

International Advanced Level

Subject: Law

The need for Transferable Skills

Sources: Cognitive/Intrapersonal and Interpersonal skills adapted and taken from the NRC framework

In recent years, higher education institutions and employers have consistently highlighted the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines skills, or competencies, as 'the bundle of knowledge, attributes and capacities that can be learned and that enable individuals to successfully and consistently perform an activity or task and can be built upon and extended through learning'.

To support the design of our qualifications, the Pearson Research Team selected and evaluated seven global 21st-century skills frameworks. Following on from this process, the team identified the National Research Council's (NRC) framework as the most evidence-based and robust skills framework, and have used this as a basis for our adapted skills framework.

The framework includes cognitive, intrapersonal skills and interpersonal skills. These skills have been interpreted to ensure they are appropriate for this subject. All of the skills listed are evident or accessible in the teaching, learning and/or assessment of the qualification.

Identifying and highlighting these skills in International Advanced Level qualifications ensures that it is not only the academic and cognitive skills that are developed, but those broader elements that universities highlight as being essential for success. Skills such as self-directed study, independent research, self-awareness of own strengths and weaknesses and time-management are skills that students cannot learn from a textbook but have to be developed through the teaching and learning experience that can be provided through an international curriculum.

In the tables below, we have taken the NRC framework skills and provided definitions of how each skill can be interpreted for this subject. This will enable teachers and learners to understand examples of how they can develop each skill through an International Advanced Level qualification.

Intrapersonal skills		Interpersonal skills		Cognitive skills	
Intellectual Openness		Teamwork and collaboration		Cognitive Processes and Strategies	
Adaptability	Apply knowledge and understanding of legal theories and concepts in response to different circumstances to analyse solutions to legal disputes.	Communication	Demonstrate and utilise a number of different opportunities to exhibit communication skills. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to a variety of prompts. Communicate arguments clearly. 	Critical thinking	Developing knowledge of and a critical perspective on legal theories and concepts by analysing the way legal rules and concepts are applied to solve disputes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation & selection of facts and ideas. Use of facts, rules & principles. Inferring meaning, drawing conclusion. Developing opinions, judgements or decisions.
Personal and social responsibility	Reflect upon and develop one's own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what has been learnt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using writing to undertake a specific task for which one is accountable or which develops social awareness in response to legal theory. 	Collaboration	Engaging in pair or group discussion or work designed to practise a skill and/or embed content. For example, through case studies, Moots and Mock trials.	Problem solving	Utilising problem solving skills to explore the various solutions offered to solve legal disputes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing strategy for decoding unfamiliar language and interpreting facts from cases and case studies. Reading text to find a solution to a problem, for example identifying the relevance of key facts and underlying legal concepts.

Continuous Learning	Planning and reflecting on one's own learning in class - setting goals and meeting them in a continually developing fashion.	Teamwork	Working with others on researching a theme related to legal theories and concepts. For example, the relationship between law and morality.	Analysis	Analyse and evaluate aspects of legal theories, concepts and rules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding and separating a whole text into component parts. Analyse legal problems, showing an understanding of how the law might resolve disputes.
Intellectual interest and curiosity	Undertaking self-directed research – pursuing a line of personal interest using a range of research methods, including information technology and wider knowledge sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop one's interest and curiosity in legal theories and concepts. 	Co-operation	Sharing resources such as own language skills and knowledge with other students in a project over time.	Reasoning/argumentation	Develop an ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating a depth and breadth of understanding of the subject. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving opinions and judgements on a case study with justification. Evaluate legal theories, concepts, rules and information to make judgements based on that information. Evaluate how the law and legal theories are applied in context, using areas of law studied in a coherent and logical manner.
Work ethic/conscientiousness		Interpersonal skills	Using verbal and non- verbal communication skills in a discussion.	Interpretation	Apply understanding of legal theories, concepts, rules and the interpretation of case scenarios and legal authority to solve criminal and civil disputes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decoding case scenarios to identifying and understanding importance. Select, organise and present relevant information clearly and logically using appropriate vocabulary and structures.
Initiative	Apply initiative in exploring legal theories and concepts by analysing established legal theory.	Empathy/perspective taking	Advocating the position of another in an oral presentation or during a discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with questions of fairness, morality and law and their influence on society and behaviour, while recognising different viewpoints and legal theories. 	Decision Making	Construct well-informed, balanced and justified arguments and conclusions on matters concerning criminal and civil disputes.
Self-direction	Planning and carrying out research activity under own direction.	Negotiation	Discussing an issue, attempting to reach shared conclusions with others, compromising where appropriate by using negotiation skills.	Adaptive learning	Responding to unfamiliar and complex case scenarios by showing flexibility of thought; assimilating

Responsibility	Develop one's ability to take responsibility to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating a depth and breadth of understanding of legal theories, concepts and rules.
Perseverance	Actively seeking new ways to continue to improve one's own learning despite setbacks, with willingness to re-draft, undertake further reading or keep at a task until completed.
Productivity	Demonstrating an ability to develop knowledge, understanding and evaluative skills.
Self-regulation (metacognition, forethought, reflection)	Developing strategies over time, including self-assessment and critical review, for reflecting on the success or otherwise of the work.
Ethics	Producing written work with a specific moral purpose or exploring the ethical intentions of a text.
Integrity	Maintain an honesty in exploring the impact of legal concepts and rules on society.
Positive Core Self Evaluation	
Self-monitoring/self-evaluation/self-reinforcement	Developing the self-motivated habit of planning, completing, and reviewing one's own work as a matter of habit, critically and constructively.

Leadership	
Leadership	Leading others in a group activity to effectively develop learning.
Responsibility	Taking responsibility for delivering, within agreed time constraints, one's own part within a group project.
Assertive communication	Directing a discussion to a conclusion and addressing conflicting viewpoints; using persuasive techniques effectively to convince of a point of view.
Self-presentation	Utilise several different opportunities to exhibit communication skills in variety of ways including written and verbal.

	relevant material, selecting and applying appropriate legal rules.
Executive function	<p>Reflect on and develop one's own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what one has learnt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out successfully a planned activity, for example planning an essay and completing it to meet the plan. Understand preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and appreciate the relationship between law and morality.
Creativity	
Creativity	<p>Creating meaning from complex scenarios which could be interpreted in several ways.</p> <p>Describe appropriate responses to a criminal and civil dispute.</p>
Innovation	<p>Construct well-informed, balanced and justified arguments and conclusions on matters concerned legal concepts and theories to solve disputes, showing innovative thought processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using written grammar and vocabulary to write with fluency on matters of legal theory.