Young [1995] Q.B. 324; [1995] 2 W.L.R. 430, CA (Crim Div)	7.6
R. (on the application of Alconbury) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions [2001] UKHL 23; [2003] 2 A.C. 295; [2001] 2 W.L.R. 1389, HL	2.3.2
R. (on the application of Jackson) v Attorney-General [2005] UKHL 56; [2006] 1 A.C. 262; [2005] 3 W.L.R. 733, HL	1.4.3.2.6
Rondel v Worsley [1969] 1 A.C. 191; [1967] 1 W.L.R. 142, HL	4.1.4.5.3
Rookes v Barnard [1964] A.C. 1129; [1964] 2 W.L.R. 269, HL	2.3.5
Royal College of Nursing v DHSS [1981] A.C. 800; [1981] 2 W.L.R. 279, HL	2.9.3
Sigsworth, Re [1935] Ch. 89, Ch D	2.9.2
Smith v Hughes [1960] 1 W.L.R. 830; [1960] 2 All E.R. 859, QBD	2.9.3
Smith v United Kingdom; Grady v United Kingdom [1999] I.R.L.R. 734; (2000) 29 E.H.R.R. 493, ECHR	13.4.2
Swain v Hillman [2001] 2 All E.R. 91; [2001] C.P. Rep. 16, CA (Civ Div)	8.8.3
Three Rivers DC v Bank of England (No.2) [1996] 2 All E.R. 363, QBD	2.10.3.1
V v United Kingdom (1999) 30 E.H.R.R. 121, ECHR	12.8.1
Vinos v Marks & Spencer [2001] 3 All E.R. 784; [2001] C.P. Rep. 12, CA (Civ Div)	8.4.4
Whiteley v Chappell (1868) L.R. 4 Q.B. 147	2.9.1
Williams v Fawcett [1986] Q.B. 604; [1985] 1 W.L.R. 501, CA (Civ Div)	2.3.5
Woolmington v DPP [1935] A.C. 462; (1936) 25 Cr. App. R. 72, HL	10.3.1
Young v Bristol Aeroplane Co Ltd [1946] A.C. 163; (1946) 79 Ll. L. Rep. 35, HL	2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7, 2.11

TABLE OF STATUTES

1361	Justices of the Peace Act (34 Edw.3 c.1) ...	5.2			
	section	5.2			
1700	Act of Settlement (12 & 13 Will.3 c.2) ...	6.6.2			
1772	Royal Marriages Act (12 Geo.3 c.11) ...	1.4.4.3			
1847	Town and Country Planning Act (10 & 11 Vict. c.34)				
	s.28	2.7.1.6			
1860	Refreshment Houses Act (23 & 24 Vict. c.27)				
	s.6	2.10.2.3			
1861	Offences Against the Person Act (24 & 25 Vict. c.100)				
	s.18	10.2.1			
	s.20	10.2.1			
	s.31	3.3.1.1, 3.3.1.2, 3.3.2, 3.3.3			
	s.47	2.7.1.5, 9.5.2, 10.1.2, 10.2.1, 10.4			
	s.57	2.7.1.3, 2.9.2			
1873	Supreme Court of Judicature Act (36 & 37 Vict. c.66)				
		1.4.2			
1875	Supreme Court of Judicature (Amend- ment) Act (38 & 39 Vict. c.77)				
		1.4.2			
1891	Supreme Court of Judicature Act (54 & 55 Vict. c.53)				
		6.1.3.2			
1898	Criminal Evidence Act (61 & 62 Vict. c.36)				
	s.1(1)	10.3.3			
1903	Poor Prisoner Defence Act (3 Edw. 7 c.38)				
		11.2			
1911	Parliament Act (1 & 2 Geo. 5 c.13) ...	1.4.3.2.6			
1930	Poor Prisoner' Defence Act (20 & 21 Geo. 5 c.32)				
		11.2			
1949	Legal Aid and Advice Act (12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6 c.51)				
		11.2			
	Parliament Act (12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6 c.103)				
		1.4.3.2.6			
1957	Homicide Act (5 & 6 Eliz. 2 c.11) ..	3.4, 3.4.1			
	s.2	2.3.4			
1959	Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act (7 & 8 Eliz. 2 c.37)				
	s.1	2.9.1			
	Street Offences Act (7 & 8 Eliz. 2 c.57)				
	s.1	2.9.3			
1960	Administration of Justice Act (8 & 9 Eliz. 2 c.65)				
	s.1	13.2.2.1.3, 13.2.2.2.3			
1967	Criminal Law Act (c.58)				
	s.6	10.2.5			
	Abortion Act (c.87)				
	s.1(1)	2.9.3			
1968	Criminal Appeal Act (c.19)				
	s.1	13.2.2.2.1			
	s.2	13.2.2.2.1			
	(1)	13.2.2.2.1			
	s.7(1)	13.2.2.2.1			
	(2)	13.2.2.2.4			
	s.23	13.2.2.2.1			
	s.33	13.2.2.2.3			
	Theft Act (c.60)				
	s.9	9.5.2, 10.4			
	s.9	10.1.1			
1969	Administration of Justice Act (c.58)				
		13.3			
1971	Courts Act (c.23)				
		5.2, 6.6.2			
	Criminal Damage Act (c.48)				
	s.1	10.1.3			
1972	European Communities Act (c.68)				
	s.2(1)	1.4.5			
	Criminal Justice Act (c.71)				
	s.36	13.2.1.1			
1974	Juries Act (c.23)				
	s.1	7.3, 7.3.1			
	s.1	7.3, 7.3.1			
	s.5	7.5.1			
	s.9B(2)	7.4			
	s.10	7.4			
	s.17	7.7			
	(1)	7.7			
	s.20	7.3.2			
	(5)(c)	7.4.1			
	Sch.1	7.3, 7.3.1			
	Consumer Credit Act (c.39)				
		8.5.2			
	Solicitors Act (c.47)				
	s.1A	4.1.3.1			
	s.46	4.1.3.3.4			
1976	Adoption Act (c.36)				
	s.51	2.9.4			
	Bail Act (c.63)				
	s.3	9.6.2, 9.6.4			
	s.3	9.6.3			
	s.4	9.6.2, 9.6.7			
	(1)	9.6.2			
	s.6	9.6.6			
	(1)	9.6.6			
	(2)	9.6.6			
	s.6B	9.6.2			
	s.7	9.6.6			
	s.8	9.6.3			
	Sch.1	9.6.2, 9.6.3, 9.6.7			

