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## A level Law - Recommended Reading Lists

### KS5 Fiction

- **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee  
A timeless tale about racial injustice in the Deep South from the perspective of young Scout Finch; her father, Atticus, is a principled attorney defending a black man falsely accused of rape [nationaljurist.com](http://nationaljurist.com)[ALEXISTOGEL](http://ALEXISTOGEL.com)[Edgemont Library](http://Edgemont Library).
- **Bleak House** by Charles Dickens  
A sweeping Victorian novel centred on the never-ending lawsuit of Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce, exposing legal bureaucracy and the emotional toll of prolonged litigation [thegreatestbooks.org](http://thegreatestbooks.org)[Oxford Scholastica Academy](http://Oxford Scholastica Academy).
- **The Trial** by Franz Kafka  
A surreal snapshot of the legal system, where Joseph K. finds himself arrested and tortured by opaque legal machinations he doesn't understand—an existential critique of law as absurd bureaucracy [thegreatestbooks.org](http://thegreatestbooks.org)[ALEXISTOGEL](http://ALEXISTOGEL.com).
- **A Frolic of His Own** by William Gaddis  
A darkly comic, satirical novel that skewers self-important judges and the arcane misuse of law, famously opening with "Justice? — You get justice in the next world; in this world you have the law."
- **The Judge's List** (2021)  
Featuring investigator Lacy Stoltz, this suspenseful thriller unravels the sinister secret of a judge who may be a murderer.
- **The Firm** (1991)  
Follow Mitch McDeere, a young lawyer ensnared in a dangerous law firm with criminal ties—a perennial legal thriller that launched Grisham's career.
- **Thirteen** by Steve Cavanagh  
A sharp courtroom thriller with a twist: what if the killer is on the jury? Fast-paced and clever, blending legal intrigue with suspense.

### KS5 Non-fiction



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## Legal Journals & Online Sources (optional enrichment)

- **Law Review articles** (try *Public Law* or *The Cambridge Law Journal* – some free online).
- **Law in Action** (BBC Radio 4) – weekly programme on current legal issues.
- **Supreme Court judgments** (UKSC website).
- **Cambridge International Law Journal**  
An open-access, student-run publication (affiliated with Cambridge University) covering international, comparative, EU, and transnational law. It includes a special annual *UK Supreme Court Review*, with contributions from high-ranking judicial figures globally.
- **Legal Studies**  
Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Society of Legal Scholars since 1981. It's considered one of the UK's premier generalist law journals, featuring scholarly articles, notes, and reviews.
- **The Modern Law Review**  
A bi-monthly, peer-reviewed journal by Wiley, aligned closely with LSE. It's been identified as the UK's *pre-eminent law journal* and holds top-tier status in Israeli academic rankings.
- **Columbia Journal of European Law (CJEL)**  
Focused exclusively on European law; it's among the most-cited journals in its field worldwide. Published tri-annually by Columbia students with ties to European institutions.
- **Feminist Legal Studies**  
A triannual journal exploring feminist legal theory and practice. Established in 1993, it ranks within the top third of Gender Studies journals.
- **Other UK Practitioner-Oriented Journals**  
Titles such as *Criminal Law Review*, *Family Law*, *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* (ICLQ), and *Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly* (LMCLQ) offer specialized insights for practicing lawyers.

## Examples of Famous Legal Case Studies

- **Donoghue v. Stevenson (1932, UK)** – Established the modern law of negligence (“duty of care”).
- **Carlill v. Carbolic Smoke Ball Co. (1893, UK)** – Foundational contract law case on offers and acceptance.

## Landmark UK Case Studies by Area of Law



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## Constitutional & Administrative Law

- **R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Fire Brigades Union (1995)**
  - Issue: Whether government ministers can act contrary to an Act of Parliament not yet in force.
  - Outcome: Ministers cannot frustrate parliamentary intention → Parliament is supreme.
- **R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the EU (2017) (Miller I)**
  - Brexit case: Parliament had to authorize triggering Article 50 (leaving the EU).
  - Significance: Reinforced parliamentary sovereignty over executive power.
- **R (Miller) v Prime Minister (2019) (Miller II)**
  - Issue: Whether prorogation of Parliament was lawful.
  - Outcome: Supreme Court ruled it unlawful → separation of powers strengthened.

## Contract Law

- **Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co (1893)**
  - Issue: Was a newspaper advert a binding offer?
  - Outcome: Yes. Mrs. Carlill could claim under contract → foundation of unilateral contracts.
- **Foakes v Beer (1884)**
  - Rule: Part payment of a debt cannot be satisfaction of the whole, unless additional consideration is given.
- **Hadley v Baxendale (1854)**
  - Rule: Damages are only recoverable if they were foreseeable at the time of contract → core principle of remoteness of damages.

## Tort Law

- **Donoghue v Stevenson (1932)**

“Snail in the bottle” case → established modern negligence and the duty of care.
- **Caparo Industries plc v Dickman (1990)**

Refined the **three-part test** for negligence: foreseeability, proximity, and fairness.
- **Bolam v Friern Hospital (1957)**

Medical negligence case → established the “Bolam test”: a doctor is not negligent if acting in accordance with accepted practice.



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## Property Law

- **Street v Mountford (1985)**
  - Issue: Distinction between a lease and a licence.
  - Rule: Exclusive possession = lease, regardless of wording.
- **Stack v Dowden (2007)**
  - Concerned cohabiting partners and property ownership → clarified constructive trusts in family homes.

## Criminal Law

- **R v Cunningham (1957)**
  - Defined “maliciously” in criminal law → foresight of risk = recklessness.
- **R v G and R (2003)**
  - Reformulated recklessness test in criminal law → subjective test (what *the defendant* foresaw).
- **R v Brown (1993)**
  - Sadomasochistic acts between consenting adults → consent not a defence to actual bodily harm.