

A Brief Discussion on OCR Special study: Synoptic Assessment Based on Legal Sources

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ABSTRACT:

This OCR Special Study examines the application of legal principles and ideas across diverse legal sources in the context of contract law with an emphasis on synoptic evaluation based on legal sources. The study digs into the common law, legislation, international agreements, restatements, and customs as sources of contract law. It looks at how various sources interact, support, and sometimes compete with one another in order to have an impact on the creation, interpretation, and enforcement of contracts. The research highlights how crucial it is to comprehend legal sources and how they interact when analysing complicated legal situations and settling contractual disputes. It seeks to hone students' analytical, research, and critical thinking abilities as well as their capacity to apply legal theories to real-world circumstances. Students are urged to show thorough knowledge of legal sources, their application to contract law, and its ramifications in actual legal situations via synoptic examination. The course offers a rich learning environment and gives students the information and abilities needed for contract law legal analysis and decision-making.

KEYWORDS:

Legal Principles, OCR, Synoptic Evaluation, Well-Researched Arguments.

I. INTRODUCTION

A candidate's comprehension and use of legal sources in a synoptic context will be tested on the OCR Special Study on Synoptic Assessment based on Legal Sources. Students seeking OCR credentials in law or similar fields should take this exam, which is designed exclusively for them. A candidate's capacity to critically analyse and evaluate legal sources from multiple settings, such as legislation, case law, treaties, and other pertinent legal resources, will be evaluated during the synoptic assessment. It emphasises the candidate's knowledge of legal concepts, their application to actual situations, and their capacity to link various legal sources [1], [2].

The examination takes into account the need for legal practitioners to be adept at doing legal research, understanding it, and using it to build persuasive arguments and successfully advise clients. Candidates are urged to gain analytical and evaluative abilities as well as a better comprehension of how various legal authorities interact by interacting with a variety of legal sources. Candidates must show their understanding of legal concepts, their capacity to locate relevant legal sources, and their ability to apply legal reasoning to challenging situations in order to pass the OCR Special Study on Synoptic Assessment based on Legal Sources. Candidates must evaluate the implications of legal sources, take into account their advantages and disadvantages, and provide well-supported arguments in response to their findings [3], [4].

Candidates are pushed to think critically, combine knowledge from many legal disciplines, and show a thorough comprehension of legal ideas within a wider legal context via this synoptic examination. The examination is a thorough evaluation of a candidate's capacity for productive interaction with legal sources and for displaying a high level of legal analysis and synthesis. The OCR Special Study on Synoptic Assessment based on Legal materials is a thorough test that assesses a candidate's capacity to interact with and utilise legal materials in a synoptic context. It offers applicants a great chance to demonstrate their legal expertise, critical thinking abilities, and comprehension of legal concepts, eventually preparing them for the demands of legal practise or future study in the area of law [5], [6].

II. DISCUSSION

Students must show their comprehension and use of legal sources in a thorough and integrated way as part of the test format known as the synoptic assessment based on legal sources. This kind of evaluation seeks to gauge how well students can integrate their legal knowledge and make links between different legal sources. The synoptic evaluation method is cognizant of the rarity of isolated legal problems and instances. Instead, a variety of legal sources, including as legislation, case law, treaties, and international conventions, have an impact on them. OCR intends to measure students' ability to analyse legal issues holistically and take into account the interaction of many legal sources in their solutions by developing a synoptic examination [7], [8].

One benefit of the synoptic examination is that by pushing students to look at legal topics from several perspectives, it promotes a better knowledge of legal ideas. It evaluates their capacity to appraise the applicability, weight, and significance of several legal sources in a certain situation. This strategy reflects the complexity of the legal profession, where advisors and argumentators often need to draw on a variety of legal sources. Additionally, the synoptic assessment fosters analytical and critical thinking abilities. Students are tasked with precisely identifying and interpreting relevant legal sources, analysing their consequences, and applying them successfully to resolve legal issues. This kind of evaluation pushes students to go beyond memorization and rote learning and promotes a deeper interaction with legal sources [9], [10].

The synoptic evaluation format does, however, also come with certain difficulties. Students must be able to identify and use legal sources, as well as have a thorough grasp of them. In order to obtain pertinent material, students must explore legal databases and sources, which puts a larger focus on the development of research skills. Students should also practice compiling data from various legal sources and delivering logical, well-organized arguments.