TABLE OF STATUTES

	para.2	9.6.2		s.36	13.2.1.1
1977	Rent Act (c.42)	2.5		s.41	10.1.7
1978	Interpretation Act (c.30)	2.8.2, 9.5		Legal Aid Act (c.34)	11.2
	s.5	9.5, 9.5.2	1989	Football Spectators Act (c.37)	
	Sch.1, para.1	9.5		s.14(6)	1.4.4.1
	Employment Protection (Consolidation)			s.22A(2)	1.4.4.4
	Act (c.44)	1.4.5		Children Act (c.41)	5.4.1
1980	Magistrates' Courts Act (c.43)	10.1.2	1990	Courts and Legal Services Act	
	s.4	10.1.8		(c.41)	4.1.3, 4.2, 4.3, 6.3.1, 8.4, 11.3
	(1)	10.1.7		s.1	8.5.2
	(3)	10.1.5		(3)	8.5.2
	s.5A(3)	10.1.5, 10.1.6		s.27	4.3
	s.5B	10.1.5		s.58	11.3
	s.6	10.1.4		(2)	11.3
	(1)	10.1.4		s.58A	11.3
	(2)	10.1.4, 10.1.7		s.71	6.1.3.2
	s.17A	10.1.1, 10.1.8		s.119(1)	9.6.3
	(8)	10.1.1	1991	Dangerous Dogs Act (c.65)	1.4.3, 1.5
	ss.17A–21	10.1.2		War Crimes Act (c.13)	1.4.3.2.6
	s.19	10.1.2, 10.1.3		Criminal Justice and Public Order Act	
	(3)	10.1.2		(c.53)	
	s.20	10.1.2		s.51	7.7
	s.25(2)	10.1.7	1993	Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act	6.6.1
	(3)	10.1.7	1994	Criminal Justice and Public Order Act	
	s.111	13.2.2.1.3		(c.53)	
	(1)	13.2.2.1.3		s.25	9.6.2
	(2)	13.2.2.1.3		s.35	10.3.3
	(4)	13.2.2.1.3	1995	Criminal Appeal Act (c.35)	13.2.2.2.4
	(5)	13.2.2.1.3	1996	Police Act (c.16)	
	s.142	13.2.2.1.1		s.89	10.2.4, 12.5
	Sch.1	9.5.2		Arbitration Act (c.23)	8.10.4
1981	Contempt of Court Act (c.49)	8.9.5		s.1	8.10.4
	s.8	7.6, 7.10, 7.11		s.33	8.10.4
	(1)	7.6		s.69	8.10.4
	Supreme Court Act (c.54)	6.6.2		Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act	
	s.10	6.1.3.2		(c.25)	
	s.28	13.2.2.1.2		s.54	7.7, 13.2.1.4
	s.31(3)	13.4.1	1998	Crime and Disorder Act (c.37)	
	s.81	9.6.5		s.51	10.1.3, 10.1.8
1984	County Courts Act (c.28)	8.5.2		s.65	9.3.2
	Police and Criminal Evidence Act (c.60)			Human Rights Act (c.42)	1.3.1, 1.4.6, 1.6,
	s.37	9.2		2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.5, 2.10.4, 6 Intro,	6.3.1, 8.4.4
	s.79	10.3.3		s.2	2.5, 2.11
1985	Prosecution of Offences Act (c.23)	9.2.1		(1)	5.8
	s.3(2)(a)	9.2.1		s.3	2.10.4
	s.10	9.2.1		(1)	1.3.1, 8.4.4
	s.18	9.2.2		s.4	1.3.1
	s.47	9.2.2		s.6	13.4
	Administration of Justice Act (c.61)	4.3		s.19	1.3.1
1988	Criminal Justice Act (c.33)	13.2.2.2.1		Sch.1	1.4.6
	s.35	13.2.1.1			