In preparing students for synoptic examinations based on legal sources, teachers and educators are essential. By supplying thorough resources, assisting students in the interpretation of legal documents, and providing practice opportunities that mimic the requirements of the assessment format, they may promote learning. Additionally, including case studies, debates, and simulated exercises into the curriculum might assist students in gaining the knowledge and abilities needed to succeed on the synoptic exam. The OCR Special Study: Synoptic Assessment based on legal sources is a comprehensive exam that measures students' ability to apply their legal knowledge to a variety of legal sources and deepen their grasp of legal concepts. Although it presents difficulties, this evaluation structure represents the complexity of legal practice and gives students the chance to demonstrate their analytical, research, and critical thinking abilities in a thorough way. Let's start by reassuring you. Synoptic evaluation is not meant to surprise you. The examination board prefers that students with job experience receive A-level awards. It's also comforting to know that for the synoptic exam, you will only be required to master legal concepts covered in the remainder of the curriculum.

While synoptic evaluation requires a variety of abilities, you are already familiar with it. By studying and commenting on topics in essay questions, using your legal knowledge to difficult circumstances, and answering questions from your AS-level coursework and the main Contract Law paper, you will have employed these abilities. All that's left to do is polish your approach so you can respond to source questions on the test a little differently. You will get a booklet throughout the year that contains a collection of pre-released source materials well in advance of the exams. These materials will be based on a topic, the new one for examination from 2007–2009 being taken into consideration, and will include excerpts from laws, court decisions, scholarly works, etc. This indicates that every source in the booklet addresses some element of consideration, including appropriateness and sufficiency, prior consideration, and the fulfilment of current obligations as consideration.

(Note that unlike prior years, the new 4-unit standard will not include a source that is solely based on AS material starting in 2007.) Realising that you will take a test in this exam where you will be totally certain of the subject on which you are to provide answers consideration should thus inspire you. This significantly narrows the scope of your modification. You are not permitted to bring your own copy of the booklet into the exam room, but you will be given a single, "clean" copy for the test that you may use as a guide for responding to questions. Therefore, you won't need to memorise a lot of new information; nonetheless, you will need to be aware of a few more examples and materials under consideration that are not included in the prereleased materials booklet in order to improve your responses.

Before the test, it is crucial that you are well acquainted with the subject matter and that you have considered the potential problems. You will be given a series of questions based on the previously available material for the test, and you will need to consult the source material in order to respond to the questions. But this isn't simply a comprehension exam that doesn't need any review. It will be required of you to reply to the content and the questions directly as well as to include your knowledge and opinions into your replies.

Creating a thorough approach that maximises comprehension, retention, and application of the content is crucial when employing the contract laws material. Here is an idea for a plan:

1. **Establish Learning Objectives:** Clearly specify your contract law learning goals. Decide the particular subjects or sections of the subject you wish to master. This will keep you on task and provide you a road map for your study strategy.
2. **Compile Study Materials:** Compile the necessary study materials, such as law books, lecture notes, casebooks, and other legal references. Make sure you have access to reliable, current materials so you can create a strong knowledge base.
3. **Organise Your Study Plan:** Make a study schedule that details the subjects you must learn and the time you will allot to each. Allocate distinct study sessions for various areas of contract law, such as formation, interpretation, performance, and remedies, and break the information up into digestible pieces.
4. **Active Reading and Note-Taking:** Use active reading strategies while you read the content. To make sure you understand, highlight important ideas, take notes, and pose questions to yourself. Create brief summaries of key ideas in your own words and mind maps or outlines to help you remember everything.
5. **Seek Clarification:** Don't be afraid to ask for explanation when dealing with difficult or perplexing subjects. Ask your lecturers, teachers, or other students for advice. Online sources, discussion boards, and study groups may also provide additional explanations and perspectives.
6. **Practice with Case Studies:** Work through case studies and fictitious situations to practise applying your knowledge. Determine the relevant legal concepts, examine the evidence, and assess the potential results. To improve your grasp of contract law in practise, practise writing contracts and analysing their provisions.
7. **Engage in Discussion:** Have talks with classmates or study groups to increase your comprehension and examine other viewpoints. Talking about hypothetical situations and contract law principles may improve critical thinking and expose you to other points of view.
8. **Test Your Knowledge:** Frequently put your information to the test using internet resources, practice tests, and old exam papers. This will help you pinpoint your areas for development and strengthen your comprehension of the fundamentals of contract law.
9. **Review and recap:** To solidify your understanding and promote long-term retention, go through the information you have learned on a regular basis. Summarise the main ideas and principles in your own words, and for better memory retention, make flashcards or mnemonics.
10. **Apply Concepts to Real-Life Examples:** Connect the fundamentals of contract law to actual situations and contemporary affairs. To understand how contract law is used in practise and how it changes over time, keep up with legal news and case studies.
11. **Seek Feedback:** Request comments on your comprehension and implementation of contract law ideas. Send sample papers or assignments to professors or instructors for feedback and direction. You may improve your test preparation and knowledge by receiving constructive criticism.