	Scotland Act (c.46)	1.2	s.23	9.3.1.2
	Northern Ireland Act (c.47)	1.2	s.29	9.2
1999	European Parliamentary Elections Act		(5)	9.2
	(c.1)	1.4.3.2.6	s.43	7.9.1
	Access to Justice Act (c.22)	1.4.3.2, 4.1.3, 11.2, 11.2.1, 11.3, 11.5, 13.3	s.44	7.9.1
	s.1(1)	11.2.1	s.58	13.2.1.2
	(2)(a)	11.2.1.1	s.59	13.2.1.2
	s.4(1)	11.2.1.1	s.75	13.2.1.3
	(2)	11.2.1.1	s.76	13.2.1.3
	s.12	11.2.1.2	s.89	12.8.4
	Sch.2	11.2.1.1	s.116	3.4.2
	Sch.3, para.5	11.2.1.2	(1)	3.4.2
	Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act		(b)	3.4.2
	(c.23)		(2)	3.4.2
	s.41	2.10.4	(a)	3.4.2
	(3)	2.10.4	(c)	3.4.2
	(5)	2.10.4	s.142	12.9.3
	s.53(1)	10.3.3	s.143	12.4
2000	Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing)		s.144	10.2.3
	Act (c.6)	12.2	(b)	10.2.3
	s.3	10.1.1, 12.5	s.145	12.4
	s.12	12.11	s.146	12.4
	s.91	12.8.4	s.148	12.9.1, 12.9.3
	s.109	12.6	s.152	12.8
	s.110	12.8.2	(2)	12.8
	s.111	10.1.3, 10.1.8, 12.8.2	s.153(2)	12.8.8
	s.130	12.10.2	s.154	5.9, 9.5.1
	Criminal Justice and Court Service Act		s.156	12.7.1
	(c.43)		(4)	12.7.1
	s.61	12.8.4	s.164	12.10.1
	Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act		(1)	12.10.1
	(c.44)	1.4.3.2.6	(2)	12.10.1
2001	Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act		s.174	12.5
	(c.24)	6 Intro	s.177	12.9.1
2003	Courts Act (c.39)	5.5, 5.5.4, 6.1.3.2	s.189	12.8.3
	s.10	5.5	s.199	12.9.2
	s.11	5.10	s.201	12.9.2
	(1)	5.10	s.203	12.9.2
	(a)	5.10	s.204	12.9.2
	(2)	5.10	s.205	12.9.2
	(a)	5.10	s.206	12.9.2
	(b)	5.10	s.207	12.9.2
	(c)	5.10	s.209	12.9.2
	s.63	6.1.3.2	s.212	12.9.2
	Criminal Justice Act (c.44)	3.4.3, 7.3, 7.3.1, 7.5.1, 7.10, 9.2, 9.6.2, 10.1.2, 12.2, 12.8.1, 12.8.3, 12.8.7, 12.8.9, 12.9.1, 12.9.2, 12.9.4, 13.2.1.3	s.213	12.9.2
	s.22(2)	9.3.1.2	s.214	12.9.2
	ss.22–27	9.3.1.2	s.246	12.8.6
			s.269	12.8.1
			s.272	13.2.1.1
			Sch.8	12.9.4

TABLE OF STATUTES

Sch.21	12.8.1	s.2	6.2
para.4	12.8.1	s.88(3)	6.3.2
para.5	12.8.1	s.94(3)	6.3.2
2004 Hunting Act (c.37)	1.4.3.2.6	2006 Criminal Defence Service Act (c.9)	11.2.1.2
2005 Constitutional Reform Act (c.4) ..	6.1.1, 6.1.3.1, 6.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.7, 6.9, 9.4.5	2007 Legal Services Act (c.29) ...	4.1.3.3.3, 4.3, 4.4, 6.3.2, 6.9

TABLE OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1908	Electricity Regulations (SR & O 1908/1312)		
	reg.26	2.10.2.1	
1991	High Court and County Court Jurisdiction Order (SI 1991/724)	8.5.2	
1998	Civil Procedure Rules (SI 1998/3132)	8.2, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.4.4, 8.5.4.2, 8.9, 8.12, 13.3	
	Pt 1	8.4.1, 8.4.2	
	r.1.2(b)	8.4.4	
	r.1.4	8.4.2, 8.4.3	
	(2)(g)	8.4.3	
	Pt 3	8.4.1, 8.4.3	
	r.3.1(2)	8.4.3	
	(b)	8.4.3	
	r.3.3	8.4.3	
	Pt 6	8.4.1	
	Pt 7	8.4.1	
	r.10.2	10.1.5	
	r.10.3	10.1.6	
	Pt 12	8.8.1	
	r.12.4	8.8.1	
	Pt 14	8.8.2	
	Pt 24	8.8.3	
	Pt 28	8.5.4.2	
	Pt 32	8.4.1	
	Pt 36	8.7, 8.12	
	r.36.2	8.7	
	r.36.10	8.7	
	Pt 52	13.3	
	r.52.3	13.3	
	(6)	13.3	
	r.52.10	13.3	
	(2)	13.3	
	r.52.11	13.3	
	(3)	13.3	
	r.52.13(2)	13.3	
	Pt 54	13.2.2.1.4, 13.4	
	Sch.1	8.9	
	Sch.2	8.9	
1999	Lay Representatives (Right of Audience) Order (SI 1999/1225)	8.5.4.1	
2001	Human Rights Act (Amendment) Order (SI 2001/1216)	9.6.7	
2005	Criminal Procedure Rules (SI 2005/384)		
	Pt 63	13.2.2.1.2	
	Pt 68	13.2.2.2	
	Pt 74	13.2.1.1	
2008	Footballer Spectators (2008 European Championship Control Period) Order 2008 (SI 1165/2008)	1.4.4.1	

TABLE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN CONVENTIONS AND LEGISLATION

1950	European Convention on Human Rights	1.3.1, 1.4.6, 9.6.2
	Art.2	1.4.6
	Art.3	1.4.6
	Art.4	1.4.6
	Art.5	1.4.6, 9.6.7
	(1)	9.6.7
	(b)	9.6.7
	(c)	9.6.7
	(3)	9.6.7
	Art.6	1.4.6, 2.10.4, 6.3.1, 7.3.1, 7.5.3, 7.6, 8.4.4, 10.1.2, 10.3.1, 10.4, 11 Intro, 13.2.2.1.2, 13.2.2.2.1
	(1)	7.6, 13.2.2.2.1
	(3)	2.10.4, 11.2.1.2
	Art.7	1.4.6, 2.7
	Art.8	1.4.6, 2.5, 13.4.2
	Art.9	1.4.6
	Art.10	1.4.6, 7.6
	Art.11	1.4.6
	Art.12	1.4.6
	Art.13	13.4.2
	Art.14	1.4.6, 2.5, 13.4.2
1957	Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (pre-Union Treaty) (as amended)	1.4.5
	Art.234	1.4.5.2
1992	Treaty of Maastricht	1.4.5

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>List of Figures</i>	xvii
<i>Table of Cases</i>	xix
<i>Table of Statutes</i>	xxiii
<i>Table of Statutory Instruments</i>	xxvii
<i>Table of International and European Conventions and Legislation</i>	xxix
Chapter 1 Introduction to the English Legal System	1
The constitution	1
Why the 'English' legal system?	2
Who makes the law?	3
Parliament	3
The courts	5
Sources of law	9
Common law	9
Equity	10
Legislation	13
Delegated legislation	18
The European Union	22
The Council of Europe	25
Law review and reform	27
Summary	28
Self-test questions	29
Further reading	30
Chapter 2 Judicial Reasoning	31
Do judges make law?	31
Precedent	31
Binding precedent	32
Persuasive precedent	33
The hierarchy of judicial precedent	34
The European Court of Justice	34
The European Court of Human Rights	35
The House of Lords	35
The Privy Council	38
The Court of Appeal—Civil Division	40
The Court of Appeal—Criminal Division	42
The High Court	43
The Divisional Court of the High Court	43
The High Court	43
	ix