You may efficiently explore the contract law content, get a deeper knowledge, and acquire the essential abilities to apply legal concepts in realistic situations and evaluations by using this all-inclusive approach. Keep in mind to keep organised, stay motivated, and ask for help when you need it. The security that you are dealing with one of the UK's top test boards comes with choosing OCR. In order to build our new OCR GCSE (9-1) in History A (Explaining the Modern World) programme in a way that is relevant to them and satisfies their requirements, we spoke with teachers, employers, and higher education.

As a division of the University of Cambridge, the Cambridge Assessment Group is the biggest assessment organisation in Europe. With operations in more than 150 countries, Cambridge Assessment is a global leader in the development and delivery of assessments. We collaborate with a variety of educational institutions in the

public and private sectors, including universities, companies, and schools. More than 13,000 centres choose our A Levels, GCSEs, and vocational credentials, such as the Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals. We are committed to creating standards that will enable you to make the topic come to life and motivate your students to work more.

Based on in-depth study and interaction with the teaching community, we developed specifications that are user-friendly for teachers. So that you may customise the way the course is delivered to meet your requirements, they are made to be simple and easy to use. Our goal is to inspire students to take ownership of their education and to develop their critical thinking, innovation, and engagement skills.

Following the suggestions of educators and other stakeholders in higher education, this interesting course was created. Learners will be inspired, nurtured, and developed by the material. It will increase their enthusiasm for and interest in the law. The degree is intended to build knowledge and abilities for future study in law and allied fields like business. The law of England will become more familiar to the learners, as well as the law in a European and international perspective. The course will provide students the knowledge and understanding they need to comprehend how the law changes through time and how morality, justice, society, and technology interact.

Students pursuing law as part of their A-Level exams have a Special Study option available via OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations). The OCR Special Study is a synoptic assessment that emphasises legal sources and calls for students to show their knowledge of the law by analysing numerous sources.

The OCR Special Study is designed to measure students' capacity to evaluate, analyse, and synthesise legal data from various sources. These sources might include secondary legal sources like scholarly writings, books, and commentaries as well as main legal resources like legislation, cases, and treaties.

The evaluation often comprises of a research work or essay topic that asks students to apply their understanding of legal ideas and principles to the situation or issue that has been presented. The offered legal materials must be critically analysed by the students, who must also identify pertinent legal problems and build a well-supported argument or answer based on their interpretation and comprehension of the sources. Students are urged by the OCR Special Study to:

Conduct independent research to find and evaluate relevant legal sources: Students are required to do this. To comprehend the legal context around the issue at hand, this entails analysing major legal documents including legislation and case law. It also entails using secondary legal sources to get a bigger picture and look at other perspectives.

Apply Legal Principles: Students are required to show that they can apply legal principles and ideas to the particular situation or issue that is being assessed. This entails examining the legal sources to determine the pertinent legal principles and norms and then applying them to the relevant facts or circumstances.

Synthesise knowledge: Students' capacity to combine knowledge from various legal sources is evaluated by the OCR Special Study. Students are required to link information from multiple sources, incorporate numerous legal theories and justifications, and give a cogent and logical interpretation.

Developing Critical Analysis Skills: Students are required to examine the offered legal sources critically, identifying their advantages, disadvantages, and credibility. This entails taking into account the setting in which the materials were created, evaluating the writers' authority and reliability, and spotting any possible biases or restrictions.

Build Well-Researched Arguments: Based on their examination of the legal sources, students must build well-reasoned arguments or answers. This entails outlining a concise thesis or conclusion, providing evidence from the sources to back up their claims, and responding to objections or opposing points of view.

Students get the chance to show their knowledge of legal resources, their capability to analyse complicated legal material, their capacity for critical thought, and their ability to apply legal ideas to practical situations via the OCR Special Study. It strives to cultivate the investigative, analytical, and evaluative abilities necessary for further study and potential jobs in law or similar professions.

III. CONCLUSION

To sum up, the OCR Special Study on a synoptic evaluation based on legal sources offers students a singular chance to investigate and evaluate legal topics in a thorough and integrated way. This comprehensive evaluation attempts to evaluate students' knowledge of legal terms, ideas, and principles as well as their capacity for evaluating legal materials. Students may explore a variety of legal sources throughout this course, including legislation, case law, international treaties, and other pertinent legal literature. Students get a greater grasp of how the law functions, changes through time, and is applied in real-world situations by interacting with these sources. The assessment's synoptic format enables students to make connections between many legal sources, spot recurring themes, and apply legal ideas to challenging situations. It puts pressure on students to use critical thinking, weigh opposing viewpoints, and reach well-informed decisions using their knowledge of legal sources.

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